

**SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN
INFORMATION UPDATE - 204
16th December 2011**

Missing children and adults – A Cross Government Strategy (05/12/11)

The vast majority of the 200,000 people who go missing in the UK every year, are vulnerable and need protection and support.

The Missing Children and Adults strategy provides a core framework in which we can all work to deliver collectively the best protection possible for missing children, adults and their families. It outlines the following 3 key objectives which we believe provide the right foundations for any effective local strategy to tackle this issue:

- Prevention - reducing the number who go missing, including through prevention strategies, education work and early intervention in cases where children and adults repeatedly go missing
- Protection - reducing harm to those who go missing, including through a tailored, risk-based response and ensuring agencies work together to find and close cases as quickly as possible at a local and national level
- Provision - providing support and advice to missing persons and families by referring to agencies promptly and ensuring they understand how and where to access help

The strategy encourages local agencies with a role in tackling this important issue to review the arrangements they have in place with their local partners – and consider whether they can and should be doing more.

The strategy also outlines the role of Government in supporting local delivery through the provision of national capability and support. It outlines the role of the new



capability within CEOP in relation to missing children and confirms the inclusion of the National Missing Persons Bureau within the new National Crime Agency (when operational in 2013).

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/police/missing-persons-strategy>

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/police/missing-persons-strategy?view=Binary>

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/media-centre/press-releases/missing-people-families>

New suite of resources to support missing children and families (05/12/11)

Resources aimed at helping children at risk of running away and the families of missing children, has been launched by CEOP.

The key message of ‘My Choice’, a short animated film, is that however bad things may seem, children do have a choice about running away from home or care and there is support out there whatever their circumstances.

My Choice can be used in a variety of settings and within a local context. It specifically looks at missing children and some of the risks they face.

It will form part of a new CEOP web area aimed at simplifying access by children and families to support services.

<http://ceop.police.uk/Media-Centre/Press-releases/2011/New-suite-of-resources-to-support-missing-children-and-families/>

<http://ceop.police.uk/missing/>

'Forgotten Families' (05/12/11)

Findings from this report show:

- social, emotional and financial isolation causes 72% of families with disabled children to experience poor mental health such as anxiety, depression or breakdown.
- 49% reported feeling so unwell- they have asked their GP for medication or to see a counsellor.
- 21% say that isolation has led to a break up of their family or marriage
- 56% reported the cause of their isolation is due to a lack of support from statutory services such as social services and the education system
- 57% said that they were not able to work as much as they would like to
- 50% feel that their isolation has been caused by the discrimination or stigma they have experienced.

<http://www.cafamily.org.uk/index.php?module=newsmodule&action=view&id=742&src=@random4864ff40710ee>

<http://www.cafamily.org.uk/pdfs/isolationreport.pdf>

<http://www.communitycare.co.uk/Articles/07/12/2011/117867/survey-reveals- plight-of-families-with-disabled-children.htm>

Hate crime laws extended (08/12/11)

People who murder disabled or transgender people in hate crime attacks will face life sentences with a starting point of 30 years, Justice Secretary Kenneth Clarke has announced.

The Ministry of Justice plans to amend the Criminal Justice Act 2003 so that murders motivated by hatred or hostility towards disabled or transgender victims will have the same starting point as for murders aggravated by race, religion and sexual orientation. This will double the current starting point for disability and transgender hate crime murders.

The Act will also be updated so that where any offence is shown to be motivated by hostility towards the victim on the grounds of transgender, as well as race, religion, sexual orientation, and disability, sentences must be made more severe. This will mean all five monitored strands of hate crime will be reflected equally in these provisions.
<http://www.justice.gov.uk/news/press-releases/moj/newsrelease081211.htm>

Care - a stepping stone to custody (08/12/11)

New research from the Prison Reform Trust and NCB, indicates that some children in care, who are meant to be 'looked after and protected' by the State, are far more likely to be convicted of a crime and end up in custody than other children.

The report's recommendations, which draw on the children's views on ways in which the care system can better support them, include:

- Making sure LAs fulfil their statutory obligations to LAC wherever they are placed.
- Allowing children to stay in placements where they are happy and involving them in the decisions which affect their lives.
- Protecting children from regular changes in social work staff by ensuring every child in care has one consistent adult in their life who will respect and support them.
- Making sure LAs treat children in care who get into trouble as any other parent would.
- Maintaining contact with LAC who end up in custody through regular visits and putting plans for their release in place at the earliest opportunity.

<http://www.ncb.org.uk/news/care-%E2%80%93-a-stepping-stone-to-custody>
<http://www.prisonreformtrust.org.uk/Portals/0/Documents/caresteppingstonetocustody.pdf>

Löfstedt Report and Government's Response (06/12/11)

Professor Löfstedt's independent report "Reclaiming health and safety for all: An independent review of health and safety regulation" was published 28 November on the DWP website. The Government's response to the report was also published, supporting the Professor's recommendations and setting out the next steps for implementation. The reports should be read together.

<http://www.dwp.gov.uk/policy/health-and-safety/>
<http://news.hse.gov.uk/lau/2011/12/06/lofstedt-report-and-governments-response/>

Youth custody data (09/12/11)

Monthly statistics on the population in custody of children and young people within secure children's homes, secure training centres and young offender institutions.

This includes those aged under 18 and 18 year olds. Some 18 year olds remain in the secure estate for children and young people if they only have a short period of their sentence to serve, to avoid disrupting their regimes.

The publication also contains more detailed information on the make-up of the custody population by legal basis for detention, accommodation type, age group, gender, ethnicity and region of origin. Data are also provided on a trend basis dating back to 2000/01 and 2005/06 onwards for more detailed data.

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statistics-and-data/youth-justice/custody-data.htm>
<http://www.justice.gov.uk/downloads/publications/statistics-and-data/youth-justice/custody-figures/youth-custody-report-oct-2011.xls>

Effective Investigation of Child Homicide and Suspicious Deaths (publication expected Feb 2012)

Foreword by Lord Laming of Tewin: 'This is a book specially designed to promote good practice and better outcomes for children and families. It is as readable as it is instructive.'

Crimes against children are some of the most serious and demanding investigations that a police force can be involved with. It is an extremely specialised crime area, with its own legislation, case law, guidance and crucial multi-agency working. This book

- offers a practical operational guide to managing the investigation of child death, and sets out the protocols and procedures relating to these deaths, from sudden and unexpected deaths in infancy (SUDI) to suspicious cases and homicide.
- outlines the relevant procedures of inquests and the criminal and family courts
- summarises specific offences relating to child deaths, such as infanticide and familial homicide
- includes striking but sensitive personal accounts from the families of victims
- has been written by an experienced detective with over 30 years' experience, in consultation with paediatric pathologists, CPS lawyers and major crime investigators

All author royalties will go the national police charity 'Child Victims of Crime'.

<http://ukcatalogue.oup.com/category/academic/policing.do>

http://ukcatalogue.oup.com/product/academic/policing/procedure/9780199639175.do?sortBy=bookTitleAscend&thumbby=10&thumbby_crawl=10&zoneCode=ACZC042

Autism training resources (09/12/11)

The DH has funded a series of on-line training resources and booklets to increase awareness, and understanding of autism across all public services. Working with the RCN, RCP, SCIE, the British Psychological Society, the RCGP, Health Talk Online, Skills for Health and Skills for Care and the NAS, these organisations have produced a range of quality materials to enable frontline staff to better recognise and respond more effectively to the needs of adults with autism. <http://www.dh.gov.uk/health/2011/12/autism-training-resources/>

Complaints procedure toolkit (05/12/11)

S29 Education Act 2002 states the need to have in place a procedure to deal with complaints relating to the school and to any community facilities or services the school provides. The law also requires the complaint procedure to be publicised. The majority of schools already have a school complaints procedure in place that is generally based on LA or diocesan board models. The complaints procedure toolkit, which you can download from this page, intends to help schools draw up a school complaint procedure if they have not already done so, or to review their existing procedure if they wish.

The document draws from existing good practice, key messages and a framework of principles, and covers

- general principles of complaints
- the complaints procedure
- managing and recording complaints

<http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/leadership/governance/a0060895/complaints-procedure-toolkit>

DfE Governance – Updated 12/12/11

<http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/leadership/governance>

Extension of the trial authorities

(07/12/11)

The trials to inform the Munro review have been extended to 4 additional LAs: Wandsworth; Islington; Hammersmith and Fulham; and Kensington and Chelsea.

The trials will run until December 2011 and the emerging evidence will be used to inform and develop the Government's revised policy for assessment. Subject to this evidence, an amendment to *Working Together to Safeguard Children* will be made in December 2011 ahead of a full revision to the guidance due in July 2012.

The trials have been extended to 31/03/12 for the 8 LAs so that they can continue with their new working practices. This extension will allow evidence from the trials to continue to feed into ongoing considerations of the assessment process and inform a final revision to *Working Together* in July 2012.

The letters in the associated resources show which temporary suspension from statutory guidance each of the LAs has been granted and the monitoring arrangements in place. <http://www.education.gov.uk/childrenandyoungpeople/safeguarding/safeguardingchildren/a00198967/extension-of-the-trial-authorities>

Post-legislative assessments of the Education and Inspections Act 2006, Childcare Act 2006 and Children and Adoption Act 2006 (Dec 2011)

This memorandum provides post-legislative assessments of the Education and Inspections Act 2006, Childcare Act 2006 and Children and Adoption Act 2006 prepared by the DfE for submission to the Education Committee of the House of Commons.

<https://www.education.gov.uk/publications/standard/publicationDetail/Page1/CM%208204>

Disadvantaged school children to benefit from £1.25b funding from April 2012
(12/12/11)

Government's Pupil Premium will extend to cover 1.77m disadvantaged children England's most disadvantaged pupils, including looked after children, are set to benefit from £600 each after the DfE announced next year's Pupil Premium will increase by £112 for each pupil.

Over half a million additional children will also qualify for the premium as the Government has extended its reach to cover any child that has been registered for Free School Meals in the past 6 years. For 2012-13, the premium will be worth £1.25b in total.

Children eligible for FSM have consistently lower educational attainment than those who have never been eligible. In 2009-10 GCSE statistics showed that around a third of pupils who have been on FSM in the previous 6 years achieved 5 or more A*- C grades, compared to more than 2/3 of their fellow pupils. Pupils at secondary school are also less likely to be registered for FSM even when they are eligible and so are more likely to be picked up by this approach.

The Pupil Premium provides additional funding on top of the main funding a school receives. It is targeted at pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds to ensure they benefit from the same opportunities as pupils from less deprived families. Currently, the premium is worth £488 and goes to children who are currently on FSM. Children in care who have been looked after by LAs for more than 6 months also continue to qualify for the Pupil Premium.

<http://www.education.gov.uk/a00200726/disadvantaged-school-children-to-benefit-from-125-billion-funding-from-april-2012>

Overhaul of head teachers' qualification to help train the next generation of great school leaders (06/12/11)

The current qualification – the National Professional Qualification for Headship (NPQH) – is to be overhauled to allow prospective head teachers from all types of schools the chance to develop the best skills for the job.

As signalled in the Schools White Paper 'The Importance of Teaching', the National College was asked to review the qualification to ensure it matches the best in the world, learns from other leading qualifications such as MBAs, meets the highest standards for leadership development and is based on what is required to be an effective head teacher.

In the light of the review, Ministers have announced that:

- NPQH will become optional with effect from early 2012 – subject to the Parliamentary process – and developed for all prospective heads in both the maintained and the non-maintained sector such as academies and independent schools.
- The bar for entry and assessment for the qualification will be raised.
- The content made more demanding through the introduction of a core curriculum focusing on the key skills of headship including leadership of teaching and learning, and with a greater emphasis on behaviour.
- The revised qualification will be launched in spring 2012 with the first participants starting in September 2012.

<http://www.education.gov.uk/inthenews/inthenews/a00200533/overhaul-of-head-teachers-qualification-to-help-train-the-next-generation-of-great-school-leaders>

Great teachers could become ‘Master Teachers’ (12/12/11)

An independent review of teachers’ standards recommends scrapping the existing system, which has 3 separate categories, and introducing a single ‘Master Teacher Standard’, which describes a clear set of characteristics for high-performing teachers, including:

- Deep and extensive knowledge of their specialism, going beyond the set programmes they teach.
- Command of the classroom, skilfully leading, encouraging and extending pupils. They will have the respect of both pupils and parents.
- Excellent planning and organisation to ensure pupils are well-prepared for all forms of assessment.
- Their classes demonstrate a stimulating culture of scholarship alongside a sense of mutual respect and good manners.
- They are highly regarded by colleagues, who want to learn from them. They play a role in the development of school policies and they engage with professional networks beyond the school.

<http://www.education.gov.uk/inthenews/inthenews/a00200711/great-teachers-could-become-master-teachers>

Outcomes for children looked after as at 31/03/11 (14/12/11)

This publication covers outcomes for looked after children, including education, health, offending, absence and exclusions. For the first time this year we shall be including information to show performance against the new key performance indicator for attainment gaps for looked after children.

<http://www.education.gov.uk/researchandstatistics/statistics/allstatistics/a00200452/df-outcomes-for-children-looked-after-as-at-31-march-2011>

Disabled children do matter (02/12/11)

Many disabled children fail to reach their full potential because they continue to be marginalised in schools, health and social care, according to new research funded by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC).

The findings, which are based on a series of interviews with disabled children and their families, reveal:

- Disabled children are often perceived by educational and care professionals as “lacking” and as failing to fit in with the image of ‘normal’;
- Families who do not match the norm are frequently excluded from friendships, education and work;
- The support system is complicated and there are gaps in provision, particularly during the transition to adulthood;
- Physical access and transport barriers to sport and leisure activities result in segregation, while participation in art and creative activities is limited;
- Widespread discriminatory attitudes threaten to create a culture of bullying;
- Families of children with life-limiting/threatening impairments often experience isolation and poverty

The researchers call for a change of attitude towards disability so that diversity is not only valued, but promoted.

<http://www.esrc.ac.uk/news-and-events/press-releases/18605/disabled-children-do-matter.aspx>

Social care: December 2011 (13/12/11)

This newsletter provides inspectors and stakeholders with information and guidance about our inspection work in social care.

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/social-care-december-2011>

Choosing to Volunteer (05/12/11)

This survey evaluates volunteering programmes located within a sample of schools, colleges, and youth and community settings. It reports on the experiences of the young people, particularly the most vulnerable and disadvantaged, who participate in volunteering programmes.

The report finds that by involving young people with their communities, volunteering can provide alternative opportunities for young people to achieve their goals and develop a better sense of civic duty and responsibility. The importance of extending ways for young people to engage productively in their local communities has been highlighted by the disturbances in some cities this summer and the rising numbers of young people not currently in education, training or employment.

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/news/volunteering-can-be-beneficial-most-vulnerable-youngsters>

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/choosing-volunteer>

Attainment gaps data analysis tool (13/12/11)

This tool enables the user to look at attainment among various groups of young people – including those eligible for free school meals; those with SEN; and those from minority ethnic groups – as well as any possible attainment gaps between these groups and their peers.

The tool enables the user to compare LAs with their statistical neighbours as well as with the national average. In addition, the tool has the facility to create an annexe of data for the LA the user is interested in.

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/attainment-gaps-data-analysis-tool>

Schools that stay satisfactory (12/12/11)

This report presents the inspection data on secondary schools that seem to be ‘stuck at satisfactory’, and then examines the inspection history of a sample of these schools in more detail to understand why they have not improved consistently.

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/schools-stay-satisfactory>

The following statistics apply to England - Maintained school inspections and outcomes (13/12/11)

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/official-statistics-maintained-school-inspections-and-outcomes>

Early years and childcare registered providers inspections and outcomes (08/12/11)

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/official-statistics-early-years-and-childcare-registered-providers-inspections-and-outcomes>

Children's centres inspections and outcomes (08/12/11)

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/official-statistics-childrens-centres-inspections-and-outcomes>

Children's social care inspections and outcomes (08/12/11)

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/official-statistics-childrens-social-care-inspections-and-outcomes>

Independent school inspections and outcomes, including regulation compliance (06/12/11)

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/official-statistics-independent-school-inspections-and-outcomes-including-regulation-compliance>

Learning and skills inspections and outcomes (06/12/11)

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/official-statistics-learning-and-skills-inspections-and-outcomes>

Who's looking out for the children? A joint inspection of Appropriate Adult provision and children in detention after charge (December 2011)

In this inspection we examined a child or young person's journey from the point they arrive at the police station through to charge (and sometimes beyond). We looked at 2 aspects of this process:

- the role of the Appropriate Adult,1 and
- whether children and young people who had been charged and were waiting to appear in court were being placed in suitable LA accommodation.

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/downloads/publications/inspectorate-reports/hmiprob/whos-looking-after-children.pdf>

http://www.cypnow.co.uk/Youth_Justice/article/1109382/safeguarding-measures-children-custody-found-lacking/?DCMP=EMC-CONCYPNow%20Daily

CWDC: Early Years Professional Status Recruitment (09/12/11)

Roughly 1700 places are available for the January 2012 recruitment for the next EYPS intake which closes in 3 weeks.

The training programme continues to be free to all candidates who apply for a CWDC funded place.

Training providers across England are now recruiting for the funded programme, offering places both to candidates who currently work in the early year's sector and to potential learners who would like to consider a career in early years in the future.

EYPS is the only govt endorsed professional accreditation for the early years sector providing learners with a degree level qualification, professional status and work based experience. ↗

Full funding is available to cover all EYPS training costs, including in some circumstances additional bursary costs to support learners or supply costs to support cover in your setting. Funded places are limited, and applications will close for January shortly.

http://www.cwdcouncil.org.uk/news/6634_eyps-recruitment-closes-in-three-weeks-sign-up-today-for-your-free-training-place

CWDC postpones new learner 'cut-off' deadline to support Early Years Qualification Review (08/12/11)

Supporting the Government-commissioned, review of early year's qualifications, led by Professor Cathy Nutbrown, the CWDC has today confirmed that it is postponing the cut-off date for new learners embarking on early learning and childcare qualifications beyond Spring 2012.

This decision means that all qualifications currently deemed as 'full and relevant' on the Qualifications List for those delivering the Early Years Foundation Stage will continue to be accepted as such, until a clear statement about any future cut-off date is made in the Government's response to the Nutbrown Review. It is expected that Professor Nutbrown will publish the results of her review in Summer 2012.

http://www.cwdcouncil.org.uk/news/6561_cwdc-postpones-new-learner-cut-off-deadline-to-support-early-years-qualifications-review

MPs take evidence in child protection inquiry (13/12/11)

The Education Committee takes evidence on thresholds for intervention with families in a further session as part of its CP inquiry.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/education-committee/news/the-child-protection-system-fourth-session/>

Vetting and Barring Scheme (06/12/11)

The government committed to reviewing and reforming the VBS and criminal records regime and scaling it back to common sense levels. It announced provisions to revise its vetting and barring arrangements, to ensure fair and proportionate regulation of those who want to work with vulnerable groups. As part of these plans, Sunita Mason the independent advisor on criminal records management has presented 2 reports, called 'A common sense approach' - phase one and phase two.

The government has now responded to the phase two report, which outline a further 10 recommendations addressing broader criminal records issues.

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/crime/vetting-barring-scheme/>

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/crime/gov-resp-indep-rev-crim-records>

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/crime/gov-resp-indep-rev-crim-records?view=Binary>

Support to local areas to tackle gang and youth violence (12/12/11)

Twenty two areas in London, Liverpool, Manchester and the West Midlands are to receive funding and support to tackle gang and youth violence, the Home Secretary has announced.

The ending gang and youth violence report, published on 01/11/11, set out how £10m of HO funding would be used to support up to 30 areas.

Money is being targeted at an initial 22 specific areas which, as well as cash injections, will receive support and advice from the newly established ending gang and youth violence team.



The team, consisting of expert advisers from a range of statutory, voluntary and community sector backgrounds, is being headed by the Metropolitan Police's former gangs lead Chief Superintendent Mick McNally who has been seconded to the HO.

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/media-centre/news/tackling-gang-violence>

Directors of Children's Services recommend ways to speed up adoption (13/12/11)

LAs and the family justice system must improve their procedures to speed up the adoption process, DCSs say today. Such changes include allowing social workers increased discretion to make judgments about the suitability of potential adopters, reform to adoption panels, and of inspection and performance data.

Publishing a position statement setting out potential changes to the adoption system in response to criticism that it takes too long for a child in care to be permanently adopted, the ADCS recommended that:

- The information required about potential adopters should be reviewed, to ensure that only relevant information is collected;
- Reports to court and to adoption panels should contain more analysis, rather than description;
- Adoption panels should be streamlined so that they focus on the selection of adopters rather than care planning;
- Inspection and performance data should focus on outcomes rather than process; and
- Government policy should promote alternative forms of permanence, such as Special Guardianship, as well as adoption, as offering a permanent and stable home for vulnerable children.

<http://www.adcs.org.uk/download/press-release/2011/ADCS%20PR%20speeding%20up%20the%20adoption%20process.pdf>

Safeguarding children across culture and faith: new tools for London (05/12/11)

The London Safeguarding Children Board has launched 3 new documents to help LSCBs promote a step-change in safeguarding London's children living in minority ethnic, cultural or faith communities or groups:

- London C&F LSCB Strategy
To assist LSCBs to develop sound, effective and sustainable partnership working with local groups, communities and third sector agencies;
- London C&F Training Toolkit
To ensure that professionals and voluntary groups have access to a wide range of resources, materials and background information to help them develop and design appropriate and sensitive training packages in relation to child protection in its broadest sense;
- London C&F Practice Guidance
To assist clear insight and effective action to protect and promote the welfare of children living in circumstances which appear to be complex because their faith, culture, nationality and possibly recent history differs significantly from that of host nation children and families;

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

Cafcass Care Demand – Latest figures for Nov 2011 (07/12/11)

Between April and Nov 2011, Cafcass received 6,678 new applications (9.7% higher compared to last year). Applications received between May to November this year have been the highest ever recorded by Cafcass for these individual months. The figures for Nov 2011 are the 4th highest care application figures ever recorded for a single month by Cafcass.

<http://www.cafcass.gov.uk/PDF/November%202011%20care%20demand%20update%20final.pdf>

Invitation to tender - Parental Alcohol Misuse: a research and policy review of needs and services for children and families (12/12/11)

The proposed work constitutes a review of the research and related literature and the policy context concerning service provision for children and families affected by parental alcohol misuse. As much of the research, policy agenda and service provision appear to address problems arising from both drug and alcohol misuse by parents, it will be necessary to look into both to some extent while retaining the focus on alcohol where both exist. It is intended that the differences related to alcohol misuse – which affects many more children – is specifically identified in respect of needs and intervention, both existing and potential. The underpinning focus of this will be the experiences and needs of children and young people. The review will examine what is known of their perspectives on living with parental alcohol misuse, their needs for support and how these perspectives have been taken into account in service development. The interests of children and young people are at the centre of this review, within the context of work with them as part of their families through an understanding of the whole family.

The overall aim is to review the research and policy literature on services for children and for them as members of families where parental alcohol misuse is a problem and to identify how they are addressing the needs which have been identified.

Closing Date: 9th January 2012

http://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/content/publications/content_549

Mortality Monitoring bulletin: infant mortality, inequalities: Update to include data for 2010 (08/12/11)

The DH has published an updated version of its annual mortality monitoring bulletin on infant mortality.

Key findings are:

- In 08-10, the infant mortality rate in England and Wales (based on infant deaths successfully linked to their birth records) fell to 4.4 deaths per 1,000 live births - the lowest 3-year average infant mortality rate ever recorded for England and Wales.
- In 08-10, infant mortality rates remain higher than average for babies with fathers in routine and manual occupations (4.7 per 1,000), and for births registered by the mother alone (5.9 per 1,000).
- Infant mortality rates remained lowest for babies whose fathers were in managerial and professional occupations (3.1 per 1,000).
- Since 02-04, infant mortality rates have fallen across all socio-economic groups with a larger decrease in the Routine and Manual group, resulting in a narrowing of the social gradient. Between 02-04 and 08-10, rates fell by 20% in the Routine and Manual group, compared with 8% in the Managerial and Professional group.
- The absolute gap in infant mortality rates between the Routine and Manual group and the average for all births with socio-economic group assigned has narrowed by 53% since 02-04. The relative gap also narrowed by 46% over the same period.

<http://nds.coi.gov.uk/content/detail.aspx?NewsAreaId=2&ReleaseID=422401&SubjectId=2>
http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsStatistics/DH_130911

Children's and Young People's health - where next? (08/12/11)

The RCPCH has launched a joint report prepared with the NHS Confederation and the Office of Public Management. It sets out the challenges arising for children's and young people's healthcare from the government's NHS reforms.

<http://www.rcpch.ac.uk/news/childrens-and-young-peoples-health-where-next>
http://www.rcpch.ac.uk/sites/default/files/RCPCH-NHS%20confed%20report%20PR_0.pdf

Inquiry to review delivery of adoption services in Wales (09/12/11)

The National Assembly for Wales has begun a new inquiry examining how adoption services are delivered in Wales. It will cover issues such as the assessment process for prospective parents, identify any barriers to adoption which should be removed and look at the support given to adoptive families.

The Children and Young People Committee will be asking for views and opinions from relevant organisations and individuals in Wales including those with personal experience of the adoption process.
<http://www.assemblywales.org/newhome/new-news-fourth-assembly.htm?act=dis&id=228852&ds=12/2011>

Children's and Young People's health - where next? (08/12/11)

This joint report sets out the challenges arising for children's and young people's healthcare from the government's NHS reforms.

<http://www.rcpch.ac.uk/news/childrens-and-young-peoples-health-where-next>
http://www.rcpch.ac.uk/sites/default/files/RCPCH-NHS%20confed%20report%20PR_0.pdf

Think child, think parent, think family: a guide to parental mental health and child welfare (02/12/11)

This guide about working with parents who have mental health problems and their children has been brought up-to-date and now includes the changed policy context and new practice examples.

SCIE's Parental mental health and child welfare project has been running for 2 years, and in September 2011, it finished running in 10 implementation sites nationwide. A new resource, Putting it into practice, reviews findings from the sites and includes practical examples for making implementation work.
<http://www.scie.org.uk/news/mediareleases/2011/021211.asp>
<http://www.scie.org.uk/publications/guides/guide30/index.asp>
<http://www.scie.org.uk/publications/guides/guide30/files/guide30.pdf>

Targeting children's centre services on the most needy families (Dec 2011)

This research aimed to provide LA early years' and children's services leaders, and children's centre managers with evidence of how children's centre services are targeting the most disadvantaged families. The main findings are:

- It is difficult to achieve a precise definition of families in the greatest need of support. Children's centres tend to prioritise those facing multiple or severe challenges, parenting issues and children with additional needs or behaviour issues. But they were also responding to local priorities and individual needs.
- Children's centres identify families through analysing demographic data, sharing information with other services, reducing barriers for vulnerable families and encouraging them to engage with children's centre staff.

- The process of identifying such families is not straightforward. It depends on service providers working together, drawing together multiple sources of information and interpreting data intelligently to improve services and outcomes.
- Practitioners see universal services as crucial to identifying children's and families' needs. They prefer to see their work as 'supporting' children, parents and families, rather than 'targeting the most needy'.

http://www.nfer.ac.uk/nfer/publications/LGT_C01/LGTC01_home.cfm?publicationID=631&title=Targeting%20children's%20centre%20services%20on%20the%20most%20needy%20families

Substance Misuse among Young People: 2010-11 (08/12/11)

MORE young people are overcoming their problems with drug and alcohol misuse than ever before, according to the latest statistics for England.

The National Treatment Agency said the rise showed that young people were increasingly responding to specialist treatment before problematic drug and alcohol habits became entrenched. New data released for the first time showed that the majority of youngsters needing help for substance misuse also have other emotional or social problems, such as self-harming, offending or NEET.

The national statistics and trends are analysed in this NTA report.

<http://www.nta.nhs.uk/news-2011-ypdata.aspx>

Extending domestic violence protection
(14/12/11)

Young people under 18 could be included in the cross-government definition of domestic violence for the first time, under a consultation launched by the Home Secretary Theresa May.

We are asking the public, police, charities and practitioners for views on the definition of domestic violence.

We want to know whether broadening the definition would help provide greater protection and support to victims.

The consultation seeks views on three areas:

- whether the current cross-government definition of domestic violence introduced in 2004 is working and should remain
- whether 'coercive control' should be reflected in the definition
- whether the definition of domestic violence should include younger victims below 18 years of age

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/media-centre/news/domestic-violence-consultation>

See Consultations

Munro Review – Update (13/12/11)

In answer to a written parliamentary question, Tim Loughton, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Children and Families gave this update on progress made across the range of commitments in the Government response to the Munro Review, published in July.

The Minister's answer reiterates the important message that implementing the recommendations requires a shift in mindset.

The Government response was not intended to be a one-off set of recommended solutions imposed from the centre, but a ↗

joint venture venture between central Government, local agencies, LAs and professionals.

Our reforms are designed to shift the focus of the child protection system on to the things that matter most: the views and experiences of children and young people.

<http://www.education.gov.uk/munroreview/>

Building Engagement, Building Futures
(15/12/11)

This report sets out the Govt's strategy to improve the opportunities for 16-24 year olds, so they can succeed in education and training and gain the skills they need to secure an apprenticeship or employment. It includes reforms to schools, vocational education, skills and welfare provision.

The majority of young people stay in education and make a positive transition to adult life and the world of work. But recent figures show that 1.16m are NEET. The Govt wants to do all it can to help young people, particularly the most vulnerable, develop their skills, gain the right experience and succeed in adult life.

Getting more young people active and engaged in their own learning and development, and subsequently into work, will make a lasting difference to their future prospects, help to raise levels of social mobility, and is central to the Government's plans to stimulate economic growth.

<http://www.education.gov.uk/inthenews/inthenews/a00200925/government-sets-out-strategy-for-helping-young-people-access-education-training-and-work>

<http://media.education.gov.uk/assets/files/pdf/building%20engagement%20building%20futures.pdf>

<http://www.bis.gov.uk/policies/further-education-skills/youth-participation>

Tackling Troubled Families (15/12/11)

Almost £450m has been made available in a cross-government drive to turn around the lives of 120,000 of some of the country's most troubled families.

New figures show that troubled families cost the tax payer an estimated £9b per year, equivalent to £75,000 per family, spent on protecting the children and responding to criminal and anti-social behaviour. Children in troubled families are 36 times more likely to be excluded from school and 6 times more likely to have been in care or to have contact with the police.

A new Troubled Families Team based within the Department for Communities and Local Government has been established to join up efforts across Whitehall, provide expert help to local areas and drive forward the strategy.

The Govt will offer up to 40% of the cost of dealing with these families to LAs - but on a payment-by-results basis when they and their partners achieve success with families. the Govt has outlined the headline goals and how success will be measured:

- children back into school
- reduce their criminal and anti-social behaviour
- parents on the road back to work, and
- reduce costs to the taxpayer and LAs

The programme will also fund a national network of Troubled Family 'Trouble-Shooters', appointed by local councils to oversee action in their area. Responsibilities will include making sure the right families are getting the right type of help, that sanctions are in place when needed, and that positive results are being achieved with the troubled families in their area.

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/news/newsroom/2052313>

Monitoring and evaluation of family intervention services and projects between February 2007 and March 2011 (Dec 2011)

Family interventions were set up to work with some of the most troubled and challenging families to tackle anti-social behaviour, youth crime, inter-generational disadvantage and worklessness. They take an intensive and persistent multi-agency approach to supporting families to overcome their problems, coordinated by a single dedicated 'key worker'.

This report provides the latest monitoring evidence on families working with a family intervention between Feb 07 and March 11. The findings presented are based on families referred to family interventions in 159 LAs. In addition statistical modelling (logistic regression) was used to look at the factors associated with successful and unsuccessful outcomes.

<https://www.education.gov.uk/publications/RS/AllPublications/Page1/DFE-RR174>

<https://www.education.gov.uk/publications/RS/AllPublications/Page1/DFE-RB174>

National Child Measurement Programme (14/12/11)

The 2010/11 school year report includes analysis of the prevalence of underweight, healthy weight, overweight and obese children in Reception (4 to 5 years) and Year 6 (10 to 11 years).

The programme provides high-quality data on child overweight and obesity levels and trends. The data help improve understanding of overweight and obesity in children and are used at a national level to inform policy, and locally to inform the planning and commissioning of services.

<http://www.dh.gov.uk/health/2011/12/ncmp-2/>

Consultations

Supporting Families in the Foundation Years: Proposed Changes to the Entitlement to Free Early Education and Childcare Sufficiency (11/11/11)

This consultation sets out proposals on the new entitlement for 2 year olds from Sept 2013, including which children will be eligible. It also includes proposals on the quality and flexibility of the entitlement for 2, 3 and 4 year olds.

The Chancellor announced that early education entitlement for 2 year olds will be extended to cover more children. The Govt intends to take a phased approach to implementation, with 20% eligible from Sept 2013, and 40% from 2014. The proposals apply to the 1st phase in 2013. It will publish further proposals about eligibility criteria to reach 40% of 2 year olds from 2014.

Closing Date: 3rd February 2012

<http://www.education.gov.uk/consultations/index.cfm?action=consultationDetails&consultationId=1782&external=no&menu=1>

Forced marriage consultation (12/12/11)

A forced marriage is a marriage in which one or both spouses do not (or, in the case of some vulnerable adults, cannot) consent to the marriage, but are coerced into it. The coercion can include physical, psychological, financial, sexual and emotional pressure.

We are seeking views on whether making forcing someone to marry should be a criminal offence or whether current arrangements provide adequate protection.

We are also interested in views on what more could be done to prevent forced marriage from happening. There are clear arguments both for and against making forced marriage

a criminal offence. These arguments are presented in the consultation document.

We are also interested to hear views on how we might implement the criminalisation of breaches of the civil Forced Marriage Protection Orders.

Closing Date: 30th March 2012

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/about-us/consultations/forced-marriage/>
<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/media-centre/press-releases/forced-marriage>

Registration of childminders as food businesses in England (12/12/11)

Food hygiene legislation applies to businesses that produce, transport, handle or supply food on a regular basis as part of or all of their activities. Such operators are required to be registered and comply with food hygiene law in a way proportionate to the nature, size and risk of the activities. The current FSA view is that childminders, using their own premises to supply food to children on a regular basis, require registration and must comply with the food hygiene laws.

It should be borne in mind that infants up to 5 are recognised as a 'vulnerable group' as they do not have fully-developed immune systems and are more likely to suffer serious complications resulting from food poisoning.

The FSA want to hear comments/concerns about the food hygiene requirements as they apply in relation to childminders. It would particularly welcome comment about the proportionality of the registration requirement.

Closing Date: 6th February 2012

<http://www.food.gov.uk/consultations/consulteng/2011/registrationchildmindfoodbuseng>

Consultations (continued)

Consultation on the 'minded to' decision for the academies funding transfer for 2011-12 and 2012-13 (09/12/11)

The Secretary of State for Education, in consultation with the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, has reached a "minded to" decision on the way forward in relation to the calculation and recovery arrangements for the academies funding transfer for 2011-12 and 2012-13.

We will be consulting with LA, LGA and London Councils.

Alongside this consultation, we are publishing a summary of responses to the consultation on the basis for the decision on the appropriate amount of academies funding transfer for 2011-12 and 2012-13.

Closing Date: 12th January 2012

<http://www.education.gov.uk/a00200594/consultation-on-the-minded-to-decision-for-the-academies-funding-transfer-for-2011-12-and-2012-13>

Updated qualifications regulations for school teachers in Wales (05/12/11)

This consultation seeks views on proposals to introduce an updated replacement for the Education (School Teachers' Qualifications) (Wales) Regulations 2004. This is in order to make changes to some of the requirements for recognition as a qualified teacher in Wales.

Closing Date: 30th January 2012

<http://wales.gov.uk/consultations/education/qualregulations/;jsessionid=8hNWTyBVsmNBkdwB2QJn2RyybQGwrqwrPyBGVJBkLvXVyGNyf11N!-124502640?lang=en&ts=2&status=open>

Cross-government definition of domestic violence consultation (14/12/11)

The government has launched this consultation to ask for views on whether the current cross-government definition of domestic violence should be widened. It also seeks views on whether the current definition is being applied consistently across government, and if it is understood by practitioners, victims and perpetrators.

There are four options for consideration:

1. the definition of domestic violence remains the same
2. the definition of domestic violence is amended to include coercive control
3. the government's definition of domestic violence is extended to all 16- to 17-year-olds
4. the government's definition of domestic violence is extended to all those under 18

The consultation seeks the views of key partners and directly affected parties, including the police, practitioners, other government departments and organisations with a direct interest in preventing domestic violence.

Closing Date: 30th March 2012

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/about-us/consultations/definition-domestic-violence/>

Conferences / Training

Opportunity to learn of new developments in the field of children and young people

(07/12/11)

9th January 2012 Llanelli
11th January 2012 Newport
19th January 2012 Mold, Flintshire
20th January 2012 Caernarfon

Following Children in Wales' Third Sector Conference 'In the Field - Not Out to Graze' held in September 2011, we are now organising 4 events across Wales (with the support of the Welsh Government) to consider the proposal to rationalise planning and partnerships, '*Single Integrated Plans - Shared Purpose, Shared Delivery*' and to update participants on Families First.

It's another crucial time for Third Sector children and family organisations in Wales, therefore, if you are a Manager, Practitioner or Representative why not come along to voice your opinion on how structures and processes are formed for effective collaboration and engagement at all levels.

These events are FREE OF CHARGE
<http://www.childrenwales.org.uk/news/17644.html>

Early Years: Shaping the Futures of Children and Young People

25th January 2012 London
£225 - £495 + VAT

In March 2011, the Early Years Foundations Stage Review (conducted by Dame Tickell), was published and recommended that the EYFS be radically slimmed down to make it easier to understand, less burdensome and more focused on making sure children start school ready to learn.

In response, the government set out its new 

EYFS statutory framework that sets the standards for the learning, development and care of children from birth to five.

Delegates will have:

- the opportunity to hear the government's response to the Tickell Review as well as learn about the enhanced role of health visitors in children centres.
- the chance to share best practice in improving the provision for children in early years as well as discussing the important role of early intervention.

<http://www.insidegovernment.co.uk/children/early-years/programme.php>

Childrens Services: Inspection and Assessment

26th January 2012 London
£225 - £495 + VAT

In June 2010, the govt asked Professor Eileen Munro to conduct a review of child protection in a bid to strengthen the profession and free social workers from unnecessary bureaucracy and regulation. The final report emphasised the importance of independent inspection and in supporting improvement in CP. It recommended that inspections should be conducted on an unannounced basis and that the inspection framework examines the effectiveness of the contributions of all local services putting the experiences of C&YP and their families at the heart of the inspection system.

This forum will offer the opportunity to discuss and examine strategies to improve CP and early intervention services and how local services can contribute successfully under the new inspections framework.

<http://www.insidegovernment.co.uk/children/childrens-services-inspections/>

Conferences (continued)

How is it working for children?

Developments in fostering

14th March 2012 London

£108 - £250 + VAT

April 2011 saw new legislation, statutory guidance and national minimum standards in England. This conference will explore issues arising and what this has meant for children in foster care, and what challenges this has brought for fostering service providers. The conference will consider:

- children's experiences and perspectives on being in foster care
- the legal changes since April 2011 and how these have impacted on practice
- how fostering services can deliver the best service in a changing landscape
- how to assess and manage risk – concerns or allegations?
- matching in foster care – law and best practice
- impact of the foster carer's charter and the role of foster carers in planning

<http://www.baaf.org.uk/training/allevnts/2012-03-14t000000>

Maintaining Outstanding Safeguarding Provision

29th February 2012 London

£229 - £429 + VAT

The new Ofsted inspection framework is bringing radical changes to the way your safeguarding procedures will be judged. From Jan 2012 safeguarding will no longer be a limiting judgement but it will fall under both Leadership & Management and Behaviour & Safety judgements. ↗

Inspectors will also be scrutinising bullying and students' abilities to assess and manage risk. Issues to be covered at this conference include:

- latest changes to safeguarding policy
- strategies to build confidence in students to handle bullying and protect themselves.
- how to better manage and document bullying

<http://www.optimus-education.com/conferences/conference/safeguarding/main>

Online Child Protection

14th March 2012 London

£229 - £429 + VAT

Benefits of attending this conference include:

- Hear how to empower students and staff to protect themselves online
- Advice and guidance on personal mobile device use within your school
- What the new Ofsted framework means for online child protection inspection
- How to make the most of social media for increased pupil engagement
- Get up to speed with the latest risks and emerging threats that students face online
- How to educate students on consequences of behaviour such as cyberbullying and sexting
- How to strengthen relationships with parents to ensure e-safety at home
- Best practise on how to embed e-safety for maximum effect

<http://www.optimus-education.com/conferences/conference/onlinchildprotection/main>

This 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