

**SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN  
INFORMATION & NEWS UPDATE  
4<sup>th</sup> August 2009**

**Consultation launched on serious case review guidance (31/07/09)**

In his progress report, Lord Laming made recommendations to strengthen and clarify the SCR process. These were accepted in full by Government with an undertaking to update the statutory guidance set out in Ch8 Working Together to Safeguard Children.

Children's Minister Delyth Morgan has launched a consultation on the revised guidance to improve the quality, consistency and impact of SCRs. The guidance is aimed at LSCBs who by law undertake a SCR whenever a child dies or is seriously injured and abuse or neglect is known or suspected to be a factor.

Changes proposed include:

- Clearly setting out that the prime purpose for an SCR is to learn lessons both at an individual and inter-agency level
- Emphasising the importance that SCRs are undertaken in a way that promotes learning
- Extending the suggested timescale for completing an SCR from four to six months, reflecting feedback from LSCBs and the inter-relationship between SCRs and other processes, such as criminal prosecutions or coroners inquests

[http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/pns/DisplayPN.cgi?pn\\_id=2009\\_0146](http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/pns/DisplayPN.cgi?pn_id=2009_0146)

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations/index.cfm?action=consultationDetails&consultationId=1661&external=no&menu=1>

<http://publications.everychildmatters.gov.uk/default.aspx?PageFunction=productdetails&PageMode=publications&ProductId=CM+7589>

See consultations

**Safeguarding the Young and Vulnerable: The joint chief inspectors' recommendations and the government's responses one year on**

The joint CI's 3<sup>rd</sup> report, *Safeguarding Children: the third Chief Inspectors' Report on Arrangements to Safeguard Children* highlighted improvements from 2005 to 2008 and assessed the extent to which the considerable activity that had taken place at both national and local levels has affected outcomes for children. The report made 22 recommendations to Government, agencies providing services to children and young people, LSCBs and relevant inspectorates.

This document sets out the Government's annual update on progress against the specific recommendations in the report.

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/safeguardingandsocialcare/safeguardingchildren/safeguarding/>

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/download/?id=6434>

**C4EO Briefings**

C4EO has commissioned expert briefings on improving systems to keep children safe:

1. Effective interventions where there are concerns about, or evidence of, a child suffering significant harm
2. What are the key questions for audit of child protection systems and decision making
3. The oversight and review of cases in the light of changing circumstances and new information: how do people respond to new (and challenging) information?

<http://www.c4eo.org.uk/themes/safeguarding/default.aspx?themeid=11&accesstypeid=1>

**Lamb Inquiry – SEN and parental confidence (03/08/09)**

Brian Lamb has today submitted his reports on the Quality and clarity of statements and Inspection, accountability and school improvement to the Secretary of State.

He also outlines his recommendations, including 2 statutory changes:

- to provide a right of appeal for parents if a LA decides not to amend a statement after a review;
- to place a specific duty on Ofsted to report on the quality of the education provided for disabled children and children with SEN.

The Secretary of State has accepted the recommendations and commits to finding a legislative opportunity to make the changes. <http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/lambinquiry/>

**New inspection focus on children with SEN and disabilities and greater appeal rights for parents (03/08/09)**

The Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families has announced plans to strengthen inspection law so schools are assessed on how they support children with special educational needs and disabilities. Ed Balls also plans to give greater rights to parents unhappy with their child's statement of SEN. This will give parents more say over the objectives set for their child.

Continuing a drive to improve services for children with SEN, Mr Balls set out plans to ensure outcomes for these children are a top priority for Ofsted inspectors. Changing the law on school inspection will give parents greater confidence in the importance schools place on supporting children with SEN.

The new appeal rights given to parents will help ensure that SEN statements are up to



date and an effective way of monitoring the progress of their child. Where parents have had a statement reviewed but not amended by the LA, they will have a new right of appeal at this stage.

To ensure schools are ready to meet this strengthened inspection framework, national guidelines have been published to help schools set challenging targets for children with special educational needs. Training for School Improvement Partners is also developing, to ensure they are ready and able to support schools to deliver on the standards of SEN provision that will be expected by Ofsted inspectors.

Whilst Ofsted's new schools inspection framework will include criteria on how well schools support children with SEN and disabilities, the Government is committed to ensuring this remains an inspection priority by embedding in law.

More details on these changes will be available following publication of the final Lamb Inquiry report in September 2009. The full Government response to the Lamb Inquiry is expected in Autumn.

[http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/pns/DisplayPN.cgi?pn\\_id=2009\\_0147](http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/pns/DisplayPN.cgi?pn_id=2009_0147)

**Software to support SEN (27/07/09)**

Becta has awarded a contract to provide assistive technologies on all its Home Access packages when the scheme goes national later this year. Home Access is a govt programme which aims to ensure that more children in state-maintained education in England have access to technology at home to support learning.

<http://news.becta.org.uk/display.cfm?resID=40750>

**Handbook for the Inspection of Further Education and Skills from September 2009 (31/07/09)**

This handbook provides guidance on inspection for inspectors and will be of use to colleges and providers of further education; work-based learning; adult and community learning; provision funded by the DWP; and nextstep provision. There is a separate handbook for inspecting judicial services.

The handbook covers inspections from September 2009 and replaces all previous separate guidance for colleges and wider remit inspections, but not judicial services. It includes reference to the new common inspection framework 2009 with new guidance on, for example, the inspection of safeguarding and equality and diversity.

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Forms-and-guidance/Browse-all-by/Other/General/Handbook-for-the-inspection-of-further-education-and-skills-from-September-2009>  
<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Forms-and-guidance/Browse-all-by/Other/General/Common-inspection-framework-for-further-education-and-skills-2009>

**Using Existing Criminal Record Bureau Checks and Whether to Employ a Person Before a Check (29/07/09)**

This information is for inspectors and administrators involved in the CRB checks process. It covers aspects of CRB checks including whether providers should employ someone before a CRB check.

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Forms-and-guidance/Browse-all-by/Other/General/Using-existing-Criminal-Records-Bureau-CRB-checks-and-whether-to-employ-a-person-before-a-check>

**Secure Storage, Handling, Use, Retention and Disposal of CRB Disclosures and Disclosure Information by Ofsted**

(29/07/09)

Ofsted use the CRB disclosure service to check the suitability of applicants who work with or have contact with children, where it is allowed to do so.

This document outlines Ofsted's policy regarding the storage, handling, use, retention and disposal of disclosures and disclosure information in accordance with the CRB Code of Practice

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Forms-and-guidance/Browse-all-by/Other/General/Secure-storage-handling-use-retention-and-disposal-of-Criminal-Records-Bureau-CRB-disclosures-and-disclosure-information-by-Ofsted>

**Guidance for School Improvement Partners: Supporting and challenging improvement in learning and teaching**

(July 2009)

This guidance introduces SIPs to the principles that underpin the National Strategies' core offer and how this sits within an effective school improvement cycle of audit, target-setting, pupil tracking, planning, action and review.

These core elements of school improvement support the school in enabling all children to make expected or accelerated progress.

<http://publications.teachernet.gov.uk/default.aspx?PageFunction=productdetails&PageMode=publications&ProductId=DCSF-00614-2009&>

**Supporting Parents with their Children's at Home Learning and Development: A guide for practitioners (30/07/09)**

This guide is intended for practitioners in schools, Sure Start Children's Centres or LAs who are looking for new ideas about how to support parents with their children's 'at home' learning. It is based on findings from a DCSF funded research project from 2008-09 to examine the effectiveness of different approaches for working with parents.

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/research/programmeofresearch/projectinformation.cfm?projectId=15800&type=5&resultspage=1>

**Childcare and Early Years Survey of Parents 2008 (30/07/09)**

The Childcare and Early Years Survey of Parents collects information from parents with children aged 0-14 on their use of, demand for and views of childcare and early years provision.

This the third survey in the series (which began in 2004) and consisted of face-to-face interviews with just under 7,100 parents with children aged 14 and under in England.

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/research/programmeofresearch/projectinformation.cfm?projectId=15799&type=5&resultspage=1>

**Only early years settings of the highest standard to offer free childcare for 2-3 year olds (30/07/09)**

The DCSF has published several reports highlighting the increased value parents and carers place on the childcare and financial support provided by the Government. They also show that settings need to do more to ensure that as well as benefiting families, early education has a positive impact on a child's development.



An evaluation of the free childcare for 2 year olds pilot found that less adequate settings had no impact on a child's development. However, good quality settings left a significant impression on the child and their family, improving the relationship between the parents and the child and having a substantial impact on the child's development.

Earlier this year ministers announced plans to accelerate the expansion of this pilot to give up to 15 hours of free childcare to 15% of the most disadvantaged 2 year olds across the country. Children's Minister Dawn Primarolo confirmed that only settings deemed to be operating at a good or outstanding level by Ofsted or by local Councils would be able to offer parents the additional free hours.

[http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/pns/DisplayPN.cgi?pn\\_id=2009\\_0144](http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/pns/DisplayPN.cgi?pn_id=2009_0144)

[http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/campaigns/parent\\_champions](http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/campaigns/parent_champions)

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/research/programmeofresearch/index.cfm?type=5&x=60&y=9>

**Long-term Evaluation of Local Area Agreements and Local Strategic Partnerships: Report on the 2008 survey of all English LSPs (28/07/09)**

The survey is one component of the national evaluation of LAAs and LSPs commissioned by Communities and Local Govt in 2007

- Volume 1 (executive summary and survey report) presents findings from a survey sent to all English LSPs in 2008
- Volume 2 (statistical tables) provides the statistical breakdown of responses to each question in the survey.

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/lspssurvey2008report>

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/lspssurvey2008tables>

### **Facing up to the Task - The interim report of the Social Work Task Force (29/07/09)**

The SWTF was set up by the Government to undertake a comprehensive review of frontline social work practice and to make recommendations for improvement and reform of the whole profession, across adult and children's services.

This report sets out interim advice about the state of social work in England and the nature and content of the reforms needed.

In summary:

- Social work is struggling to hold its own as a durable, attractive public sector profession. Widespread staffing shortages are seriously compromising its ability to deliver quality on the frontline.
- The mix of practical and professional support to frontline workers is inconsistent and sometimes inadequate. To be effective, social workers need appropriate technology and equipment, secure access to supervision and robust sources of research and information – and time to make good use of all of these resources. Current arrangements for education, training and career progression are not producing – or retaining – enough workers suited to the full demands of frontline practice. There is simply not enough shared understanding about the division of responsibilities in education and training among higher education institutions, employers and social workers themselves.
- Social work lacks a single focus of responsibility for promoting the profession, improving public understanding, spreading best practice and driving up its standards. They are unsure about where to look for leadership, and for representation in the policy debates that shape practice and conditions on the frontline.



- Social work needs a clearer account of how effectiveness should be judged. Some parts feel it is at risk of becoming 'de-skilled' and too mechanised in its approach.
- The distinct role of social workers in modern public services is unclear, with consequences on how workers are deployed; attitudes and expectations of service users and other professionals; capacity to attract new recruits; formation of policy; and the poor image of the profession in the public and the media.

Recommendations include:

- Creation of national college for social work
- Greater partnership between employers and educators to improve social work education
- Clearer career and progression structure
- More sophisticated understanding of supply and demand
- Securing the resources social workers need to be effective

[http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/pns/DisplayPN.cgi?pn\\_id=2009\\_0143](http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/pns/DisplayPN.cgi?pn_id=2009_0143)

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

<http://publications.dcsf.gov.uk/default.aspx?PageFunction=productdetails&PageMode=publications&ProductId=DCSF-00752-2009>

<http://publications.dcsf.gov.uk/default.aspx?PageFunction=productdetails&PageMode=publications&ProductId=DCSF-00753-2009>

### **Code of Practice for Social Workers**

This free guide contains agreed codes of practice for social care workers and employers of social care workers describing the standards of conduct and practice within which they should work. It will help to understand what the codes are for and what they will mean to social care workers, employers, service users and the public.

<http://subscriber.emedia.co.uk/Bulletins/BulletinPreview.aspx?BF=1&BRID=28625>

<http://subscriber.emedia.co.uk/1/?933914.658735.TSPMFPNW.0.28625>

**Reducing health risks from the use of ultraviolet (UV) tanning equipment (May 2009)**

The HSE has produced revised guidance for tanning salons and their customers about the safe operation of sunbeds. This was the result of technological changes in the sunbed industry, an expansion in sunbed use and concerns about the number of children and young people using sunbeds.

The revised guidance - produced in support of the DH's Cancer Reform Strategy - provides recommendations about how to safely operate ultraviolet tanning equipment, including advice about potential hazards and risk assessments.

The guidance also applies to premises in Scotland, although operators there are bound by the Public Health (Scotland) Act 2008, which imposes other legal requirements on the use of tanning equipment.

Two key changes are:

- HSE now recommends that under-18s do not use sunbeds and that all coin-operated salons are supervised by trained staff.
- A poster and leaflet spelling out advice to operators and customers have also been published. These are available to download from a number of websites and distributed free from HSE books.

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/press/2009/e09038.htm>

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg209.pdf>

**Gifted and talented pupils to receive more targeted support (28/07/09)**

The country's brightest and most able children are to get more and better support, as the Government further strengthens its Gifted & Talented (G&T) programme.

The scheme will be targeted at the most disadvantaged gifted learners aged 14 to 19 to help them develop the knowledge and skills during their school careers to win a place at a competitive university.

Key strands of the new programme include:

- Targeting gifted pupils from deprived backgrounds with a new £250 annual scholarship for up to 4 years, to help them develop their particular gift or talent from 2010;
- A new online catalogue of learning opportunities for G&T pupils provided at LA, regional and national level where pupils can 'shop' for opportunities that suit their particular gift;
- A new network of High Performing Specialist Schools that will focus on Gifted and Talented as part of their specialism to work alongside LAs in improving the quality of support for G&T learners across the country. Since January 2009, 170 schools have been identified and will receive £10,000 pa funding.

[http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/pns/DisplayPN.cgi?pn\\_id=2009\\_0142](http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/pns/DisplayPN.cgi?pn_id=2009_0142)

**Sport England's new website goes live**

Sport England has redeveloped its website to provide a resource which supports its work and partners more effectively.

[http://www.sportengland.org/about\\_us/our\\_news/new\\_website\\_goes\\_live.aspx](http://www.sportengland.org/about_us/our_news/new_website_goes_live.aspx)

<http://www.sportengland.org/default.aspx>

**Children and Young People's Participation in Organised Sport: Omnibus survey (30/07/09)**

The Government is committed to increasing the percentage of 5-16 year olds participating in at least 2 hours a week of high-quality PE and sport at school and the percentage of 5-19 year olds participating in at least 3 further hours a week of sporting opportunities.

The key aims of the project were to measure current levels of participation in organised sport among children and young people aged 5 to 19 in England in the following areas;  
a) outside of the school / college day and  
b) in total i.e. both during and outside of the school / college day.

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/research/programmeofresearch/projectinformation.cfm?projectId=15328&type=5&resultspage=1>

**Extended Schools Subsidy Pathfinder Evaluation: Interim report (30/07/09)**

The DCSF is funding an extended schools subsidy pathfinder, which aims to enable children and young people from disadvantaged backgrounds to access the full range of activities offered by extended schools.

Evaluation of the pathfinder will help compare options for making funding available for disadvantaged children and young people, identify the most effective process in delivering the subsidy, and inform policy decisions for the national roll-out of funding in 2010-11.

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/research/programmeofresearch/projectinformation.cfm?projectId=15801&type=5&resultspage=1>

**Third sector strategy and action plan: Intentions into action (30/07/09)**

Children's Minister Delyth Morgan has launched a new strategy outlining how Government will work with the third sector to improve the life chances of children, young people and their families.

This document builds on the strategy and action plan published by the DfES in 2007. It outlines the principles, pledges and commitments for continuing and improving this work, including:

- Improving standards of commissioning by increasing awareness and understanding across DCSF and its partners of what the third sector can provide and by helping third sector organisations to better participate in the commissioning process.
- Aiming to reduce bureaucracy by working across Government and local authorities to ensure that all information requested is meaningful and useful, and where possible can be used by a number of different funders.
- Identifying and implementing improved ways of communicating and listening to the third sector.

[http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/pns/DisplayPN.cgi?pn\\_id=2009\\_0145](http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/pns/DisplayPN.cgi?pn_id=2009_0145)

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/thirdsector>

<http://publications.everychildmatters.gov.uk/default.aspx?PageFunction=productdetails&PageMode=publications&ProductId=DCSF-00699-2009>

**Info4local**

Info4local is a one-stop information gateway for people working in local public services. You can get quick and easy access to information from central government departments, agencies and public bodies.  
<http://www.info4local.gov.uk/>

**The National Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services National Support Service 2009-10 Business Plan (29/07/09)**

The NCSS is a service improvement workstream, commissioned by DH and DCSF, to deliver a programme of specific activities relating to CAMHS. This business plan shows the activities the NCSS are expected to undertake within the regions as part of the agreed integrated approach to supporting PSA 12 (to improve the health and wellbeing of children and young people). [http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Lettersandcirculars/Dearcolleagueletters/DH\\_103452](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Lettersandcirculars/Dearcolleagueletters/DH_103452)

**The Evidence Base to Guide Development of Tier Four Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (29/07/09)**

Until recently the idea of Tier 4 specialist CAMHS was synonymous with psychiatric inpatient provision, sometimes with day hospitals attached. Tier 4 has more recently come to be understood as multi-faceted with multi-agency services that can include inreach, outreach, intensive and crisis community initiatives, day provision, therapeutic fostering and other services that may be described as 'wrap around'.

What we have seen over the past few years are innovative approaches in assessment and treatment of this most complex group of young people and the development of new intensive community focussed services.

The aim of this paper is to present the latest information on these new developments and share with commissioners and providers the evidence base for development of effective services in this area. [http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH\\_103444](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_103444)

**Young People and Alcohol - Meanings, Practices and Contexts (30/07/09)**

The aim of the study was to develop new understandings of the role of alcohol in young people's lives and examined how young people (particularly those at risk) view the use and misuse of alcohol and how its use relates to personal, social, familial and cultural factors. The report is accompanied by 3 literature reviews:

- risk and protective factors;
- alcohol reduction programmes; and
- the effectiveness of national policies

This is a qualitative study based on the responses of 82 young people age 11 to 19 in 3 deprived areas in England. Respondents were recruited through local youth services and alternatives to mainstream education, with a focus on engaging young people who used alcohol problematically.

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/research/programmeofresearch/projectinformation.cfm?projectId=15806&type=5&resultspage=1>

**Commissioning Services for Children, Young People and Families: A study of the dynamics in 6 LA areas (30/07/09)**

The Commissioning Support Programme offers support to LAs and their Children's Trusts partners to increase the effectiveness of commissioning practice and so improve outcomes for children, young people and families.

The purpose of the research was to inform the delivery of the Programme by increasing understanding of the dynamics that surround commissioning, particularly in relation to leadership, partnership and locality working. <http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/research/programmeofresearch/projectinformation.cfm?projectId=15804&type=5&resultspage=11>

**Schools and Inspection digest (30/07/09)**

The digest lists the key articles in Schools and Inspection and its forerunner Inspection Matters. These documents provide inspectors and those with a vested interest, with information and further guidance about processes and methodology so that fieldwork and reporting skills and techniques may be informed by the sort of issues that interest inspectors.

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Publications-and-research/Browse-all-by/Documents-by-type/Newsletters/Back-Issues/Schools-and-Inspection-aka-Inspection-Matters/Schools-and-Inspection-digest>

**Schools and inspection newsletter – Issue 11 (30/07/09)**

Schools and Inspection is a bi-monthly publication which replaced Inspection Matters in November 2008. It provides inspectors and those with a vested interest with information and further guidance about processes and methodology so that fieldwork and reporting skills and techniques may be informed by the sort of issues that interest inspectors

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Publications-and-research/Browse-all-by/Documents-by-type/Newsletters/Back-Issues/Schools-and-Inspection-aka-Inspection-Matters/Schools-and-inspection-Issue-11>

**From crunch to crisis for poor families (29/07/09)**

This report followed the lives of 16 families living in poverty as the country fell into recession. It found the families are often in hopeless situations.

[http://www.barnardos.org.uk/news\\_and\\_events/current\\_news.htm?ref=48670](http://www.barnardos.org.uk/news_and_events/current_news.htm?ref=48670)  
<http://www.barnardos.org.uk/belowthebreadlinereport>

**HMIP: Expectations - Criteria for assessing the treatment and conditions for children and young people held in prison custody**

The expectations in this revised edition do not precisely mirror standards set out in Prison Service orders or YJB service level agreements. They look for outcomes that reflect best practice in care and treatment of children and young people held in YOIs, and which are deliverable, even in those settings.

There are fewer expectations, and they focus on high-level criteria and outcomes. They are accompanied by a much more detailed description of the evidence that will be required to satisfy each criterion.

There are over 2,000 children and young people growing up in prisons. These expectations set out the building blocks that are necessary to create environments that offer care, support, challenge and change.  
[http://inspectorates.justice.gov.uk/hmiprisons/docs/Children\\_and\\_young\\_people\\_E1.pdf](http://inspectorates.justice.gov.uk/hmiprisons/docs/Children_and_young_people_E1.pdf)  
[http://inspectorates.homeoffice.gov.uk/hmiprison/docs/Children\\_and\\_young\\_people\\_E1.pdf?view=Binary](http://inspectorates.homeoffice.gov.uk/hmiprison/docs/Children_and_young_people_E1.pdf?view=Binary)

**Explanation of the differences between the first time entrants to the criminal justice system aged 10-17 in England and the offences brought to justice statistics (31/07/09)**

This release helps explain the differences between the measures of first time entrants aged 10-17 to the criminal justice systems statistics and offences brought to justice statistics.

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/STR/d000864/index.shtml>  
<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/STR/d000821/index.shtml>  
<http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/criminalannual.htm>

### **Parent champions**

Parent Champions are parents who have experience of using childcare and who act as advocates and peer advisers in their community – particularly where the use of formal childcare is not widespread – to help other parents to find out about and take up formal childcare and financial help to pay for it.

Parent Champions are peer outreach workers; their role is to offer information and initial support to parents in their local area/community. It is important that their role is clearly different to that of a parent adviser (e.g. from a Family Information Service), as the key to their success is the fact that they are not 'official'.

This toolkit has been developed to support LAs and other organisations to set up a Parent Champions scheme. The advice in the guide follows an evaluation of a number of pilot schemes that have been run across England and the practice examples given are from these schemes.

"The objective of a Parent Champions for childcare scheme is to engage parents in order to increase take-up of formal childcare. Whilst this toolkit focuses on the use of Parent Champions to promote the use of formal childcare, the model could equally be used - with some adjustments - to promote other messages to parents, for example, health messages."

[http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/campaigns/parent\\_champions/](http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/campaigns/parent_champions/)

### **Report on Parent Champions for Childcare Pilot Schemes**

This is a summary of research on parent outreach work and an evaluation of the pilot schemes funded by the DCSF and run by Daycare Trust and National Day Nurseries Association.

Evidence indicates that Parent Champions can be instrumental in disseminating information about childcare. They are valuable and can provide LAs with an additional tool to access hard to reach cohorts.

The report says that the following elements seem to have made a significant difference:

- Involving relevant stakeholders is important for the long-term prospects of the schemes
- Once relevant stakeholders have been identified, it is important to maintain open dialogue, whereby objectives and outcomes are agreed.
- Sufficient time to properly develop the projects.
- A sustainable delivery partner in place that is able to recruit parent champions with good social networks.
- Parent Champions with good and diverse local connections; using as many local networks as possible for their outreach activities.
- Parent Champions to receive sufficient training and support.
- Parent Champions to be paid on an hourly basis rather than be appointed as volunteers.
- Where possible, taster sessions with nurseries and childminders are an efficient way to counter fears over childcare.

[http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/campaigns/parent\\_champions\\_documents/con\\_document\\_543.pdf](http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/campaigns/parent_champions_documents/con_document_543.pdf)

**The Children and Young Persons Act 2008 (Commencement No. 2) (Wales) Order 2009 – SI 1921**

This Order brings into force on 01/09/09 ss 36, 37, 38 and 42 of, and Schedule 4 to, the Children and Young Persons Act 2008, to the extent specified in the Order.

[http://www.opsi.gov.uk/legislation/wales/wsi\\_2009/wsi\\_20091921\\_en\\_1](http://www.opsi.gov.uk/legislation/wales/wsi_2009/wsi_20091921_en_1)

**The Young Offender Institution (Amendment) Rules 2008 - SI 599**

- These Rules amend the YOI Rules 2000. Rule 4 alters all references to “boards of visitors” to “independent monitoring boards”, following the renaming by the Offender Management Act 2007.
- Rule 5 removes the reference to ‘boards of visitors’.
- Boards of visitors, now independent monitoring boards, no longer have any role in imposing punishments for disciplinary offences.

They also amend rule 83(3) which relates to access to the records of the YOI by members of the independent monitoring board.

[http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2008/uksi\\_2008\\_0599\\_en\\_1](http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2008/uksi_2008_0599_en_1)

**The Youth Justice and Criminal Evidence Act 1999 (Application to Service Courts) Order 2009 - SI 2083**

This Order applies certain provisions of Part 2 of the Youth Justice and Criminal Evidence Act 1999 to proceedings before Service courts (the Court Martial, the Service Civilian Court and the Court Martial Appeal Court) and modifies the effect of certain other provisions of Part 2 for the purposes of proceedings before Service courts.

[http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2009/uksi\\_2009\\_2083\\_en\\_1](http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2009/uksi_2009_2083_en_1)

[http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2009/em/uksiem\\_20092083\\_en.pdf](http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2009/em/uksiem_20092083_en.pdf)

**Permanent and fixed period exclusions from schools in England 2007-08**

(30/07/09)

This Statistical First Release reports national trends in the number of permanent and fixed period exclusions together with information on the characteristics of excluded pupils such as age, gender, ethnicity, free school meal eligibility, SEN and reasons for exclusion.

Children’s Minister Dawn Primarolo said:

- we now have the lowest ever number of permanent exclusions since 1997
- the number of appeals by parents is down as is the number of successful appeals
- less than 1% of permanent exclusions end with the pupils being reinstated to their original school
- fixed period exclusions are down

The Minister also said that:

- Programmes such as Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning, ensuring young people understand the consequences of their actions and are taught how to respond to situations in a responsible way, have had a positive impact on discipline.
  - home-school agreements have been strengthened to ensure the worst behaved children have clear expectations of behaviour and schools can force parents to take action if they do not live up to these
  - PRUss are being reformed to ensure they offer a better standard of education and concentrate on working with mainstream schools to tackle poor behaviour early on
- <http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000860/index.shtml>  
[http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/news/content.cfm?landing=release\\_of\\_latest\\_dcsf\\_data\\_on\\_exclusions&type=1](http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/news/content.cfm?landing=release_of_latest_dcsf_data_on_exclusions&type=1)

**Ofsted reminds fostering services about overnight stays (29/07/09)**

Ofsted has written to DCSs in England to reinforce the guidance on overnight stays for looked after children.

The Fostering Network welcomes the letter as a reminder to fostering services that in most cases it is up to the foster carers and residential care workers to assess the risks and decide whether a child can stay over with a friend, just as a parent would.

Many looked after children are unable to stay overnight with friends, because fostering services require the parents of the friends to be CRB checked. However, LA Circular 2004(4) states that there is no statutory duty for CRB checks to be conducted on adults in a private household where a child stays overnight.

Other than a few exceptions, foster carers and residential care workers are expected to make the same judgments when assessing whether a child in their care should be allowed to stay over at a friend's house as a parent would.

A number of LAs and independent fostering providers are failing to adhere to the guidance contained in the Circular, causing concerns that looked after children are being denied the same opportunities as other children have to stay overnight with friends.  
[http://www.fostering.net/whats\\_new/articles/6090458](http://www.fostering.net/whats_new/articles/6090458)  
[http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Lettersandcirculars/LocalAuthorityCirculars/AllLocalAuthority/DH\\_4074388](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Lettersandcirculars/LocalAuthorityCirculars/AllLocalAuthority/DH_4074388)  
[https://www.fostering.net/resources/documents/placement/ofsted\\_overnights\\_stays\\_130709.pdf](https://www.fostering.net/resources/documents/placement/ofsted_overnights_stays_130709.pdf)

**Young people website – rebranded (24/07/09)**

The 'young people at work' website has been re-launched. It includes work experience, risks to young people, law, guidance for employers...

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/youngpeople/index.htm>

**HSE Myth of the month – August 2009**

*Health and safety laws mean concert-goers have to wear earplugs*

No, audiences don't have to wear earplugs! Going to noisy concerts is their choice. The laws are there to protect people who have to work in loud places.

Concert staff are at more risk of suffering hearing damage because they regularly work in high levels of noise. That is why employers should make sure they provide protection – this could be as simple as moving staff away from the noisiest areas, or providing suitable earplugs.

Hearing loss is preventable, so it's important to protect people to help them enjoy long and successful careers. The laws are there to control real risks to workers – not to take the fun out of concerts.

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/myth/aug09.htm>

**London Safeguarding Children Board - Work with Elected Members and LSCB Chairs (31/07/09)**

The following non-compulsory guidance documents have been produced following work to strengthen London's overall resilience in safeguarding and child protection:

- London Safeguarding Development Programme for Lead Members
  - The Protection of Children in England: Leaders' Responsibilities
  - London LSCB Chairs' Guidance
- <http://www.londonscb.gov.uk/>

**Extent of 'sexting' amongst British teenagers (04/08/09)**

Cases of sexting have been well documented in the US and Australia, but little is known of young people's exposure to sexting and other forms of peer to peer (sexual) anti social behaviour via mobile phones and the internet. Beatbullying's research of 11-18 year-olds found that:

- 38% said they had received a sexually explicit or distressing text or email (m: 36% | f: 39%)
- 70% of young people knew the sender of the message.
- 45% of messages were from a peer, 23% from a current boyfriend / girlfriend and just 2% from adults
- Of the 25% who received an offensive sexual image, 55% were issued via mobile phone
- 29% have been chatting online chat when someone started talking about offensive or up-setting sexual things (m: 24% | f: 31%)
- In this instance, 45% said the chat was instigated by a peer, 10% by an ex-partner and 2% by an adult

<http://www.beatbullying.org/docs/media-centre/media-centre.html>

**£8.4m to break the cycle of youth crime and create safer communities (03/08/09)**

An additional £8.4m is to be invested into reducing youth reoffending and creating safer communities through improved resettlement and rehabilitation arrangements for young offenders leaving prison, Justice Minister Claire Ward announced today.

Over the next 2 years, new programmes will be established across England and Wales to break the cycle of offending for young people leaving custody each year. Designed to ensure that young offenders make a positive contribution to society by developing essential skills and so turn their backs on a life of crime, this youth rehabilitation project will offer funding to help local areas establish and maintain the services necessary to provide practical alternatives to crime.

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/news/newsrelease010809a.htm>

## News Articles

### **Judges rule on child discipline (01/08/09)**

Judges in case of a girl who was kicked and slapped by her parents have drawn a line at which disciplining children becomes physical abuse. At the family division of the High Court in Cardiff, an Appeal Court judge upheld an earlier ruling which dismissed care proceedings in relation to the children. The judge found that the statutory "threshold" for making a care order in relation to the children had not been crossed. In his view they had not suffered "significant harm", he said.

A spokesman for Swansea Council said: "We need to consider the ruling in full before making a comment."

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/wales/8179613.stm>

<http://www.bailii.org/ew/cases/EWCA/Civ/2009/853.html>

### **Ofsted inspectors lacking experience, warns child protection chief (28/07/09)**

The competence of Ofsted to inspect children's services and help to protect young people from abuse and neglect has been challenged by the Government's child protection chief.

Sir Roger Singleton used his first interview in the post to warn ministers that too many Ofsted staff lacked the skill and experience to hold social workers to account and drive up standards. If matters did not improve and inspectors failed to win the respect of social workers it would be "all too easy" for their judgments and recommendations to be ignored, he warned.

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/uk/article6729434.ece>

### **Reports of child abuse soar since Baby P death (03/08/09)**

The NSPCC has seen a dramatic increase in calls about suspected cases of child abuse since the death of Baby P, with the number deemed serious enough to warrant referral to social services or the police rising by more than a third in 2 years.

Between April 08 and March 09, the NSPCC passed on 11,243 suspected child protection cases to police or social services – 3,063 more than 06-07. The authorities took action to investigate and protect the children in 98% of cases referred in the past year.

The number of calls to the charity's helpline for suspected child abuse and neglect continues to grow, it says. In June, the helpline referred more than 1,000 calls to child protection agencies – more than one an hour. Many of the calls were about children being physically assaulted, sexually abused or badly neglected. Most came from neighbours, relatives and friends of the family.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/2009/aug/03/child-abuse-baby-p>

## Consultations

**Serious Case Reviews: Revised chapter 8 of working together to safeguard children**  
(31/07/09)

On the 12 March 2009 Lord Laming published The Protection of Children in England: A Progress report which made a number of recommendations to strengthen and clarify the serious case review process. His recommendations were accepted in full by Government with an undertaking to update statutory guidance set out in Chapter 8 of Working Together to Safeguard Children.

The revised guidance aims to improve the quality, consistency and impact of serious case reviews and is directed in particular at LSCBs who by law undertake a serious case review whenever a child dies or is seriously injured and abuse or neglect is known or suspected to be a factor.

Closing Date: 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2009

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations/index.cfm?action=consultationDetails&consultationId=1661&external=no&menu=1>

## Conferences

### **Are young people in your area tired of hanging around?**

10<sup>th</sup> September 2009                      Birmingham

This conference will discuss how young people can be kept out of the criminal justice system. It follows the publication of the 'Tired of hanging' study which found that millions of pounds could be saved by keeping young people out of the criminal justice system.

The event will tackle this important issue and others affecting young people including:

- a lack of positive activities in local areas
- the impact of the recession on young people's opportunities
- anti-social behaviour and crime among young people
- negative stereotyping of young people.

Confirmed speakers include:

- John Drew, Chief Executive of the Youth Justice Board;
- Ginny Lunn and Paul Brown of the Princes' Trust;
- Bevan Powell, Deputy Chair of the Metropolitan Black Police Association
- Steve Grainger, Chief Executive of the Youth Sport Trust; and
- a range of speakers from councils and partnerships with experiences to share.

[http://www.audit-commission.gov.uk/aboutus/news/Pages/Are\\_youngpeopleinyourareatiredofhangingaround.aspx](http://www.audit-commission.gov.uk/aboutus/news/Pages/Are_youngpeopleinyourareatiredofhangingaround.aspx)

<http://www.audit-commission.gov.uk/pages/eventdetails.aspx?eventid=60>

### **Internet offenders: An introduction**

28<sup>th</sup> September 2009    Rhyl

£95 - £110 + VAT

This 1 day course is designed to provide an introduction to the methods employed by offenders to target, groom and abuse children using the Internet. It provides an insight into the technical terminology used in relation to computers and the Internet and explores the current debate on whether Internet sex offenders are different to other kinds of sex offenders. An introduction to some practical assessment techniques is included.

<http://www.baaf.org.uk/res/training/index.shtml>

### **The Government's Response to Laming: Delivering Improvements at the Front Line**

18th November 2009 (new date)

Westminster                      £225 - £395

Delegates will have the opportunity to consider the practical implications of the Laming Progress Report and the Government's response to it. Participants will engage with the panel and speakers throughout the day in sessions which will look at issues including:

- Key issues for LAs, the police, health & the voluntary sectors
- The findings of the Social Work Taskforce
- The LSCBs & Serious Case Reviews
- Funding: What is the cost? Who Pays?
- The role of schools & colleges in child protection
- The role of Children's Trust partners
- Initial training & continuing professional development
- Agreeing targets & inspecting outcomes
- Providing accessible referral systems

<http://www.westminster-briefing.com/?p=4131>

## Conferences (continued)

### **Together leading change - CWDC national conferences**

- 4<sup>th</sup> September 2009 Cambridge
- 8<sup>th</sup> September 2009 Bristol
- 11<sup>th</sup> September 2009 Leicester
- 14<sup>th</sup> September 2009 Birmingham
- 24<sup>th</sup> September 2009 Newcastle
- 25<sup>th</sup> September 2009 Manchester

The conference will:

- explain how last year's conferences fed into the development of the *2020 Children and Young People's Workforce Strategy* and provide you with a full understanding of the strategy
- help establish CWDC's role in 'leading change' in the sector and implementation of the strategy, providing opportunities for you to feed into our plans
- give you the chance to discuss some of the challenges front-line workers face, how they overcome these and what CWDC can do to help

<http://www.coievents.co.uk/cwdc/>

<http://www.basw.co.uk/Default.aspx?tabid=15&eventID=789>

### **Boarding Placements for Vulnerable Children**

9<sup>th</sup> November 2009 Reigate, Surrey  
Conference Highlights

- See at first hand how a state boarding school can transform lives
- Find out how to use state boarding proactively as a preventative solution
- Find out how to identify the young people who could benefit

- Hear from pupils whose have already benefitted from a state boarding education
- See a state boarding school and visit the boarding houses
- Meet boarding house staff and find out how they support children with difficult family circumstances
- Hear from keynote speakers who have already successfully placed vulnerable children at the Royal Alexandra & Albert School

[http://www.raa-school.co.uk/conference\\_nov09.asp](http://www.raa-school.co.uk/conference_nov09.asp)

<http://www.basw.co.uk/Default.aspx?tabid=15&page=6&eventID=785>

### **Community Care Live Children & Families 2009**

18<sup>th</sup> November 2009 Islington, London

On this website you will find out everything you need to know about this event for social care professionals working with children and families:

- Network with hundreds of like-minded professionals working with children and families.
- Use the time spent during your visit to advance your professional development.
- Meet recruiters and discuss potential career opportunities.

Registration has started and attendance is free.

<http://www.blaxx.net/2009/cclcf09/reg/>

<http://www.communitycarelive.co.uk/>

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](mailto:keithdriver@btinternet.com)