

SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN
INFORMATION & NEWS UPDATE - 141
27th October 2009

Schools Safer Recruitment Training
(21/10/09)

The government has announced that from January 2010 it will be mandatory for the schools workforce to undertake safer recruitment training. This will be provided by the CWDC through an e-learning tool and comprehensive Safer Recruitment guidance.

The new legislation, which is part of the School Staffing (England) Regulations 2009 (in force from November 2) is in response to a key recommendation from the Bichard Inquiry following the Soham murders.


Further information about the legislation for the schools workforce is available by emailing the DCSF at info@dcsf.gsi.gov.uk

The safer recruitment training for the schools workforce, previously provided by the NCSL, will be available from November 1.

From November 9 CWDC will launch Safer Recruitment guidance for people working in the children and young people's workforce. Further details about the training and guidance, which is not mandatory, will be announced on this date.

http://www.cwdcouncil.org.uk/news/2605_cwdc-provides-safer-recruitment-online-training-to-the-schools-workforce

New Online Schools Recruitment Service
(20/10/09)

A new online recruitment website could reduce the national cost of advertising for school teacher and support staff posts by almost two thirds (£30m annually), Schools Minister Vernon Coaker said today. 

52 LAs have already signed up to the new Service – offering schools a faster, more efficient and standardised application system to recruit all permanent leadership, teaching, and support staff.

The system uses the latest applicant tracking technology that allows schools and LAs to upload their job vacancies, whilst candidates can create a personal account to apply for jobs online. Through a single screen, a LA will be able to view a summary of all recruitment activity of their schools which may help identify skill shortages and other recruitment patterns.

Candidates can submit their job preferences for potential vacancies and receive job alerts for relevant roles that match their criteria – building up a ‘talent pool’, where schools and LAs can choose to contact suitable candidates directly and invite them to apply for a position.

Schools or LAs that do choose to advertise externally will have access to discounted advertising rates with key media through the Schools Recruitment Service. The Service also provides media information to help them evaluate the success of their campaigns to better target future advertising.

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/pns/DisplayPN.cgi?pn_id=2009_0194
<https://www.schoolsrecruitment.dcsf.gov.uk/>

Success for new anti-trafficking tactics

(19/10/09)

A new system to identify and support victims has dealt with nearly 150 people in its first 3 months, HO Minister Alan Campbell announced today. New figures from the national referral mechanism, established in April 2009 as a new system to identify and aid trafficking victims, show 40 children and 108 adults have been identified by UK Border Agency officers and police as possible victims of trafficking.

Once identified, they are referred to the UK Human Trafficking Centre for support and further advice. 100 UK Border Agency officers based around the country have received training to help spot possible victims.

The government has signalled its continued determination to crack down on trafficking, including calls for a new EU-wide strategy to tackle the problem.

The annual trafficking plan includes:

- more international action to target trafficking at its source
- more training for frontline officers and judges to help ensure more traffickers are caught and punished
- a continued focus on the Olympics, to make sure work surrounding London's 2012 games remains free from the scourge of trafficking.

<http://press.homeoffice.gov.uk/press-releases/success-anti-trafficking>

<http://www.crimereduction.homeoffice.gov.uk/humantrafficking004.htm>

<http://www.crimereduction.homeoffice.gov.uk/humantrafficking004b.pdf>

<http://www.ukhtc.org/>

Safe At Home DVD

A short, fun film with a serious message about the dangers facing under 5s in the home has been released and is now being circulated to children's centres across the country.

The 8-minute film features 2-year-old Sam, who is wise beyond his years and alert to household dangers. With busy lives and a new baby on the way, mum and dad seem less aware of these dangers. The film focuses on Sam's race against time to get his parents to take action – but will his efforts succeed?

Produced for RoSPA as a key element of the Safe At Home scheme, the film will be used by those working with families as a starting point for discussion around the issues of safety in the home for under 5s.

The DVD is accompanied by discussion notes and will also feature as part of the training that is being rolled out to local Safe At Home schemes across the country. It is also available to be viewed at -

<http://www.safeathome.rospace.com/families/dvd.htm>

<http://www.safeathome.rospace.com/index.htm>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jG2f2P1TpY4>

New healthy eating policy in schools

(20/10/09)

The Healthy Eating in Schools (Wales) Measure 2009 has received Royal Approval. It requires all LAs and schools to promote healthy eating and drinking and will mean maximum limits in the fat, salt and sugar allowed in school meals and drinks.

[http://www.assemblywales.org/newhome/new-news-third-](http://www.assemblywales.org/newhome/new-news-third-assembly.htm?act=dis&id=148289&ds=10/2009)

[assembly.htm?act=dis&id=148289&ds=10/2009](http://www.assemblywales.org/newhome/new-news-third-assembly.htm?act=dis&id=148289&ds=10/2009)

New programme to help children who stammer (20/10/09)

Ed Balls and Michael Palin have launched a new programme to support teachers to help children who stammer and announced its roll out to schools across the country.

Ed Balls also announced that he will be supporting a new national fundraising appeal to develop services across the country for children who stammer. He committed £500,000 investment to kickstart the appeal to help the Michael Palin Centre expand their services in London and the South and to support a new centre of excellence in the North of the country.

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/pns/DisplayPN.cgi?pn_id=2009_0195

PE and Sport Survey 2008/09 (14/10/09)

This govt survey reveals:

- 51% of pupils took part in at least 3 hours sport in a typical week
- 69% of pupils participated in intra-school competitions during the school year
- 44% of pupils participated in inter-school competitions during the school year
- Schools provided an average of 18.6 different sports including football, dance, athletics, badminton and volleyball
- Schools had links to an average of 8.2 sports clubs
- New sport coordinators in FE colleges organised a total of 92 different events
- 16% of full time students aged 16-19 in FE colleges had participated in sport events and activities
- 99% of schools held at least one sports day
- Following Britain's domination in cycling at the Beijing Olympics the 2008/09 survey shows a surge of interest in cycling with half of all schools offering it to pupils

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/pns/DisplayPN.cgi?pn_id=2009_0185

Pupil Absence in Schools in England: Autumn term 2008 and spring term 2009 (20/10/09)

This Statistical First Release (SFR) reports on absence in maintained primary and secondary schools, city technology colleges and academies across the autumn term 2008 and spring term 2009. It is based on pupil level absence data collected via the School Census for the 2 terms combined. The release provides information on the levels of absence (authorised, unauthorised and overall) by type of school, summary statistics on persistent absentees and absence by reason.

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000882/index.shtml>

Keeping your cool: advice for parents on managing stress and anger (15/10/09)

Stress and anger in the daily life of a parent can hinder good parenting. This booklet helps parents to recognise both stress and anger points, find new ways of coping with them and think more carefully about their children's feelings.

http://www.nspcc.org.uk/helpandadvice/publications/leaflets/parentingleaflets_wda38357.html

http://www.nspcc.org.uk/Inform/publications/Downloads/listeningtochildren_wdf48133.pdf

Getting it Right for Children and Families (14/10/09)

This guide is for health visitors and their teams, provider managers, commissioners and educationalists. It sets out the contribution that health visitors and teams can make to health and wellbeing and public health.

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_107005

Moving forward together: integrating workforce strategies in children's services
(October 2009)

This report looks at what works best when all agencies involved in delivering children's services – including councils, education, health services, police and voluntary organisations – tackle their local shared workforce issues together.

Pilot studies show that taking joint action on shared workforce issues presents a range of challenges, but the benefits are many, primarily a more effective response to the needs of children and young people, a better 'customer' experience and improved lives.

4 factors were identified as key to successful joint local action on shared workforce issues:

- clear strategic context – projects linked to the strategic priorities of the council and its partners and are given top leadership backing, are more likely to succeed
- strong practical focus – initiatives that have progressed most successfully enable participants to see benefits for their work and measure progress in terms of achievable goals and improving outcomes for young people
- inclusivity and engagement – taking time to involve different teams and agencies, understand their situations and develop appropriate mechanisms for their input and for them to gain benefit has been core to most successful initiatives
- championing resource – ensuring there is resource to promote capacity for an initiative and to 'champion' the project is important in a multi-agency context where finding 'time away from the day job' is a key constraint.

<http://www.idea.gov.uk/idk/core/page.do?pageId=14272377>

<http://www.idea.gov.uk/idk/core/page.do?pageId=14118300>

Integrating Workforce Strategies: Children's report (October 2009)

This report, commissioned by the Children's Workforce Network (CWN), supplements the main integrated workforce strategy final project. It looks specifically at learning from the children's services study areas and highlights some of the additional work undertaken in 2009 by IDeA consultants following the completion of the main project.

<http://www.idea.gov.uk/idk/core/page.do?pageId=14118300>

<http://www.idea.gov.uk/idk/aio/13497398>

114 more schools to join the Trust Schools Programme (22/10/09)

Schools Secretary Ed Balls today announced a big boost for Trust Schools as a further 114 schools are given the green light to join the Trust Schools Programme.

These schools will now work towards acquiring Trust status. Trust Schools join with one or more external organisation to draw on their expertise and energy to help raise standards.

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/pns/DisplayPN.cgi?pn_id=2009_0199

<http://publications.teachernet.gov.uk/default.aspx?PageFunction=productdetails&PageMode=publications&ProductId=DCSF-00416-2009&>

National Statistics for Multi-agency Public Protection Arrangements Annual Reports 2008-09

UK multi-agency teams that manage serious offenders in the community under MAPPA are being seen as beacons of best practice in public protection by countries around the world.

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/news/newsrelease/261009a.htm>

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/news/docs/mappa-figures-2009.pdf>

Swine flu announcement from the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (27/10/09)

The CMO has advised that:

- swine flu is a largely mild illness with no sign yet of any major change in its pattern or severity
- our advice to schools of 26/08 remains
 - individual school closures are now of limited benefit in stopping the spread of the disease
 - it is essential that adults or children with flu-like symptoms should stay away until they are free of those symptoms

We know that some groups are particularly vulnerable to any illness, including swine flu e.g. C&YP with particular health conditions, including some complex disabilities such as cerebral palsy. Guidance for mainstream schools and for special schools advises them to seek Health Protection Agency advice on what measures to take when they have cases. This could mean a temporary closure to reduce the risk to vulnerable children.

There is a vaccine available and distribution has begun. I want to ensure that parents of pupils with these conditions have all the help and advice that they need. Also, I want these parents to know that their children are being given a high priority for early access to vaccinations. It is for parents to decide whether their child should get vaccinated, but schools should be aware of the programme and support the CMO's advice that children and staff in at-risk groups should respond positively when invited to get the vaccine.

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/news/content.cfm?landing=swine_flu_announcement_from_the_secretary_of_state&type=1

http://www.hpa.org.uk/webc/HPAwebFile/HPAweb_C/1254510658214

http://www.hpa.org.uk/webc/HPAwebFile/HPAweb_C/1254510658073

'Be Bright, Be Seen' (23/10/09)

In 2008, 712 children aged 6 - 11 were killed or seriously injured while walking in GB while 155 children of the same age were killed or seriously injured while cycling.

DT's THINK! road safety campaign will run its 'Girl who didn't Dress Bright in the Dark' advert in cinemas, television and online. 'The Boy Who Didn't Find a Safe Place to Cross' advert will run online. Both are part of the 'Tales of the Road' campaign, aimed at 6-11s, launched last year. It is designed to illustrate the stages of the Green Cross Code: find a safe place to cross; stop, look and listen, be visible to cars, and cycle safety.

THINK! offers tips for parents to help keep children safe and visible on the roads:

- Brightly coloured or fluorescent clothing show up well in daylight and at dusk
- If you're by roads when it's dark, wear reflective gear - vests, sashes, wrist bands - to make sure you can be seen in car headlights. Fluorescent clothing doesn't work after dark.
- Clip on reflectors, arm bands and stickers on your outfit or school bag will improve your visibility.
- It is the law to have clean and working lights on your bike – red at the back and white at the front - you must also fit your bike with red rear reflectors. Fitting spoke reflectors will also help you to be seen in the dark.
- If you're out at night, choose routes and crossing places that are well lit and remember to always use the Green Cross Code – Find the safest place to cross, Stop, Look and Listen.

<http://nds.coi.gov.uk/content/detail.aspx?NewsAreaId=2&ReleaseID=407849&SubjectId=2>

<http://direct.gov.uk/talesoftheroad>.

Independent faith schools (22/10/09)

Independent faith schools give pupils a strong sense of personal worth and help them understand the importance of being a good citizen according to Ofsted. This report reveals that in all 51 independent faith schools visited this was nurtured through their ethos, the curriculum and in regular individual and communal prayers and thanksgiving.

Independent faith schools are registered by the DCSF, and this survey was conducted at the request of the Secretary of State. The aim was to determine the fitness for purpose of the standard for pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development and the 5 regulations which the schools must meet. The survey evaluated the relevance of the regulations in relation to preparing children and young people for life in modern Britain.

The schools visited, which included primary and secondary schools for children from Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Buddhist and Hindu religions, all taught explicitly that good citizenship was a requirement of a good believer and this meant pupils felt they belonged, as British citizens, to this country.

All worked hard to develop pupils' personal confidence to deal with negative influences, such as anti-Semitism, without compromising their beliefs and included respect for other cultures and faiths. However they agreed that the language in the regulations by which they are bound needed to be more fully explained. There was a general consensus that, instead of the ambiguous term 'modern Britain', the alternative should be 'preparing young people to be good citizens of the United Kingdom'.



Almost all the schools recognised the importance of encouraging a sense of belonging to their local area, to promote community cohesion, even though their local community was often very different from their faith community. Many schools enjoyed links with neighbouring institutions of different faiths too.

In most cases the materials on display and books used in school were balanced in terms of tone and content. However in 8 of the 51 schools material was biased in favour of one group or lacked balance, and in a few cases published teaching materials contained incorrect information about the beliefs of others. Staff should ensure that materials used with pupils are unbiased and where they are not make sure that the bias is explained to pupils and balanced with other material.

Inspectors found that the majority of schools generally worked in isolation with few opportunities for staff to meet with teachers from other schools to develop their understanding of their subject, teaching methods and ways of working. Schools found the cost of attending external training prohibitive and nearly all headteachers said they would like to be able to access the subject and teaching expertise within LA to support the professional development of their staff.

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/News/Press-and-media/2009/October/Faith-schools-prepare-pupils-to-be-good-citizens>
<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Publications-and-research/Browse-all-by/Documents-by-type/Thematic-reports/Independent-faith-schools>
<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/content/download/10229/117395/file/Independent%20faith%20schools.doc>


Rationale, Aims and Objectives for Visits by LAs and the HSE to Open Farms

Following outbreaks of E.coli, all LAs in GB were advised to inspect open/petting farms where they have enforcement responsibility for compliance with HSE guidance. The programme was extended to include farms to which, as a minor or secondary activity, public are invited and which facilitate direct contact with the animals.

LAs have been asked to feedback on any key business compliance issues, views on HSE guidance, and visitor behaviour e.g. hand washing. Similar information will be collated by HSE. The aims are to:

- Provide reassurance that controls in place at farm visitor attractions are satisfactory
- Provide information and evidence which may inform the 'Independent Investigation into the E.coli O157 outbreak at Godstone Farm in 2009'.

The objectives are:

1. To ensure that appropriate control measures are in place with respect to:
 - layout of the farm and the segregation of visitor areas from the working farm
 - identification, segregation and cleanliness of animal contact areas
 - designation, location and management of eating/picnic areas
 - provision and management of washing facilities
 - provision of appropriate information and signage for visitors
 - training and supervision of staff
 - livestock management arrangements; and
 - arrangements for liaison with schools and other organisations which intend bringing parties of children to site for educational or leisure purposes.
2. To take appropriate enforcement action as and where necessary.
3. To feedback information to HSE; and 

4. To provide the information collated as required in support of the Godstone investigation and to share it in respect of any longer term review of HSE guidance

Current guidance is set out in "Avoiding ill health at open farms - Advice to farmers (with teachers' supplement)"

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/agriculture/articles/ecoli-rationale.htm>

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/ais23.pdf>

Safe Colleges – tackling and preventing gang problems (21/10/09)

HE Minister David Lammy has launched the Safe Colleges website which features guidance that suggests:

- Promoting the college as a 'safe haven';
- Developing a closer working relationship with local police to raise awareness of gang-related issues;
- Having a strong pastoral network and including learners on all committees;
- Making employment and careers aspirational, so young people see them as a positive alternative to gangs and crime;
- Recruiting staff, both teaching and support staff, including security, from the local community and reflecting its diversity;
- As appropriate for the local situation, having some or all of: passes, ID cards, turnstiles, "hoods down" policy, knife arches, metal detector wands, random testing/searching; and
- Ensuring training includes knife awareness, incident handling and conflict resolution.

<http://nds.coi.gov.uk/Content/detail.aspx?NewsAreaId=2&ReleaseID=407754&SubjectId=2>

<http://www.safecolleges.tintisha-web.co.uk/home>

<http://www.safecolleges.tintisha-web.co.uk/guns-gangs-knives/introduction>

<http://www.bis.gov.uk/safer-colleges-website-launch>

Safeguarding and Protecting Children in Wales


Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales and Healthcare Inspectorate Wales have published 3 reports:

- Safeguarding and Protecting Children in Wales: the review of LAs and the LSCBs
- Improving Practice to Protect Children in Wales: An examination of the role of the Serious Case reviews
- Safeguarding and Protecting Children in Wales: A review of the arrangements in place across the Welsh NHS

CSSIW found that in relation to LA social services, much attention has been given to strengthening the response to initial concerns about child harm and abuse since the first national review by SSI of Wales in 2004.

However, the review of LAs and LSCBs highlighted variations and inconsistencies in practice and an imbalance in how organisations and professionals discharge their responsibilities in relation to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, with too much reliance and expectation being placed on LA social services. The review highlighted the challenges in maintaining constant vigilance in keeping all parts of the system working together well for all of the time.

LSCBs were at different development stages and many are not effectively discharging their functions as set out in guidance and some agencies, by non participation, are failing in their duty to co-operate.

There is a wealth of CP knowledge and expertise amongst professionals and organisations across Wales, but it is dispersed in a way that it is not able to maximise the impacts and benefits it could deliver. 

CSSIW state there is a need for a more consistent alignment of policy and practice across all organisations at national, regional and local levels to enable effective working together to safeguard and protect children.

There has been a sharp rise in SCRs in the last 2 years. 17 cases were subject to review in April 07 and 34 in April 08. There is agreement across Wales that the current SCR arrangements are not working effectively.

CSSIW's report highlights the need for more coherent and comprehensive LSCB framework for reviewing, learning and improving safeguarding practice which does not rely solely on SCRs. It requires a continuum of learning, based on clear principles of openness, professional challenge and support, accountability, a shared commitment to improve practice and action to bring about necessary change.

<http://wales.gov.uk/cssiwsite/newcssiw/news/safepr/?lang=en>

<http://wales.gov.uk/docs/cssiw/publications/091019overviewen.pdf>

<http://wales.gov.uk/docs/cssiw/publications/091019seriousen.pdf>

[http://www.hiw.org.uk/Documents/477/Safeguarding and Protecting Children in Wales WEB-e.pdf](http://www.hiw.org.uk/Documents/477/Safeguarding_and_Protecting_Children_in_Wales_WEB-e.pdf)

LAC - Raising the Participation Age Trials Grant: 2009-10

This circular sets out the 2009-10 grant allocations, conditions of grant and payment arrangements for authorities in the Raising the Participation Age trials

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/news-and-communications/local-authority-circulars-2008-2011/lac0910090009/>

Minister announces health kick for Healthy Schools (27/10/09)

The government's flagship scheme to make healthy living an integral part of a child's school life is to be expanded to include closer working with LAs, health services and the wider community. Ultimately, it will enable schools to identify and help those children who need it most in the community, addressing specific local issues such as bullying, teenage pregnancy or drugs.

- 80% of all English schools have achieved National Healthy School Status.
- This equates to nearly 6m children and young people already benefitting from attending a Healthy School.
- 99.1% of schools are taking part. The scheme teaches children about every aspect of being healthy from how you travel to school, exercise, school meals, obesity and anti-bullying.

<http://www.healthyschools.gov.uk/Resources/Detail.aspx?ResID=1614>

Healthy Child Programme: Pregnancy and the first 5 years of life (27/10/09)

The HCP for the early life stages focuses on a universal preventative service, providing families with a programme of screening, immunisation, health and development reviews, supplemented by advice around health, wellbeing and parenting.

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_107563

http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/documents/digitalasset/dh_107594.pdf

Healthy Child Programme: From 5 to 19 years old (27/10/09)

The HCP from 5 to 19 year olds sets out the recommended framework of universal and progressive services for children and

young people to promote optimal health and wellbeing. It outlines suggested roles and responsibilities for commissioners, health, education, LA and other partners to encourage the development of high-quality services. As the Operating framework for the NHS in England 2009/10 sets out, PCTs will want to review the transparency of their service offer in line with Healthy lives, brighter futures and local priorities, and this may include the HCP.

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_107566

http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/documents/digitalasset/dh_107568.pdf

Healthy Child Programme: 2-year review (27/10/09)

The review aims to optimise child development and emotional wellbeing, and reduce inequalities. It provides practitioners, particularly health visitors, with information and tools to use with parents.

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_107565

http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/documents/digitalasset/dh_107567.pdf

Childhood Obesity National Support Team

The CONST, launched in October 2007:

- offers support to local partnerships in achieving the Government's key deliverables for childhood obesity
- provides intensive, tailored support for organisations facing the largest challenges in making progress against this agenda

<http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/PublicHealth/HealthImprovement/NationalSupportTeams/Childhoodobesity/index.htm>

A Resource for Developing Sexual Assault Referral Centres (October 2009)

The Government is committed to the extension and development of SARCs as part of making communities safer and improving people's health, care and well-being.

Managed networks in children services and paediatric forensic services for sexually abused children and young people are being scoped and could provide further opportunity for partnership working with SARCs to improve availability of services and raise standards of care for children and young people who are sexually abused.

http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/@dh/@en/@ps/@sta/@p erf/documents/digitalasset/dh_107572.pdf

Safer School Partnerships and prevention – a summary (England only)

A recent survey has found that approximately 5,200 schools in England say they are part of a Safer School Partnerships (SSP) structure, and 29 of 43 police forces say they have SSPs in place.

Building on this success, the 'Youth Crime Action Plan – One Year On' states that "SSPs will be the norm not the exception".

To assist in achieving this goal, the YJB has put together a summary document that sets out the role SSPs can play in the prevention work of YOTs and their partners.

<http://www.yjb.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/7B587FBE-1128-4F92-B9E2-3FDEE16FAEBA/0/SSPsummaryforYOTs.pdf>

New careers education strategy fit for the 21st Century (26/10/09)

A new strategy in careers information, advice and guidance (IAG) sets out plans for:

- the Government's ambition that every young person will get careers education up to the age of 18 in line with raising the participation age
 - piloting approaches to teaching about careers in primary school and plans for primary schools to work with universities to give younger pupils an experience of higher education and the wider world of work
 - the ambition that every young person to have access to a mentor - 2 new national mentoring champions will help increase mentoring opportunities between schools, businesses and higher education
 - bringing IAG into the 21st Century with better online access to careers advice through Facebook, You Tube, blogs and forums and a new dedicated online mentoring scheme from 2010 to enable young people to contact professionals online
 - more help for disadvantaged and disabled young people in accessing work experience so that all young people - regardless of their background, ethnicity or gender - can realise their full potential
 - provide support and resource for schools and parents to engage with young people from an early age to talk about career opportunities
 - a £10M fund to support innovative ways of delivering careers education
- http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/pns/DisplayPN.cgi?pn_id=2009_0202
<http://publications.dcsf.gov.uk/default.aspx?PageFunction=productdetails&PageMode=publications&ProductId=DCSF-00977-2009&>

Measuring your own effectiveness with families, parents and children: a short guide (October 2009)

The Family and Parenting Institute have published this practical resource, designed to help individual workers and whole services understand the terms and issues within the act of measuring and, better still, how to go about it. It includes:

- pre- and post-measuring
- reliability and validity
- finding the right tools for the job
- ethical and practical issues
- information technology and measurement tools
- helping families to answer the questions
- what not to do

<http://www.familyandparenting.org/item/publication/76>

Care applications continue to rise (20/10/09)

These statistics for 2nd quarter 09/10 show that care demand is up 47.2% (688 cases). June 2009 (784 cases) was the highest figure ever recorded for a single month since Cafcass began collecting this data.

http://www.cafcass.gov.uk/news/2009/q2_care_statistics.aspx

First comprehensive profile of the nanny workforce in England (23/10/09)

The findings of this research into the composition, support and training needs of England's nanny workforce, will inform the development of CWDC's strategy for the early learning and childcare workforce.

Key findings:

- Approx 30,000 nannies work in England and 99% of respondents are female
- 56% were 30 years of age or under, with 32% aged between 26 and 30



- 82% have an early learning and childcare-related qualification
- Average weekly net pay was £312.51
- 11% are currently studying for an early learning and childcare qualification. 81% paid for this themselves.
- 73% were prepared to undertake further training in early learning and childcare.
- 61% believe they receive adequate remuneration and 79% pay tax and NI
- 47% reported working in excess of 43 hours a week and 34% said that they worked over 50 hours a week
- 14% thought that the profession was held in sufficient regard by the general public
- 41% thought that parents gave the profession sufficient recognition.

http://www.cwdcouncil.org.uk/news/2617_first-comprehensive-research-into-england-s-nannies

Over-the-counter cough and cold medicines: Guidance for the introduction of child resistant containers (27/10/09)

In Feb 09, the Commission on Human Medicines (CHM) issued advice that products containing specified active ingredients should not be used for children under 6 and products indicated for children 6 - 12 years should carry stronger warnings.

Over 98% of variations received from marketing authorisation holders to introduce necessary contraindications and warnings have now been granted. The CHM has also advised that all liquid preparations containing the specified ingredients should be supplied in a CRC, and we have issued guidance to marketing authorisation holders on their introduction.

<http://www.mhra.gov.uk/Howweregulate/Medicines/Medicinesregulatorynews/CON060119>

http://www.mhra.gov.uk/home/idcplg?IdcService=GET_FILE&dDocName=CON060120

Associations between childhood bereavement and children's background, experiences and outcomes (26/10/09)

New research has found that children bereaved of a parent, sibling or close friend are more likely than other children to have experienced a range of difficult events in their lives. These include:

- a stay in hospital (60% more likely)
- a diagnosable mental health disorder (around 55%)
- a parent with a serious mental illness (around 80%)
- a major financial crisis (around 40%)
- being excluded from school (around 60%)

http://www.ncb.org.uk/campaigning/media_news/2009_jul_to_dec/new_report_bereaved_children.aspx

<http://www.childhoodbereavementnetwork.org.uk/documents/FullReportAssociationswithchildhoodbereavement.pdf>

<http://www.childhoodbereavementnetwork.org.uk/documents/ExecutiveSummaryAssociationswithchildhoodbereavement.pdf>

Study shows need for bereavement support (22/10/09)

New research from NCB has found that 3.5% of 5 – 16 year-olds have been bereaved of a parent or sibling (1 per classroom) – and 6.3% have experienced the death of a close friend.

The research reveals that children who have faced the death of a parent, sibling or friend are more likely than their peers to have gone through other stressful events in their lives, such as serious illness or having a parent with a financial crisis or mental illness. Bereaved children were also more likely to have changed schools or been excluded at some point in their past.

http://www.ncb.org.uk/campaigning/media_news/2009_jul_to_dec/need_for_bereavement_support.aspx

Online early years self-evaluation form amendments (23/10/09)

This document details the main changes made to the online early years self-evaluation form on 29th October 2009, as well as how information previously recorded will be brought forward to the revised form.

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Forms-and-guidance/Browse-all-by/Other/General/Online-early-years-self-evaluation-form-amendments>

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/content/download/10249/117579/file/Online%20early%20years%20self-evaluation%20form%20amendments.doc>

Ofsted inspects Cafcass (23/10/09)

Framework for the inspection of Cafcass and guidance for inspectors from April 2009

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/content/download/10234/117450/file/Ofsted%20inspects%20-%20Cafcass.doc>

Evaluation schedule and grade descriptors for the inspection of Cafcass from April 2009

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/content/download/10236/117460/file/Cafcass%20evaluation%20schedule.doc>

Self evaluation form for use by Cafcass service areas for inspections from April 2009

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/content/download/10238/117470/file/Cafcass%20self-evaluation%20form.doc>

[http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Forms-and-guidance/Browse-all-by/\(sort\)/date](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Forms-and-guidance/Browse-all-by/(sort)/date)

Every night you cry - The realities of having a parent in prison (19/10/09)

An audit of children's plans across the UK found of the 208, over 90% made no reference to them. This is despite a Government directive for LAs to consider the needs of these children in their planning and those children being around 3 times more likely to be at risk of developing antisocial behaviour or mental health problems. They are also more likely to be living in poverty.

There are an estimated 160,000 children in the UK who have a parent in prison; more than twice the number of children in care and 6 times the number of children on the child protection register.

The Barnardo's audit found that:

- in England just 13 of 150 CYPPs refer to children of prisoners as a vulnerable group and just 5 of those outline a strategy to address their needs
- in Wales, 2 out of 22 CYPPs specifically mentioned children of prisoners
- in Scotland, 4 of 32 integrated children's services plans specifically mention children of prisoners
- in NI just 1 of the 4 Health and Social Services Board plans mentions children of prisoners

http://www.barnardos.org.uk/news_and_events/media_centre/press_releases.htm?ref=51264

http://www.barnardos.org.uk/191009_every_night_you_cry.pdf

Consultations

Complaints About Ofsted's Work: Proposed improvements to the process (21/10/09)

Ofsted is reviewing arrangements for the handling and investigation of concerns about its work and the conduct of its staff. Ofsted want to ensure that its approaches are closely matched to the needs of those making complaints. This consultation outlines how it propose to develop its complaints procedures. It aims to achieve a transparent process that is fair, accessible, and makes the best use of the valuable information provided by complainants to improve the service provided to children, young people and learners of all ages.

Closing date: 13th January 2010

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Publications-and-research/Browse-all-by/Documents-by-type/Consultations/Complaints-about-Ofsted-s-work-proposed-improvements-to-the-process>

A Week in my Life Research (23/10/09)

The Disabled Children Matter Wales campaign are conducting research to find out what leisure and play activities disabled children and young people do during school holidays. Young disabled people are asked to complete a diary for a week in order to:

- Find out what leisure and play activities disabled children and young people do during the school holidays
- See what differences there are in access to leisure and play activities geographically.
- Have evidence of where there is little access to services or little provision that can be used in lobbying.
- Gain evidence of how much mainstream provision disabled children and young people use.

- Use localised research evidence to support children and young people's participation in the DCMW campaign through constituency contacts.

After the questionnaires have been collated, a sub group of the DCMW campaign will analyse the data and prepare a report.

<http://www.childreninwales.org.uk/policy/news/12401.html>

<http://www.childreninwales.org.uk/12402.file.dld>

Strategies to prevent unintentional injuries among under 15s: consultation on the evidence (26/10/09)

All registered stakeholders are invited to comment on evidence assembled to inform the development of this guidance.

The aim of this consultation is to enable stakeholders to consider the evidence and to provide the opportunity to comment, in particular on:

- major gaps in the evidence reviews, including papers in the published literature that we have not been able to identify
- queries around the interpretation of the evidence, both of single studies and the reviewed material as a whole
- the applicability of the evidence and its usefulness for the development of guidance
- issues relating to equity, equality and diversity
- issues relating to cost-effectiveness

Closing Date: 23rd November 2009

<http://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/index.jsp?action=folder&o=45872>

www.nice.org.uk/nicemedia/pdf/StrategiesToPreventUnintentionalInjuriesAmongUnder15sFinalScope.pdf

Conferences

Promoting Mental Health and Psychological Well being in Children and Young People with Learning Disabilities

4th November 2009 Leicester Free
This conference will explore the importance of developing early intervention and prevention services for children and young people with learning disabilities and their families and carers, across universal settings.

<http://www.saphna-professionals.org/node/315>
<http://www.saphna-professionals.org/files/docs/pdfs/ld-flyer-nov-09.pdf>

Health and Wellbeing in Education

10th – 11th November 2009 Birmingham
Free to practising healthcare or education professional or work within the public and voluntary sector.

Improving health and wellbeing of children and young people will provide them with firm foundations for later life. The Govt has recognised this, with investment in new strategies that enhance the role of schools as the centre of their communities, and the requirement of the NHS and LA to work together to target the whole school community.

The event will encompass early years right through to FE, and mainstream through to special education. It will play an integral role in enabling children, young people and their families to maintain healthy lifestyles.

<http://www.saphna-professionals.org/node/321>
<http://www.healthwellbeingeducation.co.uk/>
<http://www.saphna-professionals.org/files/docs/pdfs/FINALHealthineducationProg09.pdf>

Safeguarding London's Children conference

9th December 2009 Westminster £100 - £150

This is a conference for professionals, elected members and volunteers in all agencies who have specific responsibilities for safeguarding London's children, and supporting them and their families.

The conference aims to support better safeguarding of London's children by showcasing good practice and sharing resources, with a particular focus on the main challenges facing safeguarding professionals in a rapidly changing environment. Morning plenaries offer a detailed look at some of the latest national initiatives following Lord Laming's recent wide ranging review. In the afternoon, delegates will have an opportunity for discussion and debate with some of the key people responsible for leadership in London's local safeguarding partnerships, with senior representatives confirmed from GOL, the Metropolitan Police Service, NHS London, the London boroughs and the third sector.

<http://www.londonscb.gov.uk/>
[http://www.londonscb.gov.uk/files/conference09/lscb annual conference programme 2009.pdf](http://www.londonscb.gov.uk/files/conference09/lscb%20annual%20conference%20programme%2009.pdf)
<http://www.londoncouncils.gov.uk/events/safeguarding.htm>

Conferences (continued)

Child Exploitation: Offending trends and the legal landscape

19th November 2009 London £195

This conference will explore the policing and legal challenges in this disturbing area of criminal offending against children.

Participants will:

- Gain greater understanding of the scale of CSA including progression into new continents and the scale of UK offending
- increase awareness of environments in which such abuse occurs and methods used by offenders to offend against children
- Understand contemporary trends in offending including sexting, social networking sites, and bullying
- Explore challenges in investigating and prosecuting such cases including weaknesses in UK law, prevention orders and regulating foreign offending
- Understand the victim impact of such abuse, particularly child trafficking.
- Explore practical approaches to the investigation and prosecution of CSA cases

<http://www.ceop.gov.uk/training/conferences/ceconference.asp>

Breaking the Cycle of Fear: Witchcraft, Juju and Safeguarding Victims of Human Trafficking”

25th November 2009 London £65

Traditional belief in witchcraft and juju is strong in Africa and traffickers use it to coerce and subjugate victims. Many are made to take oaths of allegiance, secrecy and confidentiality to bind them to their traffickers, ensure compliance and guarantee the repayment of money claimed to be owed for the transport and upkeep of victims. Fear of Juju makes it difficult for agencies to support victims and authorities to investigate, prosecute and bring traffickers to justice.

Aims of the seminar:

- To explore the role of juju rituals in the growth of human trafficking, hindering victim support and prosecuting offenders
 - To examine links between trafficking African Women and Children and use of Juju rituals as coercion and submission
 - To explore how to empower victims of trafficking to overcome their fears of juju.
- <http://www.afruca.org/documents/Child%20Trafficking%20Seminar%2025th%20November.pdf>

Handled with Care? Learning from 20th and 21st Century care leavers about their care experiences

26th November 2009 York £95 - £145

The aims of this conference are:

- to be able to hear the experiences of post-care adults and recent care leavers
- to reflect on changes and progress made in services provided for people in care
- to consider past practice and how we can improve services now and in the future
- to debate how best to support children and young people in care today
- to contrast research from Australia and UK
- to explore best practice in helping post-care adults to access information

Speakers will discuss:

- ‘Care and Prejudice’ report
 - ‘What Makes a Difference?’ a European funded project looking at improving outcomes for young people leaving care.
 - Research where care leavers interviewed young people about ‘what made the difference’ whilst in care and leaving care.
 - ‘Access to information for post-care adults: A guide for social workers and AROs’
- http://www.baaf.org.uk/res/training/details/091126_york.doc

Conferences (continued)

Policies for families..Challenges and Choices

30th November 2009 London

£180 - £325 + VAT

Family policy has seen a transformation over the ten years since FPI was founded. There is a new understanding about the public impact of the relationships we have at home.

This conference will look at family policy now and into the future, with an emphasis on interventions and services proven to help families flourish.

This conference is for practitioners, policy makers, commissioners, academics and researchers from across the parenting and family support sector. If you work with families in youth justice, children's centres, young peoples' services, schools, primary healthcare, parenting support or clinical psychology then come along to hear experts and to consider the future of family services.
<http://www.familyandparenting.org/conference2009>

Youth participation - growing up?

2nd December 2009 London

£150 - £250 +VAT

Youth participation has become increasingly important for local democracy and provision of local services. It is enshrined in the UNCRC, and is a cornerstone of children's services policy via the CA 2004 and ECM. We now have schemes such as UK Youth Parliament, Young Mayors and Young Inspectors, as well as participatory initiatives involving young people in the design and delivery of services, and sometimes with responsibility for spending public funds.

This represents real progress, but what does it mean in practice – for LAs and for young people? Who is selected? How are representatives selected? And what impact do they have? Research carried out by a 'Young Advocate' has reinforced some points made in earlier studies critically examining youth participation processes with a view to ensuring they are effective.

This seminar will consider representative and participatory models of democracy involving young people, LA practice, and how to assess effectiveness. There will be practical exercises, interactive sessions, opportunities for questions and more detailed discussion.

Youth participation - growing up?, will be launched at an informal reception and all delegates will receive a copy.

<https://member.lgiu.org.uk/events/Pages/CSN021209.aspx>

This weekly newsletter collates information from various sources that is relevant to safeguarding children. Anyone working in this area who would like to be added to the circulation list can forward their details to – keithdriver@btinternet.com