

**SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN
INFORMATION UPDATE - 171
4th October 2010**

The Munro Review of Child Protection

Part One: A Systems Analysis (01/10/10)
Professor Munro's initial analysis finds that processes and procedures, and the unintentional consequences of previous reforms, are getting in the way of social workers spending time with vulnerable children and families.

The review explains that previous reforms have been well-meaning and well-informed, but have not delivered positive long-lasting improvements at the front line. Changes during the past 40 years have been made in reaction to high-profile cases and have focused on parts of the system in isolation rather than looking at the system as a whole.

Professor Eileen Munro said:

I want to be clear from the start that there are no simple quick-fix solutions to improving the child protection system. A key question for the review is why the well-intentioned reforms of the past haven't worked.

Piecemeal changes have resulted in a system where social workers are more focused on complying with procedures. This is taking them away from spending time with children and families and limiting their ability to make informed judgements.

Professionals should rightly take responsibility when things go wrong but they need more freedom to make decisions, more support and understanding, and less prescription and censure. Too often social workers are either criticised for breaking up families or for missing a case of abuse. But the system they work in is built around predicting a parent's ability to look after their child, which is never certain. ↗

We need a system that constantly looks to do things better. Any solution must prioritise meeting the needs of children.

Problems identified include:

- professionals too focused on complying with rules and regulations and so spending less time assessing children's needs
- a target-driven culture meaning social workers are unable to exercise their professional judgement
- too much emphasis on identifying families and not enough attention to putting children's needs first
- SCRs concentrating only on errors when things have gone wrong, rather than looking at good practice and continually reflecting on what could be done better
- concerns about the impact of delays in the family courts on the welfare of children.
- professionals becoming demoralised over time as organisations fail to recognise the emotional impact of the work they do and the support they need

The Children's Minister said: I welcome Professor Munro's initial findings. She has started to expose the underlying causes of what has gone wrong in child protection. I have spent the last week shadowing social workers in an immersive exercise to see what happens at the sharp end. Social workers need to have the confidence to make tough decisions and make a positive difference.

<http://www.education.gov.uk/childrenandyoungpeople/informationforprofessionals/a0065082/professor-munros-review-of-child-protection-analysis-of-the-problems>
<http://www.education.gov.uk/munroreview/downloads/TheMunroReviewofChildProtection-Part%20one.pdf>

Safeguarding Pressures - Research Report: Phase 2 (September 2010)

Safeguarding related pressures on LA children's services departments have been the subject of much discussion and media attention since the death of Baby Peter was reported in November 2008. In February 2010, the ADCS Council of Reference agreed the importance of having robust, recent, national data to evidence changes in safeguarding activity and, supported by the National College, commissioned a project to evaluate the impact of increased safeguarding activities and budget pressures associated with those increases.

The Phase 1 report in April 2010 provided analysis from 105 LAs covering 75% of the England under 18 population and evidenced significant increase in all safeguarding activities except granting of Full Care Orders, against a fairly static population. This next phase of research takes the initial work further, exploring reasons for the increases, cost pressures and the effect of, and on, partner agencies.

LAs provided information about the source of initial contacts and referrals; the age and category of need of children subject of a Child Protection Plan and children looked after; national indicators relating to timeliness; financial information; LSCB data; and a range of qualitative questions about safeguarding activity. The final report is based on responses from 87 LAs (57%), covering 60% of the England under 18 population.

<http://www.adcs.org.uk/news/safeguarding-pressures.html>

New Joint Agreement issued by Cafcass and President of the Family Division (30/09/10)

Cafcass CE Anthony Douglas and President of the Family Division, Sir Nicholas Wall have issued a Joint Agreement, effective from 01/10/10 which builds upon the success of the Interim Guidance in tackling backlogs and which places the emphasis on good local agreements continuing for another year, until October 2011.

The Agreement will last for 12 months and seeks to build on the positive inter-agency partnerships that have been established in many parts of the country between the Judiciary and local Cafcass offices. In particular, it seeks to continue to reduce backlogs which have fallen dramatically since the introduction of Interim Guidance.

The latest national figures show that 11,944 care cases are allocated across the country (or 93.1% of the care workload) with only 151 care cases remaining unallocated and a further 734 cases being worked on proportionately by Cafcass practitioners providing duty advice, as provided for by both this Agreement and the former Interim Guidance.

<http://www.cafcass.gov.uk/news/2010/joint-agreement.aspx>

<http://www.cafcass.gov.uk/pdf/Joint%20Agreement%20October%202010.pdf>

The New Action4Youth

Youth Focus and Action4Youth have merged to create a single charitable organisation known as Action4Youth, dedicated to the support and advancement of voluntary and community organisations for children and young people. A new website is being developed.

<http://www.action4youth.org/landing.htm>

<http://www.youthfocus.org.uk/>

Long delays by adoption agencies result in adopted people and birth families taking ‘unacceptable risks’

Knowing about genetic origins is essential for collecting important medical history, understanding personal identity and making sense of past events. In 2005 adopted people and their birth relatives gained the legal right to ask for intermediary services from an approved agency to help them make contact with each other.

However, according to a latest survey by BAAF, 8% of adopted people or birth families who asked for information from such agencies waited 6-12 months for a full response, while an additional 10% waited over a year. Due to these delays some adopted people are by-passing professional services and making their own enquiries using resources such as the electoral register and Facebook. The charity is growing increasingly concerned by this as not all adoption reunions are successful, or even wanted by some relatives. Without professional support the fall-out can be devastating.

When asked about their experience of searching without support 23% said it had been a negative or somewhat difficult experience. Several people subsequently added that the costs involved in tracing birth family relatives had prevented them from continuing their search further.

BAAF are launching a practical step-by step guide for adopted people to tracing relatives, called *Tracing Birth Relatives- A practical guide for Adopted People*
<http://www.baaf.org.uk/media/releases/100927.shtml>

CPS introduces "ground-breaking" legal guidance on stalking (23/09/10)

For the first time victims of stalking have had their ordeal recognised in official government guidance. The CPS has published revised guidance on stalking and harassment. It emphasises the existence and widespread nature of 'stalking' as a particular category of harassment and it identifies the various ways in which stalking occurs.

http://www.cps.gov.uk/news/press_releases/138_10/

http://www.cps.gov.uk/legal/s_to_u/stalking_and_harassment/

Police vetting a 'disproportionate interference' that doesn't make children safer (27/09/10)

With the imminent results of the Coalition Government's major review of the VBS, which regulates contact between adults and any child not their own, independent think tank Civitas releases a new edition of *Licensed to Hug*, which insists the Government must get rid of the VBS once and for all. The dramatic escalation of child protection measures, such as the VBS, has created an atmosphere of suspicion that actually increases the risks to children and damages relations between the generations.

<http://www.civitas.org.uk/press/prLTH2ndEdSept10.htm>

Family Information Directory (24/09/10)

This Directory means that parents can quickly and simply find local childcare and family services matching their requirements, as well as information on national services and their local Family Information Service.

<http://www.daycaretrust.org.uk/pages/launch-of-new-online-directory-puts-family-information-in-parents-hands.html>

http://www.daycaretrust.org.uk/fid/advanced_search.php

Children's Commissioner for Wales' Annual Report and Accounts 09|10
(28/09/10)

Keith Towler will today call on Welsh Government, LAs and other public bodies to focus on getting the basics right for children as pressures mount on shrinking budgets. Ahead of his 3rd Annual Report & Accounts, the Commissioner highlighted areas that are fundamental to a child's development where progress is lacking.

<http://www.childcom.org.uk/uploads/publications/223.pdf>

<http://www.childcomwales.org.uk/uploads/publications/221.pdf>

<http://www.egovmonitor.com/node/38692>

Referrals, Assessments and Social Services for Children, 2009-10 (22/09/10)

Statistics on referrals, assessments and social services for children include data for Wales for the period up to the end of March 2010.

Key points from the latest release are:

- LAs received 49,000 referrals and completed 24,000 initial assessments
- 32% of referrals were for children who had previously been referred to the same LA
- 2,700 children were registered on LA CPRs at 31/03/10

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/statistics/headlines/health2010/100922/;jsessionid=z2FXMc0NvctTbnh2GvkjmmhPkJFTQJ9sDGPXlpVJq2Mq8F2KqDh7!-42672990?lang=en>

Further review of developments in the provision of advocacy services to children and young people in Wales (23/09/10)

The National Assembly for Wales' Children and Young People Committee have published a report on the provision of advocacy services for children and young people.



The report says that the Welsh Government is taking too long to implement its strategy for children's advocacy services in Wales.

Recommendations include:

- The Committee recommends that the Welsh Government publishes its statutory guidance without further delay.
- The Committee recommends that while advocacy services may be prioritised for vulnerable children and young people in a tight financial climate, universal provision should not be lost.
- The Committee recommends that the Welsh Government ensures that social services make sure children and young people in its care know about their rights to advocacy.
- The Committee recommends that service-mapping of advocacy provision in Wales is carried out. The Committee considers that the National Independent Advocacy Board is best placed to provide and maintain such an overview.
- The Committee recommends that any inspection of advocacy services takes a broad look at the outcomes of the service and the long-term relationship that advocates have developed with service users. In doing this, inspections should take as a starting point the views and experiences of children and young people. Inspections should be led by the Care and SSI Wales, who should work closely with Estyn and the Healthcare Inspectorate Wales.

<http://www.childreninwales.org.uk/members/1/policy/documents/researchandreports/14044.html>

<http://www.assemblywales.org/cr-ld8223-e.pdf>

Child protection scheme rolled out to more forces (01/10/10)

A scheme that allows parents to find out whether people with access to their family are sex offenders will be extended to a further 11 police forces this month.

The child sex offender disclosure scheme provides members of the public with a way to check whether people who have contact with their children are a possible risk. The police will pass on information if it will help keep a child safe.

The scheme is expanding to 11 additional forces, taking the total number to 24. The remaining forces will come onboard by next spring. The Home Secretary said that the further roll-out was, 'an important step forward for child protection in this country and will mean even more children are protected from potential harm.

'These checks provide reassurance to parents, carers and the wider community and also assist the police in managing known sex offenders living in the community more effectively', she said.

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/media-centre/news/scheme-rolled-out-more-forces>
<http://www.egovmonitor.com/node/38691>

Parents Protect (01/10/10)

A new website, set up by Stop it Now! UK and Ireland and the Lucy Faithfull Foundation, has been launched to raise awareness of the issue of child sexual abuse. It provides parents and carers with information that will help protect children.
<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/media-centre/news/scheme-rolled-out-more-forces>
<http://www.parentsprotect.co.uk/>

Scheme to Keep Children Safe at Home (24/09/10)

The Safe at Home Scheme, run by Action for Children in partnership with Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service and the Rural Needs Initiative, enables families receiving benefits and with a child under 5 to access and have installed home safety equipment, such as stair gates, fireguards, medicine cabinet locks and smoke alarms.

The scheme is part of a wider national initiative from the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents.

<http://www.actionforchildren.org.uk/news/486/Childrens-Charity-Launches-Scheme-to-Keep-Children-Safe-at-Home>

Anti-Bullying Week 2010: 15th – 19th Nov 2010 (28/09/10)

The Anti-Bullying Alliance and its member organisations will send the message that bullying is not acceptable, or inevitable in schools and communities. This year's campaign 'Taking action together' offers schools and LAs opportunities to explore bullying and action to stop it.

ABA has put together an online resources pack full of information to support anti-bullying work, with advice for schools, parents and carers, ideas from Young ABA for C&YP and an online shop with ABA hologram rulers, Anti-Bullying Week pencils, poster and sticker packs and ABA pin badges.

http://www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/press_centre/latest_news/anti-bullying_week_2010.aspx
http://www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/get_involved/anti-bullying_week/resources.aspx

National Child Measurement Programme 2010-11 (22/09/10)

Letter from the Chief Medical Officer to outline the revised template results letter and media pack produced to support the National Child Measurement Programme 2010/11.
http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Lettersandcirculars/Dearcolleagueletters/DH_119634

Road Injury Risk in Disadvantaged Areas: Evaluation of the Neighbourhood Road Safety Initiative (23/09/10)

The Department for Transport established the Neighbourhood Road Safety Initiative (NRSI) in 2002. 15 LAs in England were funded to develop schemes to reduce road casualties in their most disadvantaged areas. A team led by the University College London (UCL) evaluated the impacts of the NRSI using a mixed methods approach. The evaluation shows a significant reduction in casualties during the NRSI.
<http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/roadsafety/research/rsrr/theme1/researchreport19/>

Understanding the Children's Social Care Workforce: An executive summary (21/09/10)

New research into social care professions could have a major impact on the way we develop a professional framework for the sector.

The study, carried out by Salford University and Action for Children, looked at updating current workforce data, and identifying the key roles and the roles of graduates within the care workforce. It included desk research, online questionnaire and consultation events.
http://www.cwdcouncil.org.uk/news/4138_revealing-insight-into-social-care-roles
http://www.cwdcouncil.org.uk/assets/0001/0260/Understanding_childrens_social_care_workforce_research_07092010.pdf

Updated Ofsted Safeguarding Policy and Procedures (27/09/10)

This document outlines Ofsted's policy on responding to concerns regarding the safeguarding and protection of C&YP under 18 years. Combined with the associated procedures, it provides guidance to all staff who may come across concerns of this nature within the context of their work for Ofsted.
<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Forms-and-guidance/Browse-all-by/Other/General/Ofsted-safeguarding-policy-and-procedures>
<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/content/download/11527/135440/file/Ofsted%20safeguarding%20policy%20and%20procedures.pdf>

Whistleblowing to Ofsted about local authority safeguarding services (27/09/10)

This document outlines the processes and procedures for dealing with whistleblowing referrals about a LA's safeguarding arrangements.
<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Forms-and-guidance/Browse-all-by/Other/General/Whistleblowing-to-Ofsted-about-safeguarding-in-local-authority-children-s-services>
<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/content/download/11529/135450/file/Whistleblowing%20to%20Ofsted%20about%20safeguarding%20in%20local%20authority%20children's%20services.pdf>

This report details results of the consultation on a revised policy and guidance.
<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Publications-and-research/Browse-all-by/Documents-by-type/Consultations/Whistleblowing-to-Ofsted-about-local-authority-safeguarding-services-Responses-to-the-consultation-on-the-revised-guidance-and-policy>
<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/content/download/11525/135430/file/Report%20on%20the%20whistleblowing%20consultation.pdf>

Updated Ofsted documents (01/10/10)

- SC1 Application form for children's social care
<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Forms-and-guidance/Browse-all-by/Other/General/SC1-Application-form-for-children-s-social-care>
- SC2 Declaration and consent form
<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Forms-and-guidance/Browse-all-by/Other/General/SC2-Declaration-and-consent-form>
- Checklist for children's social care
<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Forms-and-guidance/Browse-all-by/Other/General/Checklist-for-children-s-social-care>
- Children's social care registration forms - electronic
<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Forms-and-guidance/Browse-all-by/Other/General/Children-s-social-care-registration-forms-electronic>
- Guide to registration for children's social care services
<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Forms-and-guidance/Browse-all-by/Other/General/Guide-to-registration-for-children-s-social-care-services>
- Children's social care registration – Introduction to adoption support agencies
<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Forms-and-guidance/Browse-all-by/Other/General/Children-s-social-care-registration-Introduction-to-adoption-support-agencies>
- Children's social care registration – Introduction to children's homes
<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Forms-and-guidance/Browse-all-by/Other/General/Children-s-social-care-registration-Introduction-to-children-s-homes>



- Children's social care registration – Introduction to independent fostering agencies
<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Forms-and-guidance/Browse-all-by/Other/General/Children-s-social-care-registration-Introduction-to-independent-fostering-agencies>
- Children's social care registration – Introduction to residential family centres
<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Forms-and-guidance/Browse-all-by/Other/General/Children-s-social-care-registration-Introduction-to-residential-family-centres>
- Children's social care registration – Introduction to secure children's homes
<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Forms-and-guidance/Browse-all-by/Other/General/Children-s-social-care-registration-Introduction-to-secure-children-s-homes>
- Children's social care registration – Introduction to voluntary adoption agencies
<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Forms-and-guidance/Browse-all-by/Other/General/Children-s-social-care-registration-Introduction-to-voluntary-adoption-agencies>
- Generic grade descriptors and supplementary subject-specific guidance for inspectors on making judgements (30/09/10)
<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Forms-and-guidance/Browse-all-by/Other/General/Generic-grade-descriptors-and-supplementary-subject-specific-guidance-for-inspectors-on-making-judgements-during-subject-survey-visits-to-schools>

Children Missing from Home or Care: LA self-evaluation scores of measures to monitor, respond to and address runaway cases (England Oct 08 to June 2010) (28/09/10)

In a range from 0 to 3, LAs provide a self-evaluation score in the following areas:

- Local information about running away is gathered
- Local Needs Analysis, based on gathered information, is in place
- Local procedures to meet the needs of runaways agreed
- Protocols for responding to urgent/out of hours referrals from police or other agencies are in place
- Local procedures include effective needs assessment protocols, to support effective prevention /intervention work.

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/STR/d000958/index.shtml>

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/STR/d000958/OSR23_2010.pdf

Children Looked After by LAs in England (including adoption and care leavers) – year ending 31/03/10 (30/09/10)

This Release reports progress on 7 LA indicators. Key Points:

- There were 64,400 LAC, up 6% from 09 and 7% since 06.
- 27,800 children started to be looked after - up 8% from 09 and 13% from 06. Of these 9,500 are classed as being taken into care.
- 25,100 children ceased to be looked after - similar to 09.
- The main reason why social care services first engaged with children who started to be looked after was because of abuse or neglect (52%) – up since 09.
- 73% of children looked after were in a foster placement – up from 69% in 06. 2,300 children were placed for adoption.

- 3,400 Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children were looked after - down 12% from 09.
 - 350 mothers aged 12 and over were looked after - the same as 09 and up 18% from 06.
- <http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000960/index.shtml>
- http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000960/SFR27_2010.pdf

Referrals, assessments and children who were the subject of a child protection plan (2009-10 Children in Need census, Provisional) (30/09/10)

This publication contains national and LA level figures on the numbers of referrals, assessments and C&YP subject of a CPP for year ending 31/03/10. Key points are:

- There were 607,500 referrals to children's social care services.
- 390,600 initial assessments were completed, 67.1% of which were completed within 7 working days.
- At 31/03/10, there were 382,300 children in need (339 per 10,000).
- There were 697,900 episodes of need.
- At 31/03/10, 35,700 children were subject of a CPP.
- 44,500 children became the subject of a CPP and 38,000 children ceased to be.

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/STR/d000959/index.shtml>

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/STR/d000959/OSR24-2010.pdf>

Children in Care and Children in Need statistics (30/09/10)

Response by Children's Minister Tim Loughton to figures showing children looked after by LA at end March 2010 and referrals, assessments and children subject to a CPP.

<http://www.education.gov.uk/childrenandyoungpeople/informationforprofessionals/a0065039/children-in-care-and-children-in-need-statistics>

PE and Sport Survey 2009-10: Children and young people's participation in sporting opportunities

<http://www.education.gov.uk/research/data/uploads/DFE-RR032-WEB.pdf>

DCSF/DfE Research

PE and Sport Survey 2009/10 (23/09/10)

<http://www.education.gov.uk/research/programmeofresearch/projectinformation.cfm?projectId=16068&type=5&resultspage=1>

Learning from serious case reviews: Report of a research study on the methods of learning lessons nationally from SCRs (01/10/10)

<http://www.education.gov.uk/research/programmeofresearch/projectinformation.cfm?projectId=16074&type=5&resultspage=1>

Building on the learning from serious case reviews: A two-year analysis of child protection database notifications 2007-2009 (30/09/10)

<http://www.education.gov.uk/research/programmeofresearch/projectinformation.cfm?projectId=16075&type=5&resultspage=1>

LA Child Poverty innovation pilot Evaluation: Second Synthesis Report (30/09/10)

<http://www.education.gov.uk/research/programmeofresearch/projectinformation.cfm?projectId=16077&type=5&resultspage=1>

Citizenship, Community Cohesion and Perceived Inclusion Amongst Young People (30/09/10)

<http://www.education.gov.uk/research/programmeofresearch/projectinformation.cfm?projectId=15718&type=5&resultspage=1>



Evaluation of the Right2BCared4 pilots interim report: Overview of emerging themes and issues (30/09/10)

<http://www.education.gov.uk/research/programmeofresearch/projectinformation.cfm?projectId=16073&type=5&resultspage=1>

Achievement of Children in the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile (30/09/10)

<http://www.education.gov.uk/research/programmeofresearch/projectinformation.cfm?projectId=16070&type=5&resultspage=1>

Feasibility study for a quantitative survey: how activity at 16-18 impacts on future pathways: Final report (30/09/10)

<http://www.education.gov.uk/research/programmeofresearch/projectinformation.cfm?projectId=16071&type=5&resultspage=1>

Evaluation of Staying Put: 18+ Family Placement Pilot Programme: Interim Report: Overview of Emerging Themes and Issues (30/09/10)

<http://www.education.gov.uk/research/programmeofresearch/projectinformation.cfm?projectId=16069&type=5&resultspage=1>

Investigating the use of Parental Responsibility Measures for School Attendance and Behaviour: Final Report (30/09/10)

<http://www.education.gov.uk/research/programmeofresearch/projectinformation.cfm?projectId=15601&type=5&resultspage=1>

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Ministerial Advisory Group on the role of the LA in Education and Children's Services

Papers from the Ministerial Advisory Group meeting are now available

<http://www.adcs.org.uk/news/mag.html>

Child internet safety (28/09/10)

The UK Council for Child Internet Safety was launched in September 08 in response to recommendations made by Professor Tanya Byron in the Government commissioned review 'Safer Children in a Digital World'. In March 2010 Professor Byron published a progress review entitled "Do we have safer children in a digital world?".

UKCCIS brings together over 170 organisations and individuals from government, industry, law enforcement, academia and charities, including parenting groups and children and young people themselves to work in partnership to keep children and young people safe online, for example, by raising public awareness of how to enjoy the internet safely.

In February 2010 the Council launched a new behavioural code called 'Click Clever Click Safe' in which the key messages 'zip it, block it, flag it' encourage children to keep personal information safe, to avoid opening links and emails from unknown senders and to tell someone they trust if they encounter anything online that upsets them.

Documents and guidance are available to download from the associated resources of this page.
<http://www.education.gov.uk/childrenandyoungpeople/safeguardingandsocialworkreform/a0064981/child-internet-safety>

Working together to safeguard children - change to statutory guidance (29/09/10)

On 22/09/10 Tim Loughton, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Children and Families, wrote to DCSs and LSCB chairs to inform them of a change to the statutory guidance set out in *Working together to safeguard children (2010)* insofar as it



relates to Government offices. This comes into effect on 01/10/10.

You can download a copy of Tim Loughton's letter and also a copy of the letter sent to DCSs and LSCB chairs by the Director of the Safeguarding Group, to confirm arrangements for the gathering of information on serious child care incidents and handling of correspondence related to child protection.

<http://www.education.gov.uk/childrenandyoungpeople/safeguardingandsocialworkreform/a0064974/working-together-to-safeguard-children-change-to-statutory-guidance>

Equality Act 2010: What do I need to know? (01/10/10)

The Equality Act brings together 9 separate pieces of legislation into one single Act simplifying the law and strengthening it in important ways to help tackle discrimination and inequality.

Implementation of the majority of the Act begins on 01/10/10. A series of summary guides and "Quick Start" guides to the key changes in the law, set out clearly what the new laws will mean for business, the public sector, the voluntary sector and the public.

<http://nds.coi.gov.uk/content/detail.aspx?NewsAreaId=2&ReleaseID=415730&SubjectId=2>

http://www.equalities.gov.uk/equality_act_2010/equality_act_2010_what_do_i_n.aspx

<http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/news/people-hr-employment/equality-act-2010-what-does-it-mean-you>

<http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/advice-support/people-hr-employment/equality-act-2010-overview/equality-act-2010-overview>

CAFCASS Care Demand Figures

2009-2010: Care demand remained at unprecedentedly high levels with 8,816 Care applications, up 35.9% on 08/09. March 2010 saw the highest ever number of Care applications recorded in an individual month, with 851 applications.

2010-2011: Between April and August 2010, Cafcass received 3,744 new applications, 3.7 % higher than last year and the highest ever for these individual months.

<http://www.cafcass.gov.uk/PDF/1011%2008%20care%20demand%20update%202010%2009%2007.pdf>

Safety scare over baby toys (30/09/10)

Hundreds of thousands of Fisher-Price toys and high-chairs have been recalled amid concerns about their safety. The concerns were sparked in the US, where a number of babies and children have been injured when using the high-chairs and toys.

http://www.ncma.org.uk/news_and_events/news/july_to_december_2010/safety_scare_over_baby_toys.aspx

<http://www.cpsc.gov/onsafety/2010/09/the-fisher-price-recall-more-than-10-million-products/>

Sleep positioners (30/09/10)

In a separate recall, Mothercare has removed baby sleep positioners from its shelves for review after US authorities warned parents to stop using them following a number of infants dying by suffocating after becoming trapped in the sleep-aids.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpsc/pub/prerel/prhtml10/10358.html>

Response from FSID

<http://fsid.org.uk/Page.aspx?pid=837>

Conferences

Transforming Services for Disabled Children and Their Families

21st October 2010 London
£225 - £545 + VAT

This conference examines how the progress made as part of the Aiming High for Disabled Children strategy can continue to be driven forward.

The Coalition Government's commitment to ring fence funding until March 2011 provides an opportunity to improve care provision for disabled children through effective and efficient use of budgets.

There are major changes anticipated to services for disabled children in the coming months. This conference will provide an informative overview of the priorities for practitioners, stressing the importance of an outcomes-based approach to ensure sustainability and effectiveness.

Key issues for consideration include:

- Adopting effective local commissioning strategies
 - Broadening the scope of short breaks
 - The role of key health and social care professionals in providing the necessary support to disabled children and young people
 - Building an effective transition process
- <http://www.capitaconferences.co.uk/public-sector-conferences/childrens-services/full-conference/article/transforming-services-for-disabled-children-and-thier-families.html>

16-19 where next for local leadership?

29th November 2010 London Free

Local councils were given the duty to secure education and training for 16-19 year olds on 1 April 2010. They have been working in partnership with neighbouring authorities and with schools, colleges and independent providers to get the best for young people and local employers for 2011-12.

This conference will focus on the role of LAs linked to meeting the needs of all young people, responding to employers and supporting local economies through local enterprise partnerships. As well as plenary presentations and debate we will offer a number of workshops on some of the operational issues confronting LAs.

<http://www.lga.gov.uk/lga/events/display-event.do?id=13583353>

Eradicating Child Poverty By 2020: Improving The Life Chances Of Children

27th January 2011 London £185 – £495

Poverty can have a profound impact on the child, their family, and the rest of society. It often sets in motion a deepening spiral of social exclusion, creating problems in education, employment, mental and physical health and social interaction.

In 1999, the former government pledged to eradicate child poverty in the UK by 2020. The new coalition government has stated that it will maintain the 2020 goal.

This forum will offer delegates the opportunity to discuss and examine how we can achieve the goal of ending child poverty in the UK by 2020.

<http://www.insidegovernment.co.uk/children/child-poverty/>

Conferences (continued)

Discipline in Schools

30th November 2010 London
£225 - £545 + VAT

This conference provides guidance and expert advice to enable schools to respond effectively to behaviour and discipline challenges and to strengthen current strategies.

The Coalition Government has clearly outlined its intention to give schools and teachers more powers to initiate quick and effective discipline and to promote positive behaviour in the classroom. This forms a key part of the Education Bill expected this autumn.

Key issues to be addressed include:

- Progress of the Education Bill and legal implications of the new guidance for schools
- Effective partnership working across local schools
- Achieving outstanding status for behaviour
- Innovative approaches to positive behaviour management

<http://www.capitaconferences.co.uk/public-sector-conferences/education/full-conferences/article/behaviour-and-discipline-in-schools.html>

Tackling Honour Based Violence and Forced Marriage

6th December 2010 London
£225 - £545 + VAT

Two years on from the implementation of the Forced Marriage Act, this conference will address the increase in reported cases of this terrible abuse, by providing invaluable, up to date strategic and practical guidance.

Recent cases have highlighted the urgent need for a joined-up, robust preventative response for victims and perpetrators. This event is designed to improve your organisation's capacity to efficiently to your statutory obligations to vulnerable persons respond whilst reducing risk.

Issues to be examined include:

- Current coalition Government strategy
- Negotiating Forced Marriage Protection Orders
- Child protection and vulnerable adult procedures including new female genital mutilation guidance
- Preventative approaches to working in schools and with faith leaders to get to the hardest-to-reach
- Findings to date of the No Recourse to Public Funds pilot
- Holistic support for survivors, including those with mental health need

<http://www.capitaconferences.co.uk/public-sector-conferences/local-government-communities/full-conference/article/tackling-honour-based-violence-and-forced-marriage.html>

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