

**SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN
INFORMATION & NEWS UPDATE - 145
3RD December 2009**

Statutory guidance to the UK Border Agency on making arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children (Nov 09)

S55 Borders, Citizenship and Immigration Act 2009 places a duty on the Secretary of State to make arrangements for ensuring that immigration, asylum, nationality and customs functions are discharged having regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in the UK. A similar duty is placed on the Director of Border Revenue regarding the Director's functions.

This guidance sets out the key arrangements as they apply both generally to public bodies who deal with children (Part 1) and specifically to the UK Border Agency (Part 2). They include:

- Senior management commitment to the importance of safeguarding and promoting children's welfare;
- A clear statement of the agency's responsibilities towards children available for all staff;
- A clear line of accountability within the organisation for work on safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children;
- Service developments that take account of the need to safeguard and promote welfare and is informed, where appropriate, by the views of children and families;
- Staff training on safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children for all staff working with or in contact with children and families;
- Safe recruitment procedures in place;
- Effective inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare the children, and Effective information sharing.

S55 is intended to achieve the same effect as s11 Children Act 2004 which places a similar duty on other public organisations . As well as providing a driver for improvement within the UK Border Agency, the duty will also help to improve inter-agency working in respect of children. Section 55 applies to the carrying out of the relevant functions anywhere in the UK.
<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/policyandlaw/legislation/bci-act1/change-for-children.pdf?view=Binary>

Safeguarding children and primary medical care (01/12/09)

This letter seeks to provide clarity on the specific actions PCTs should take with regard to their primary medical services, to outline the actions that GPs themselves should be taking and the steps that PCTs should take to support GPs, in response to Recommendation 34 of The protection of children in England; a progress report (Lord Laming, March 2009).
http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Lettersandcirculars/Dearcolleagueletter/s/DH_109407
http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/documents/digitalasset/dh_109401.pdf

ISA Roadshow Media (02/12/09)

The HO has released for download the presentation and FAQ about the Vetting and Barring Scheme
<http://www.isa.gov.org.uk/default.aspx?page=395>
http://www.isa.gov.org.uk/Docs/VBS_pres_oct09.ppt
http://www.isa.gov.org.uk/pdf/20090618-FAQ_current.pdf

£10m fund to raise aspirations of disadvantaged young people (30/11/09)

The Schools Minister will today invite third sector organisations to bid for a share of up to £10m to raise the aspirations of young people from disadvantaged backgrounds. The fourth round of the Youth Sector Development Fund will focus on supporting the aims of the Government's IAG Strategy published last month.

Bids should demonstrate how young people would be imaginatively shown the full range of options in education and work, such as through "taster sessions" at universities or real experience of different careers.

Around 25 organisations are expected to benefit, through a mixture of grants and business support, from April to March 2011.
http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/news/content.cfm?landing=schools_minister_ian_wright_to_launch_10_million_fund_to_raise_aspirations_of_disadvantaged_young_people&type=1
<http://ysdf.ecotec.com/index.asp?pid=13>

A report on the responses to the consultation on how Ofsted should inspect children's centres (30/11/09)

Children's centres provide a range of services for children and their families. They have been set up in stages from 2004, starting with the most disadvantaged communities. This report gives the results of the consultation on the proposed framework for inspection and way forward.

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Publications-and-research/Browse-all-by/Documents-by-type/Consultations/A-report-on-the-responses-to-the-consultation-on-how-Ofsted-should-inspect-children-s-centres>
<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/content/download/10532/126017/file/Responses%20to%20the%20consultation%20on%20how%20Ofsted>

Sure Start Children's Centres

Discovery E-Newsletter December 2009
http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/_download/?id=6904
<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/everyyears/surestart/surestartchildrenscentres/childrenscentres/>

Start4Life is here to help you give your baby the foundations for a better start in life. By introducing healthier habits right from birth, you can give them the building blocks for a healthier and happier future. Watch this space over the coming months for Start4Life tips and tools on nutrition and physical activity to help at key stages of your baby's development.
<http://www.nhs.uk/start4life/Pages/welcome-to-start4life.aspx>

Teenage Parent Supported Housing Pilot grant: 2010-11 (25/11/09)

Following the Government's announcement on 12/03/08 to provide £125m for child poverty pilots for 2008-2011, approximately £3m is being made available to improve housing support for teenage parents.

This circular sets out the requirements for the 7 Teenage Parent Supported Housing pilots being funded for 2010-11. In particular the:

- specific conditions of grant and general guidance;
- grant allocations and payment arrangements for 2010-2011;
- the payment and financial arrangements; and
- reporting arrangements.

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/news-and-communications/local-authority-circulars-2008-2011/lac2511090003/>
http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/_download/?id=6922
<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/pns/pnattach/20080124/1.doc>

Getting Maternity Services Right for Pregnant Teenagers and Young Fathers: 2nd edition (Nov 2009)

About 1 in 15 of all births are to young women under 20 @ 45,000 in 07. Most of their babies' fathers are under 25. Young parents and their babies have poorer access to maternity services and experience worse outcomes than older mothers and fathers.

Meeting the needs of young women and their partners more effectively will improve the life chances of the young parents and their children, while also making significant contributions to the national and local targets on early access to maternity care; on reducing infant mortality, smoking and teenage conceptions; and on increasing breastfeeding.

This guide is aimed at practitioners working in mainstream services or areas where the prevalence of teenage pregnancy is relatively low and where there are no dedicated services for pregnant teenagers. It sets out the reasons why it is important to improve the maternity service offered to young parents, and offers practical guidance on working with pregnant teenagers and young fathers.

<http://publications.everychildmatters.gov.uk/default.aspx?PageFunction=productdetails&PageMode=publications&ProductId=DCSF-00673-2009&>

<http://publications.everychildmatters.gov.uk/eOrderingDownload/DCSF-00673-2009.pdf>

Securing our future - Using our resources well (Nov 2009)

This document was initiated by the Secretary of State to promote the debate with the school system about how efficiencies in the use of resources can be achieved. It sets out a number of broad areas that offer the greatest scope for savings that could be discussed

further and where schools can learn from the experiences of other schools and share best practice.

It provides a discussion between schools, school leaders and their colleagues about what steps can be taken to ensure the best use of school resources in the coming years. <http://publications.dcsf.gov.uk/default.aspx?PageFunction=productdetails&PageMode=publications&ProductId=DCSF-01097-2009&> <http://publications.dcsf.gov.uk/eOrderingDownload/Securing-our-future.pdf>

Making the Link (16/11/09)

The CAPT has launched a 2 year programme to build capacity for partnership working on child accident prevention England-wide.

National indicators have been launched for hospital admissions caused by unintentional and deliberate injuries to children, and for preventable child deaths as recorded through child death review processes.

'Accident Prevention Amongst Children and Young People – A priority Review' highlights partnership work as a major driver for reducing death and serious injury from preventable childhood accidents.

The programme has two main strands:

- Tools to support sharing of knowledge and good practice – a 'knowledge hub' website and monthly e-bulletin, an 'online learning community' and a printed 'toolkit'.
- Events to encourage communication and collaboration. In 2010 there will be seminars and a conference that will be aimed at wider audiences.

<http://www.makingthelink.net/about.htm>

<http://www.hm->

[treasury.gov.uk/d/pbr_csr07_psa13.pdf](http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/pbr_csr07_psa13.pdf)

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/resources-and-practice/RS00047/>

The Prolific and Other Priority Offender Programme: Deter Young Offender Scheme (DYO) Management Framework -

Supplementary guidance – Nov 2009

The DYO Framework has 4 key components, which include DYO management meetings, CJSSS (Delivering Simple, Speedy, Summary Justice), the YJB's Scaled Approach, DYO access to wider children's services, and allows key agencies to focus their efforts on a single priority group (the DYO group) within each LA.

This supplementary guidance sits alongside the original guidance DYO – Management Framework (April 2009). Its aim is to further assist local CJBs, YOTs, and other agencies with the identification and targeting of young people within the DYO group, to reduce their levels of reoffending and help to make communities safer.

<http://www.yjb.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/4307F9C7-6938-4221-B662->

[2597CF426240/0/TheProlificandOtherPriorityOffenderProgrammeDeterYoungOffenderSchemeManagementFramework.pdf](http://www.yjb.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/ED5B304B-52FD-4FA8-A564-4C5E6F2FB09B/0/DeterYoungOffenderSchemeOCJRManagementFramework.pdf)

[http://www.yjb.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/ED5B304B-52FD-4FA8-A564-](http://www.yjb.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/ED5B304B-52FD-4FA8-A564-4C5E6F2FB09B/0/DeterYoungOffenderSchemeOCJRManagementFramework.pdf)

[4C5E6F2FB09B/0/DeterYoungOffenderSchemeOCJRManagementFramework.pdf](http://www.yjb.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/ED5B304B-52FD-4FA8-A564-4C5E6F2FB09B/0/DeterYoungOffenderSchemeOCJRManagementFramework.pdf)

Youth Rehabilitation Order and Youth Justice Provisions

This circular contains information on the YRO as well as other youth justice related changes which came into effect on 30/11/09.

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/latest-updates/criminal-justice-immigration-act-yro.htm>

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/about/docs/moj-circular2009-03.pdf>

Youth crime punishments: You decide!
(30/11/09)

More communities affected by youth crime and anti-social behaviour will, for the first time, have their say in how young offenders are punished and forced to make amends to their local neighbourhood, Justice Secretary Jack Straw has announced.

YOTs across NW England will take part in the first official programme - 'Making Good' - allowing members of the public to propose local work for young offenders (10-17). If the scheme proves to be successful it will be rolled-out across the country.

The type of projects expected to be put forward could range from cleaning graffiti and repairing vandalised public furniture, to work in local libraries and charity work.

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/news/newsrelease301109a.htm>

Young People's Guide to the Rights and Responsibilities Green Paper (01/12/09)

The Guide introduces young people to the debate about rights and responsibilities.

This guide simplifies the issues in the Green Paper, Rights and Responsibilities: developing our constitutional framework and encourages young people to contribute to this debate.

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/latest-updates/young-persons-guide-rights-responsibilities.htm>

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/about/docs/right-responsibilities-young-people.pdf>

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/rights-responsibilities.htm>

Building a Safe, Confident Future: The final report of the Social Work Task Force (01/12/09)

Children's Secretary Ed Balls and Health Secretary Andy Burnham today announced the Government's acceptance of a radical package of recommendations from the final Social Work Task Force report, to transform social work and public understanding of social workers' crucial contribution to our society.

Under the package, every social worker will benefit from:

- Reforms to initial training, so all students receive good quality education and practice learning placements, equipping them for the challenges they will face when they begin to practice;
- A new 'licensing' system which will introduce an assessed probationary year in employment for new social work graduates, during which they will receive extra support;
- A revamped framework for continuing professional development, underpinned by a practice-based masters qualification, so all social workers can keep their skills up to date and develop specialist knowledge;
- A career structure so experienced practitioners can progress in front line roles as well as in management;
- A new standard for employers to ensure all employers put in place high quality supervision, time for continuing professional development and manageable work loads;
- Pay reform - unions will work together with employers in local government to ensure social workers receive the appropriate pay for their work and that the pay reflects their career development and progression;



- A new and independent College for Social Work led and owned by the profession, which must establish a stronger voice for social work and exercise appropriate influence over national policy making and public debate. Ministers will support it to become the first Royal College of Social Work as soon as possible;
- All this in addition to the reforms to the Integrated Children's System the Task Force has already proposed and the Government has accepted. Over the next few months, as LAs implement the changes they should significantly reduce the bureaucracy social workers experience on the front line.

The Secretaries of State announced that the package also includes:

- a new campaign to improve the public understanding of social work; and
- a new system to help employers better plan and forecast the demand and workload of their social workers

The 15 recommendations, which taken together mean there will be root and branch reform of the profession, were set out in the SWTF's final report, building a safe, confident future. Chaired by Moira Gibb, the Task Force comprised academics, expert practitioners and charities and was established by the Government in December 2008

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/pns/DisplayPN.cgi?pn_id=2009_0231

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/swtf/>

<http://publications.dcsf.gov.uk/eOrderingDownload/01114-2009DOM-EN.pdf>

<http://publications.dcsf.gov.uk/eOrderingDownload/DCSF-01116-2009.pdf>

<http://publications.everychildmatters.gov.uk/default.aspx?PageFunction=productdetails&PageMode=publications&ProductId=DCSF-01114-2009&>

Children, young people and alcohol
(30/10/09)

Influences on how children and young people learn about and behave towards alcohol: A review of the literature for JRF (part 1) -

This research looks in detail at the influences on children, including family processes and structures, peers, marketing and cultural representations, and other major forces such as religion, school and community.

Alcohol prevention programmes: A review of the literature for JRF (part 2) -

This research reviews what interventions have been attempted to try to prevent excessive use of alcohol by young people, summarises the findings and suggests how a universal prevention programme might be delivered.

<http://www.jrf.org.uk/publications/young-people-alcohol-excessive-prevention>
<http://www.jrf.org.uk/sites/files/jrf/children-alcohol-use-partone.pdf>

Fall in number of young offenders
(26/11/09)

New Government figures published today show a 21.6% drop in the number of young people receiving a reprimand, warning or conviction for the first time in England in the last year.

Today's statistics follow a 10% reduction last year, which means there has been a consistent downward trend in young people entering the CJS over the past 2 years. This reflects the Government's investment in the youth justice system, and the work of partners, including YOTs who are reaching the young people most at risk, intervening early to prevent them committing serious crime.

The statistics show that:

The number of offenders aged 10-17 entering the criminal justice system for the first time fell from 94,481 in 07-08 to 74,033 in 2008-09 - a 21.6% decrease

The rate per 100,000 10-17 year olds across the country fell from 1,857 in 2007-08 to 1,472 in 08-09 – a 20.7% decrease

All regions in England have seen a reduction in the number and rate of young people entering the CJS.

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/pns/DisplayPN.cgi?pn_id=2009_0225

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/STR/d000895/index.shtml>

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/STR/d000895/Youth_Crime_StatisticalRelease_final.pdf

Young people aged 10 to 17 receiving their first reprimand, warning or conviction: England 08-09 (26/11/09)

This release will provide local level information on the number and rate of young people aged 10-17 receiving their first reprimand, warning or conviction in England, 2000-01 to 2008-09. It is based on data recorded on the PNC. There will also be an additional series of statistics which will cover number and rate of young people aged 10-17 receiving their first penalty notice for disorder as well as the other sanctions listed above.

The statistics will be released to inform local areas of the number and rate of first-time entrants aged 10-17 to the criminal justice system in their area, and used for NI 111.

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/STR/d000895/index.shtml>

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/STR/d000895/Youth_Crime_StatisticalRelease_final.pdf

Risky Behaviour and Social Activities
(26/11/09)

The aim of the study was to explore whether risky behaviour is reinforced or counterbalanced by various types of social and individual activities and the impacts on educational outcomes at age 16.

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/research/programmeofresearch/projectinformation.cfm?projectId=15675&type=5&resultspage=1>

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/research/data/uploadfiles/DCSF-RR173.pdf>

Early Years Learning and Development - Literature Review (26/11/09)

The purpose of this research was to consider the primary and secondary literature related to children's development and the contexts that best support it.

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/research/programmeofresearch/projectinformation.cfm?projectId=15618&type=5&resultspage=1>

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/research/data/uploadfiles/DCSF-RR176.pdf>

Parental Responsiveness (26/11/09)

Research was needed to explore parents' views, develop the approach and refine concepts, language and design ideas for a questionnaire to be used in the trial of the proposed Parental Responsiveness duty in Autumn 2009.

The research aimed to support decision making and establish usefulness about the questionnaire by looking at how understandable it was and exploring how parents interpreted words, phrases and concepts.

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/research/programmeofresearch/projectinformation.cfm?projectId=15889&type=5&resultspage=1>

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/research/data/uploadfiles/DCSF-RR179.pdf>

Customer Voice Research - Aspirations and the Children and Young People Segmentation - Part 2 (26/11/09)

This research explored, by segment, the aspirations of young people and how they are developed, influenced, shared and communicated

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/research/programmeofresearch/projectinformation.cfm?projectId=15890&type=5&resultspage=1>

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/research/data/uploadfiles/DCSF-RR180.pdf>

Black Children's Achievement Programme Evaluation (26/11/09)

This evaluation investigated the implementation of the BCAP in primary schools by examining perceptions of its effect and impact and exploring facilitators and barriers to effective practice.

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/research/programmeofresearch/projectinformation.cfm?projectId=14988&type=5&resultspage=1>

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/research/data/uploadfiles/DCSF-RB177.pdf>

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/research/data/uploadfiles/DCSF-RR177.pdf>

Child Health: Speech by Dawn Primarolo (26/11/09)

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/speeches/search_detail.cfm?ID=959

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/speeches/media/documents/childhealthweb.doc>

LAC - LA Children's Services Revenue Funding: 2010-11 (02/12/09)

This circular includes details of revenue funding that the Department is making available to local authorities for children's services in 2010-11

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/news-and-communications/local-authority-circulars-2008-2011/lac2710090003/>

Organisation, outcomes and costs of inter-agency training for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children

(26/11/09)

This research aimed to develop an evidence base for how inter-agency training to safeguard and promote the welfare of children was organised, the type of training delivered and its effectiveness and value for money.

Meetings of LSCB training subgroups were observed and 60 interviews carried out with LSCB representatives to investigate the means by which inter-agency training is planned and delivered. Questionnaire were developed to assess the outcomes of both generic and specialist courses on such topics as “Introduction to safeguarding” and “Safeguarding disabled children”.

The costs to LSCB partners of providing and participating in training were calculated based on staff time and use of resources.
<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/research/programmeofresearch/projectinformation.cfm?projectId=14957&type=5&resultspage=1>
<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/research/data/uploadfiles/DCSF-RBX-09-131.pdf>

Implementing Special Guardianship
(26/11/09)

This study aimed to describe how 8 LAs have implemented special guardianship in the 2 years after its introduction. The use of Special Guardianship provisions in relation to the characteristics, circumstances and motivations of carers and children were explored. It also describe experiences of those seeking special guardianship.
<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/research/programmeofresearch/projectinformation.cfm?projectId=15891&type=5&resultspage=1>
<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/research/data/uploadfiles/DCSF-RBX-09-17.pdf>

Extended Telephone Service Support Pilot Evaluation (26/11/09)

The evaluation assessed the effectiveness of the ETS Service Pilot run by Parentline Plus to improve outcomes for parents. It also considered the process of managing referrals from other Parentline Plus channels (e.g. main helpline) and from a small number of LAs and other agencies participating in pilot.
<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/research/programmeofresearch/projectinformation.cfm?projectId=15886&type=5&resultspage=1>
<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/research/data/uploadfiles/DCSF-RR182.pdf>

The relationship between obesity and sedentary behaviour (26/11/09)

In the report ‘Healthy Weight, Healthy Lives’, the Government recognized obesity reduction as a national priority and set out an aim to reverse the trend. This review identified the literature on the relationship between sedentary behaviour and obesity in young people, and assessed whether there was sufficient research to merit a full in-depth systematic review. It did not summarise findings of the studies involved.

Sedentary behaviour was considered to be a class of low energy consumption activities such as TV viewing, computer use, talking on the phone, use of motorised transport, sitting in a classroom, doing homework, sitting doing nothing, talking with family and friends, reading, listening to music, and cognitive hobbies etc. Studies were identified through searching databases, contacting experts and key organisations, and through Internet searches.
<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/research/programmeofresearch/projectinformation.cfm?projectId=15887&type=5&resultspage=1>
<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/research/data/uploadfiles/DCSF-RBX-09-15.pdf>

CCPAS says churches still complacent in some areas of safeguarding (26/11/09)

This research builds upon research into child protection issues carried out in 03 and 05. It shows an improved picture in many areas but a number of shortcomings are highlighted.

Action points include:

- Safe recruitment practice needs improving. More than half of those recruited to work with children are not asked to complete application forms, or supply referees, nor are they interviewed, contrary to govt recommendations since 1993.
- Churches need to ensure that all those in regular contact with children undergo safeguarding training on appointment. Just over a half of newly appointed workers receive this training.
- All staff and volunteers need to be appropriately supported and managed. In some church denominations and groups some 40% of workers had no named supervisor. The same was true for regular staff meetings.
- The need for effective pastoral care for those who have been affected by abuse needs to be recognised as only just over a half of churches state that they refer to specialist agencies for counselling and support.

<http://www.ccpas.co.uk/Press%20releases/26%20Nov%202009.html>

Safeguarding Children in the Church 2009 Summary Booklet

<http://www.ccpas.co.uk/Documents/research%20booklet%202009.pdf>

Safe and Secure Key Facts - a summary of CCPAS' 10 safeguarding standards for places of worship and other organisations

<http://www.ccpas.co.uk/Documents/key%20facts.pdf>

Copies of the research summary can be obtained from CCPAS info@ccpas.co.uk

Policing and Crime Act 2009

This act includes the following:

- Amends civil orders on sex offenders; in particular extends foreign travel orders to 5 years, removal of passports from banned persons and extends the maximum age of a child who must be at risk to 18
- Increases maximum sentence for failure to comply with a notice relating to encrypted information in relation to 'a child indecency case' to 5 years.
- provisions to reduce alcohol misuse by amending police powers to deal with young people drinking alcohol in public.
- stricter provisions for people who sell alcohol to young people.
- provisions allowing police or LAs to apply for an injunction against individuals to prevent gang-related violence
- Changes the name of Independent Barring Board to the Independent Safeguarding Authority
- registered volunteers to be charged a fee when they move into paid activity. Changes relating to the checking of school governors in particular.
- Provisions allowing the CRB to supply criminal convictions certificates to employers and to include "right to work" information on standard and enhanced disclosures

http://www.opsi.gov.uk/acts/acts2009/en/ukpgaen_20090026_en.pdf

http://www.opsi.gov.uk/acts/acts2009/en/ukpgaen_20090025_en_1

Coroners and Justice Act 2009

Section 62 of this Act creates a new offence in England and Wales and NI of possession of a prohibited image of a child, with exclusions in respect of classified films.

http://www.opsi.gov.uk/acts/acts2009/en/ukpgaen_20090025_en_1

HSE myth of the month Dec 2009 - You can't throw out sweets at pantos

Health and safety rules were blamed when a panto stopped throwing out sweets to the audience. In fact they were worried about the cost of compensation if anyone got hurt.

If you're unsure about an event you're organising, you might want to talk to your insurer to check that you've got the right cover and you've managed any risks effectively. It can help to make sure that trivial risks don't cause too much concern.

Realistically, if a panto throws out sweets the chances of someone being seriously hurt is incredibly low. It's certainly not something HSE worries about - as far as we're concerned, this is a case of 'Oh yes you can!' <http://www.hse.gov.uk/myth/dec09.htm>

The Family Nurse Partnership Programme (03/12/09)

The attached letter from Ann Keen and Dawn Primarolo informs about the FNP, an evidence-based, preventive programme for vulnerable first-time young parents, delivered from early pregnancy until age 2. http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Lettersandcirculars/Dearcolleagueletter/s/DH_109448
http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/@dh/@en/documents/digitalasset/dh_109447.pdf

Home Affairs Committee - First Report: The Detention of Children in the Immigration System (29/11/09)

Key facts:

- Nearly 1,000 children a year are detained in UKBA immigration detention centres.
- On average, children spend 15.58 days in detention. Detention for up to 61 days is not uncommon.



- It costs £130 a day to keep a person in detention; in the most extreme situations, detaining a family of 4 for between 4 and 8 weeks costs over £20,000.
- Over 90% of judicial reviews do not even get leave for hearing.

This Report makes 3 main recommendations on improvements which can be made to the legal process, the processing of asylum claims and the treatment of detainees pending legal decisions.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm/200910/cmselect/cmhaff/73/7302.htm>

Human Rights Joint Committee – 28th Report: Legislative Scrutiny: Child Poverty Bill (26/11/09)

This committee called for evidence in relation to the proposed Child Poverty Bill in our Call for Evidence in our inquiry into Children's Rights.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/jt2/00809/jtselect/jtrights/183/18302.htm>

Criminal convictions on PNC (26/11/09)

The Court of Appeal has supported retention of convictions on the PNC for policing purposes. The police are obliged to provide the CRB with access to all convictions held on PNC and will no longer “step-down” or “weed” convictions, cautions, reprimands or warnings. All convictions will be retained until an individual’s 100th birth date.

As a result and as the CRB does not own the data, they will no longer accept a Dispute where information revealed on a CRB certificate is being disputed on the basis that police should have applied the “weeding” or “stepped down” rules.

http://www.crb.homeoffice.gov.uk/media/news/retention_of_criminal_convicti.aspx

Assessments relating to people with learning difficulties: Guidance to LAs

(Nov 09)

The transition from school to a new learning establishment can be a difficult time for any young person. Those with learning difficulties are at particular risk of not making a successful transition. As a result, young people with learning difficulties are less likely to participate in education or training post-16 as those without, and are twice as likely to be NEET (not in education, training or employment).

A thorough assessment of the young person's learning and support needs will help to make sure that they receive a suitable offer under the September Guarantee, make a successful transition, and that they get the ongoing support they need to progress and achieve.

The guidance is designed to help LAs make consistent, effective and robust decisions but does not tell them what to do in each individual case. The guidance is current to March 2010 when new guidance published in Spring 2010, reflecting changes brought about by the ASCL Act, comes into effect.

It will also be of interest to LSC staff and shadow Young People's Learning Agency staff concerned with funding education and training provision for young people with learning difficulties.

<http://publications.dcsf.gov.uk/default.aspx?PageFunction=productdetails&PageMode=publications&ProductId=DCSF-01111-2009&http://publications.dcsf.gov.uk/eOrderingDownload/DCSF-01111-2009.pdf>

Analysis of consultation responses

<http://publications.dcsf.gov.uk/default.aspx?PageFunction=productdetails&PageMode=publications&ProductId=DCSF-01112-2009&http://publications.dcsf.gov.uk/eOrderingDownload/DCSF-01112-2009.pdf>

Parental engagement (01/12/09)

There is overwhelming evidence to show that parents' engagement in their child's learning is the most important influence on attainment, wellbeing and life chances.

The DCSF is undertaking research on what practitioners and settings can do to support and encourage stronger parental engagement. This will inform guidance and materials to help practitioners in schools, colleges, children's centres and early-years settings to improve their work with parents.

To feed into this research the Department would like to hear about your experiences and those of parents with children across the full age range (i.e. from 0 to 19 years).

The DCSF is currently funding research to identify which qualities and behaviours of childcare and early-years providers are effective in supporting parents to enrich their home learning environment.

Information may be sent by [email](#) (including your contact details).

Note: the DCSF plans to share the information submitted to this address with researchers and delivery partners.
<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/news-and-communications/news/011209niparentalengagement/>

ADHC Programme - Publication of year 2 indicator results (02/12/09)

New information on parental satisfaction of services provided to disabled children was planned to be published today. However, more time is required to quality assure the data and the DCSF is postponing publication.
<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/healthandwellbeing/ahdc/news/adhccprogramme>

Local communities to be informed of criminal convictions (03/12/09)

People are to be given more and better information about the punishments given to criminals in their area. Offenders' crimes and their punishments will be shared more frequently with local communities under new Government guidelines which encourage the police and other criminal justice agencies to make this information more widely available.

The move is part of a wider Government drive to make justice more visible and provide better information in a way that is easy to find and understand. It is part of the process of fulfilling the Justice Secretary's pledge to make court outcomes available online. The Government is working on plans to develop a website to make court results available to the public in a way that is simple, clear and informative.

http://www.cjsonline.gov.uk/the_cjs/whats_new/news-3705.html

http://frontline.cjsonline.gov.uk/_includes/downloads/guidance/general/Publicising_Sentencing_Outcomes.pdf

London FGM resource pack (26/11/09)

This pack brings together a wide range of existing work into one handy document. It will be a key tool to help professionals and community groups work together to combat FGM.

The pack is designed for all people who work with children, but especially midwives and other health professionals, teachers, social workers and police officers. It contains detailed information about FGM, as well as guidelines on how to spot victims of abuse or girls at risk. These include a set of questions for midwives to ask women attending their clinics. There is also advice on how community groups can help to prevent FGM, and information to help

professionals discuss the issue with parents and children.

<http://www.londonscb.gov.uk/>

http://www.londonscb.gov.uk/files/2010/resources/fgm/london_fgm_resource_pack.pdf

Mortality Target Monitoring (Infant mortality, inequalities) - Update to include data for 2008 (03/12/09)

The latest annual update, with data updated to 2006-08, has been released according to arrangements approved by the UK Statistics Authority. These are used to monitor progress against DH infant mortality inequality PSA target for the gap in infant mortality between the Routine and Manual socio-economic group and the population as a whole, for England and Wales.

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsStatistics/DH_109161

http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/documents/digitalasset/dh_109444.pdf

Children's Care Monitor 2009 (03/12/09)

According to this report, 92% of children feel safe in the home they live in and 90% thought their care was good. However 76% of children in care have been separated from brothers and sisters who live in different care placements and 20% continue to be bullied. This is the second annual survey of its kind, taking first-hand account of 1,195 children's experiences in care or otherwise living away from home and provides an up-to-date position of what C&YP are saying.

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/News/Over-a-thousand-children-in-care-voice-their-experiences-of-the-care-system>

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/content/download/10542/126101/file/Childrens%20care%20monitor%202009.pdf>

Consultations

New Core Quality Standards issued by the Director of Public Prosecutions (30/11/09)

The standard of work expected of public prosecutors is published for consultation for the first time.

Members of the public are being asked for their views on these proposed minimum standards by the DPP. The consultation document covers 12 key areas, from providing advice to police before a charge to sentencing and appeal processes.

The standards are listed and explained in detail in the document Core Quality Standards. They include:

- Providing police and other investigators with advice to assist in tackling crime effectively and bring offenders to justice;
- Engaging with communities so we are aware of concerns when making decisions;
- Presenting cases fairly and firmly;
- Assisting the court in the sentencing process and seeking to confiscate the proceeds of crime.

Closing Date: 18th January 2010

http://www.cps.gov.uk/news/press_releases/158_09/

http://www.cps.gov.uk/consultations/cqs_index.html

Exemption of childcare arrangements between friends that are not for monetary payment from registration under the Childcare Act 2006 (03/12/09)

The DCSF seek views on a proposal to exempt from Ofsted registration childcare between friends not for monetary payment.

Closing Date: 31st January 2010

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations/index.cfm?action=consultationDetails&consultationId=1687&external=no&menu=1>

Consultation Document: Power to Charge For Intercountry Adoptions (02/12/09)

The DCSF is the department responsible for adoption policy and legislation in England and for the processing of intercountry adoption cases for England, and in certain circumstances the rest of the UK.

An intercountry adoption is an adoption of a child who is habitually resident in one country by an individual or couple who are habitually resident in another country. S13 Children and Adoption Act 2006 gives the Secretary of State (and National Assembly of Wales in respect of Hague cases) the power to charge for the processing of applications. This power has not yet been brought into force but DCSF plans to do so by September 2010.

The power to charge has not yet been brought into force because Ministers agreed during the passage of the Bill that a charge would only be introduced when the Department could assure an improved service, such that valid applications would be “Sent to Country” within 12 – 14 weeks of receipt by the DCSF, excluding any time over a specified period with third parties. Those improvements are now in place and we are working towards a commencement order by September 2010 at the latest.

The DCSF is interested in your views on the power to charge. A stakeholder workshop will be held on 11/01/10 in London. If you are interested in participating, please contact Nayeer Afzal and send completed forms to:

nayeer.afzal@dcsf.gsi.gov.uk

Closing Date: 15th January 2010

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/system/20091201-consultation-document-final.doc>

Conferences

At What Cost? The Psychological Impact of Working in CSA Investigations

9th January 2010 London £195

This conference will provide the attendees with information on how working with children, offenders and materials related to the sexual exploitation or abuse of children can adversely affect workers.

The conference is in two parts.

Firstly there is a review of up to date research on the ways in which exposure to traumatic material affects the workers' ways of thinking and responding, together with the effect this has on the workers and the organisation. Professionals involved in child exploitation work will also provide illustrations of the impact using their experience of working in this field.

The second part of the conference will look at what organisations need to be doing to protect their workforce from harm. There will be a presentation from the HSE and an outline of the ACPO guidance.

Finally there will be a review of the benefits of taking a proactive approach to supporting professionals working in this area.

<http://www.ceop.police.uk/training/conferences/awconference.asp>

Safeguarding Children of Parents with Mental Health Issues

25th February 2010 London £279

In many cases parental mental illness will not adversely affect a child's developmental needs. However, it is essential to assess the implications of parental mental illness for each child in the family.

There are several circumstances which may affect the safety and development of children whose parents have a mental health illness. Delegates who attend this event will learn how frontline social workers and other agencies can work together to positively safeguard children who have parents that are affected by mental health problems.

Delegates who attend this conference will learn, hear best practice on and discuss the following:

- Understanding the importance of the voluntary sector and working with the voluntary sector
- Overview of the impact mental health issues have on a child/young persons own mental health
- Sharing the adult mental health perspective
- Developing a multi-agency strategy for neglect
- Protocols for safeguarding children who have parents with a mental health problem
- Conducting effective risk assessments and managing referrals: Where should thresholds for care proceedings should be placed?
- Showcasing best practice around working with young carers

<http://www.conferencesandtraining.com/safeguarding-children>

Conferences (continued)

Somebody else's child – everyone's responsibility: Safeguarding privately fostered children

18th March 2010 London
£129 - £199 + VAT

BAAF has worked to draw attention to private fostering for many years. This conference will be part of the second England-wide campaign to raise awareness of private fostering – Somebody Else's Child. Delegates will receive a free copy of the DVD entitled 'Somebody Else's Child: A guide to private fostering'. This new private fostering training resource has been funded by the DCSF.

http://www.baaf.org.uk/res/training/details/100318_conf.doc

Managing Allegations in Foster Care

23rd March 2010 London

18th October 2010 Bristol
£133.36 - £161.86 + VAT

We know that throughout their careers, foster carers are susceptible to allegations, some well-founded and some unfounded. How should we as a profession respond to these situations in a sensitive, timely manner with due regard to the safety of children and the needs of carers?

http://www.baaf.org.uk/res/training/details/100323_se.doc

Managing Allegations against Foster Carers

31st March 2010 Manchester
£65 - £90 + VAT

Allegations against foster carers produce tremendous anxiety for all concerned. Even when not substantiated, the experience can cause foster carers to resign. Investigations can be extremely complex and delicate, involving several agencies.

What is the difference between a complaint, a concern and an allegation?

What role should the fostering supervising social worker take?

How do foster carer reviews and fostering panels fit into the process?

What responsibility does the agency have in supporting the carers through the process of investigation and beyond?

This workshop will address such questions and will be of interest to fostering social workers and managers, and to members of fostering panels.

This workshop will address questions regarding allegations against Foster Carers, and will be of interest to fostering social workers and managers, and to members of fostering panels.

http://www.baaf.org.uk/res/training/details/100331_manchester.doc

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