

**SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN  
INFORMATION UPDATE - 201  
4<sup>th</sup> November 2011**

**Ending gang and youth violence: cross-government report (01/11/11)**

This report looks into the scale of the problem of gang and youth violence. The report analyses its causes, and identifies what can be done by government and other agencies to stop the violence and to turn around the lives of those involved.

It sets out detailed plans to make this happen through:

- providing support to local areas to tackle the problem
- preventing young people becoming involved in violence in the first place, with a new emphasis on early intervention and prevention
- pathways out of violence and the gang culture for young people wanting to make a break with the past
- punishment and enforcement to suppress the violence of those refusing to exit violent lifestyles
- partnership-working to join up the way local areas respond to gang and other youth violence

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/crime/ending-gang-violence/>

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/media-centre/news/cross-government-strategy>

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/crime/ending-gang-violence/gang-violence-summary?view=Binary>

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/crime/ending-gang-violence/gang-violence-detailreport?view=Binary>

**Family Justice Review proposals to end delays in family courts (03/11/11)**

The Family Justice Review panel today announce a package of recommendations aimed at tackling delays in the family justice system and to make sure that children and families are given the service they deserve.

The key recommendations are:

- A new 6 month time limit in care cases so delays are significantly reduced
- Enabling people to make their own arrangements for their children when they separate, and only use courts when necessary
- Overhauling the family justice system so that agencies and professionals work together to improve the experience and outcomes for children and families.

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/news/press-releases/moj/moj-newsrelease031111a.htm>

**Children and Young People in Custody 2010-11: An analysis of the experiences of 15-18-year-olds in prison**

Produced jointly with the YJB, this report describes children and young people's own perception of imprisonment. The 7<sup>th</sup> report to be published, it outlines the responses from surveys carried out annually in all young offender institutions holding children and young people aged 15 to 18 years old.

Findings are summarised from 1,052 young men from all 9 male establishments and 40 young women from 4 female establishments. This represents 65% of young men and 95% of young women of the total population at the time the surveys took place.

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/downloads/publications/inspectorate-reports/hmipris/children->

**NCMP - publication of legal Directions (21/10/11)**

These Directions allow the NHS Information Centre and PCTs to continue to process National Child Measurement Programme data. Further information about NCMP can be found in the NCMP guidance.

[http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsLegislation/DH\\_130729](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsLegislation/DH_130729)

**All children really want this Christmas is their parents to quit smoking (01/11/11)**

Research, conducted on behalf of the DH and polled 1,000 children in England between the ages of 7 and 13, reveals:

- 54% of children with a parent who smokes say that their one wish for Christmas is that their mum or dad give up smoking
- 98% wish that they would quit
- 73% worry about the risk of their parent dying. A further 58% worry about the risk of heart disease
- 94% of children surveyed thought smoking was either stupid (52%) or dangerous (42%)
- 88% wished nobody in the world smoked.
- 90% say they have never tried a cigarette, and 91% say they never will.
- 93% wouldn't want their own children smoking, when they grow up
- When it comes to what children would do to get their parents to quit, 37% would go without any Christmas presents; 59% would give up pocket money; and 78% would commit to doing their homework every night and 76% going to bed when told
- 29% admitted to hiding their parents' cigarettes in a desperate attempt to help them quit

<http://www.dh.gov.uk/health/2011/11/children-want-parents-to-quit-smoking/>

**A Call to Action Health Visitor Implementation Plan (01/11/11)**

Securing a future health visiting service that is universal, energised and fit for long-term growth requires prompt action and investment. Therefore, the DH embarked on a 4-year transformational programme of expanded and refocused training, recruitment and retention, professional development and improved commissioning as part of the plan to improve public health. This summary report sets out progress made on key areas since April 2011.

<http://www.dh.gov.uk/health/2011/11/a-call-to-action-health-visitor-implementation-plan-summary-progress-report/>

**Value of childminders in Wales (03/11/11)**

In Wales, NCMA Cymru has launched a new research report which highlights the value of the registered childminding sector to the Welsh economy.

Some of the key findings are:

- The childminding sector supports a minimum of 9,488 jobs in the Welsh economy. It is estimated that for every 1 childminder in operation, at least 3 jobs are supported elsewhere in the economy.
- There are 2,372 people working in the childminding sector in Wales, either as self employed registered childminders or their assistants. This represents 54% of all registered childcare settings in Wales.
- Registered childminders provide approximately 12,000 childcare places across Wales, which represents 16% of the total registered childcare places.

[http://www.ncma.org.uk/news\\_and\\_events/news/july\\_-\\_december\\_2011/value\\_of\\_childminders\\_in\\_wales.aspx](http://www.ncma.org.uk/news_and_events/news/july_-_december_2011/value_of_childminders_in_wales.aspx)

**Safeguarding Children Across Services: Messages from research on identifying and responding to child maltreatment**

(October 2011)

The Safeguarding Children Research Initiative is an important element in the government response to the Inquiry following the death of Victoria Climbié. Its purpose is to provide a stronger evidence base for the development of policy and practice to improve the protection of children in England.

11 studies were commissioned as part of the Initiative, but the research also refers extensively to a further 4 important research studies that also reported during the same time period. These briefs provide the key messages for relevant professionals in the field. These include strategic and operational managers and practitioners, commissioners and providers of services, and policymakers in all those agencies that are required to work together to safeguard children.

Includes:

- Messages for professionals working in the Family Justice system
- Messages for health professionals working with children
- Messages for professionals working in children's social care
- Messages for adult services professionals working with parents

<https://www.education.gov.uk/publications/R/SG/AllPublications/Page1/DFE-RR164>

<https://www.education.gov.uk/publications/R/SG/AllPublications/Page1/DFE-RB164>

**The protection of children online: a brief scoping review to identify vulnerable groups**

99% of children aged 12-15 use the internet, as do 93% of 8-11 year olds and 75% of 5-7 year olds. New media technology means that the ways in which



are accessing online content are changing and ever evolving. Policy makers need research evidence to inform policies that articulate children's online risks, safeguard them from harm and promote their welfare.

The Child Wellbeing Research Centre was commissioned by the DfE, working closely with UKCCIS to explore what is currently known about children's vulnerability to harm from online activity or interactions.

This scoping review explores levels of intended and unintended exposure to specific risks, the impact of harm suffered by children, and the characteristics of children who may be at highest risk.

<https://www.education.gov.uk/publications/R/SG/AllPublications/Page1/CWRC-00085-2011>

<http://www.cwrc.ac.uk/>

**Serious and fatal child maltreatment: Setting serious case review data in context with other data on violent and maltreatment-related deaths in 2009-10**

(October 2011)

This interim report summarises data from SCRS notified to the DfE during 2009-10. The aim of this work is to provide up-to-date, comprehensive data on serious and fatal maltreatment of children in England, and to set those data in the context of other relevant data on children's health, well-being and possible harm. This has been achieved through a descriptive analysis of SCRs from 2009-10, using data from the database reports.

Data are compared to other available data sources including ONS death registration statistics, HO data on recorded homicides, CDOP returns, and the CIN census.

<https://www.education.gov.uk/publications/R/SG/AllPublications/Page1/DFE-RR167>

**What does the Local Child Poverty Measure tell us about the distribution of child poverty in England?** (October 2011)

The Child Poverty Strategy, A New Approach to Child Poverty: Tackling the Causes of Disadvantage and Transforming Families' Lives, set out the Government's approach to tackling child poverty for this Parliament. The strategy maintained the Government's commitment to the Child Poverty Act 2010 and the duties it placed on national Government to meet four child poverty targets by 2020.

This paper explores what local level child poverty data can tell us about the distribution of child poverty in England and how child poverty rates at these lower geographies have changed over time, further developing the evidence base on the extent and distribution of child poverty. It demonstrates how this data might be exploited more fully in developing local and national strategies.

<https://www.education.gov.uk/publications/RSG/AllPublications/Page1/DFE-RR161>

**Review to improve the training and qualifications for people working in the early years** (28/10/11)

An independent review to strengthen the training, qualifications and career opportunities of people working in early education and childcare was launched today.

Children's Minister Sarah Teather has asked Professor Cathy Nutbrown, an expert in early childhood education from the University of Sheffield, to lead the review. Today Professor Nutbrown launched a call for evidence to hear from people working in the early years about the training and qualifications they think they need, and from employers, trainees, and parents.



The number of people working in childcare has risen by 25% since 2006.

Professor Nutbrown will focus on the qualities needed to ensure that young children receive the best quality pre-school education. She will focus on improving the confidence, knowledge and skills of people who work with families on all aspects of children's development.

<http://www.education.gov.uk/inthenews/inthenews/a00199748/review-to-improve-the-training-and-qualifications-for-people-working-in-the-early-years>

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

**See Consultations**

**The impact of KS4 vocational courses on disengaged young people's engagement with education 15-18** (October 2011)

Previous research and anecdotal evidence has suggested that offering a broader curriculum, and in particular, vocational qualifications, may be a way to motivate young people who have become disengaged from education and improve their subsequent attainment. However, this hypothesis has not been systematically evaluated.

The analyses presented here explore the educational outcomes of disengaged young people from a nationally representative cohort who reported taking vocational courses in Year 10 compared to similarly disengaged young people who did not.

<https://www.education.gov.uk/publications/RSG/AllPublications/Page1/DFE-RR165>

<https://www.education.gov.uk/publications/RSG/AllPublications/Page1/DFE-RB165>

**LAs challenged to do better on adoption**  
(31/10/11)

New performance tables show huge variation in how well local authorities are looking after the children in their care. The Government has published the tables for the first time ranking every LA in England on key issues, including how quickly they place children for adoption.

The Government wants to overhaul the care and adoption system to improve chances for vulnerable children. The average length of time for an adoption to take place is two years and seven months. The Government wants this to be quicker

The tables show:

- York, South Tyneside and Hartlepool are rated top over the last 3 years for placing children for adoption within 12 months of the decision being made that they should be adopted.
- The percentage of children leaving care for adoption ranges from 26% to 2%.
- The best LAs for getting children in care into higher education were Barking and Dagenham and West Berkshire.
- 36 LAs had fewer than 10% of children in care achieving five A\* to C GCSEs and equivalent, including English and maths. The best, Sutton, had 25%.
- The proportion of care leavers NEET ranged from 15% in the best area to 69% in the worst.

<http://www.education.gov.uk/a00199774/local-authorities-challenged-to-do-better-on-adoption>

<http://www.education.gov.uk/a00199753/children-in-care-and-adoption-performance-tables>

**SEND green paper pathfinders** (26/10/11)

The DfE has announced the appointment of 20 pathfinders, covering 31 LAs and their PCT and emerging Clinical Commissioning Group partners. In addition, the Department has announced the appointments of SQW to evaluate the pathfinder programme and Mott MacDonald to provide support to the pathfinders.

<http://www.education.gov.uk/childrenandyoungpeople/sen/b00191706/send-green-paper-pathfinders>

**Evaluation report of Safe At Home**

(01/11/11)

Safe At Home aimed to help families tackle home accidents to under 5s. The scheme installed free home safety equipment - including safety gates, fireguards and cupboard locks - in the homes of 66,127 disadvantaged families in areas with the highest child accident rates in England. In addition, more than 300,000 families with children under 5 received home safety advice and information.

Some of the findings of the evaluation team, from the University of Nottingham, were:

- 96% of families were satisfied with Safe At Home
- 91% felt their homes were safer after having the equipment fitted
- 99% of those who received equipment were in receipt of social benefits and there was good coverage of families of minority ethnic origin.
- Safe At Home was based on evidence of best practice and itself demonstrated the importance of using a combination of injury prevention approaches, specifically the provision of education, home safety checks, equipment and installation
- Safe At Home was cost effective

<http://www.rospa.com/news/releases/detail/default.aspx?id=1043>

### **MAPPA annual report 2010 - 11**

Annual statistics on Multi-agency public protection arrangements eligible offenders

This annual publication presents the number of MAPPA eligible offenders in England and Wales, and information related to these offenders, including a summary of the information provided in the MAPPA reports published by each of the areas.

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statistics-and-data/prisons-and-probation/mappa.htm>

### **Get ready for winter (01/11/11)**

A new X Government initiative reminds all local communities and the NHS how best to prepare to keep people healthy and warm in their homes this winter. The schemes focus on helping the most vulnerable people by:

- making an extra £10m available to support existing Government schemes for those at risk of fuel poverty e.g. grants for insulation or heating improvements provided through the Warm Front scheme;
- creating a new £20m fund for LAs and charities to address cold housing. Bids will be invited for innovative new ways to help vulnerable older people, people with disabilities or families with young children - reaching those falling through the gaps of existing schemes.
- launching a Cold Weather Plan - jointly run with the Met Office and Health Protection Agency - to advise people how to stay healthy; and
- providing information on all aspects of keeping safe and well in winter via the "Getting Ready for Winter" website [www.direct.gov.uk/getreadyforwinter](http://www.direct.gov.uk/getreadyforwinter)

<http://nds.coi.gov.uk/content/detail.aspx?ReleaseID=421814&NewsAreaID=2&HUserID=895,779,891,848,780,867,710,705,765,674,677,767,684,762,718,674,708,683,706,718,674&ClientID=-1>

### **Further restrictions on sunbed use in Wales (26/10/11)**

From 31st October the introduction of The Sunbeds (Regulation) Act 2010 (Wales) Regulations 2011 will require the competent supervision of sunbed use in all sunbed businesses in Wales, Health Minister Lesley Griffiths has announced.

The move follows a ban on sunbed businesses from allowing the use of, or access to, sunbeds on their premises by under-18s. This was introduced in April this year under the Sunbeds (Regulation) Act 2010. As well as ensuring all salons are properly supervised, the new Regulations also:

- prohibit the sale or hire of sunbeds to under 18s;
- extend to businesses that operate from domestic premises the requirement that sunbeds are not used, or offered for use, to under 18s on those premises;
- prescribe the health information that is to be displayed and made available to adults who may seek to use a sunbed;
- prohibit the provision or display of any material relating to health effects of sunbed use, other than material containing the health information prescribed; and,
- require the provision and wearing of safe and appropriate protective eyewear for adults.

<http://wales.gov.uk/newsroom/healthandsocialcare/2011/111026sunbeds/;jsessionid=95w8TqGDyJTSLvYlq1QFTNGNTbPQK4WhqJjjTQdNjc8XcVrJKp5V!-725184866?lang=en>

**Ages of concern: learning lessons from serious case reviews (26/10/11)**

This report highlights key lessons over 4 years from reviews of serious incidents involving babies under 1 or children over 14. Previous reports have identified that a large proportion of SCRs concerned children in these age groups. The reviews showed:

- In too many cases for babies under 1 year old, there were shortcomings in timeliness and quality of pre-birth assessment.
- Repeated examples of agencies underestimating risks for children arising from their parents' background and lifestyle.
- That health agencies were the main, and sometimes the only agency involved with families. Messages for health agencies are:
  - the need for better coordination between the different aspects of health provision involved with safeguarding babies, particularly on the transfer of care between midwifery services, health visitors and GPs;
  - the importance of understanding and implementing agreed procedures; and
  - the need to improve assessment that uses all sources of information.

For children aged 14 and over cases reviewed showed:

- the complexity and range of risks teenagers face including alienation from their families, school difficulties, accommodation problems, abuse by adults, unemployment, drug and alcohol misuse, emotional and mental health difficulties and domestic abuse. Common messages were:
  - agencies focused on the young person's challenging behaviour, seeing them as hard-to-reach or rebellious, rather than trying to understand the causes of the behaviour and the need for sustained support

- young people were treated as adults rather than children
- there was no coordinated approach to meeting young people's needs

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/news/ofsted-reports-protection-of-vulnerable-babies-and-young-people-0?news=17469>

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/ages-of-concern-learning-lessons-serious-case-reviews>

**Edging away from care – how services successfully prevent young people entering care (26/10/11)**

This report looks at good practice of 11 LAs working 'safely' to reduce numbers of looked after children and manage the risks associated with helping young people remain living with their families and communities.

The overriding message was that the key worker was crucial in helping families successfully stay together. Practitioners' persistency, reliability, openness and frank nature helped engage with families. They recognised that while the young person's needs were the priority, the needs of parents, including fathers, also had to be addressed to successfully achieve this balance.

Services which successfully supported young people and their families were often felt to be a lifeline for families in crisis. The report found that successful intervention required strong operational and strategic multi-agency working, combined with clearly understood and consistent decision-making processes, and investment in services.

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/news/ofsted-reports-protection-of-vulnerable-babies-and-young-people-0?news=17469>

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/edging-away-care-how-services-successfully-prevent-young-people-entering-care>

### **Conducting inspections of independent schools (26/10/11)**

This updated document had the previous title - General guidance for inspectors on s162A independent school inspection procedures, timelines and tariffs.

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/conducting-inspections-of-independent-schools>

### **Completing the record of inspection evidence and judgements (independent schools) (26/10/11)**

This updated document had the previous title - Guidance for the completion of the record of inspection evidence and judgements.

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/completing-record-of-inspection-evidence-and-judgements-independent-schools>

### **Ofsted statistics show a rise in the number of childminders (27/10/11)**

The number of childcare providers in England has risen steadily since September last year. Prior to this numbers had fallen each quarter since the end of 2008.

- Childminders make up 60% of childcare providers registered with Ofsted and numbers are continuing to increase.
- The number of larger providers of childcare on non-domestic premises, such as nurseries and crèches, is not increasing.
- Around 10% of providers work in the child's own home: their numbers have grown steadily over the last 3 years.

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/news/ofsted-statistics-show-rise-number-of-childminders-0>

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/news/ofsted-statistics-show-rise-number-of-childminders?news=17485>

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/registered-childcare-providers-and-places-england-december-2008-onwards>

### **Application for cancellation of registration (social care provision) (31/10/11)**

Social care providers must use this revised form to apply to cancel their registration.

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/application-for-cancellation-of-registration-social-care-provision>

### **Changes to children's social care services that are registered and/or inspected by Ofsted (31/10/11)**

This revised guidance tells you about the changes a registered provider has to tell us about; how to make requests for changes to any conditions of registration; and changes we may impose. It also sets out the changes a local authority fostering or adoption service is required to tell us about.

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/changes-childrens-social-care-services-are-registered-and-or-inspected-ofsted>

### **Disqualification from working in children's social care (31/10/11)**

The law prevents certain people from working in some children's social care services in order to protect children and young people. This revised leaflet details who is disqualified and what options are available to disqualified people.

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/disqualification-working-children%E2%80%99s-social-care>

### **Official statistics: Children's social care providers and places (27/10/11)**

Ofsted has a database of registered children's social care providers and residential accommodation for children in boarding schools and FE colleges in England, including the maximum number of places a provider may offer at any one time.

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

**Children's social care registration - Introduction to adoption support agencies (31/10/11)**

This revised guide tells you about adoption support agencies and what the law says they must do.

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/childrens-social-care-registration-introduction-adoption-support-agencies>

**Children's social care registration - Introduction to children's homes (31/10/11)**

This revised guide explains the law for anyone intending to open a children's home.

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/childrens-social-care-registration-introduction-children%E2%80%99s-homes>

**Children's social care registration - Introduction to independent fostering agencies (31/10/11)**

There are different types of fostering services, some of which must register with Ofsted. This revised guide explains the law for anyone intending to open an independent fostering agency.

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/childrens-social-care-registration-introduction-independent-fostering-agencies>

**Children's social care registration - Introduction to residential family centres (31/10/11)**

Residential family centres must meet a range of legal requirements, including registration with Ofsted and also take into consideration national minimum standards. This revised guide to registration explains in detail what a residential family centre is and what the law says it must do.

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/childrens-social-care-registration-introduction-residential-family-centres>

**Children's social care registration - Introduction to voluntary adoption agencies (31/10/11)**

Voluntary adoption agencies must meet a range of legal requirements and take into consideration national minimum standards. This revised guide to registration provides information about what an applicant must understand and prove in order to become registered to provide and/or manage a voluntary adoption agency.

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/childrens-social-care-registration-introduction-voluntary-adoption-agencies>

**SC1 Application form for children's social care (31/10/11)**

This revised form should be completed by the applicant for registration or representative if an organisation

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/sc1-application-form-for-childrens-social-care>

**SC3 Changes to individuals and premises (31/10/11)**

This revised revised form can be used to tell Ofsted about:

- changes to any individual who is part of the registered provider. This includes the director, manager, secretary, clerk, trustee, treasurer or other similar officer of the organisation (organisations only)
- changes to the responsible individual (organisations only)
- changes to the manager of a voluntary adoption agency, local authority adoption service or LA fostering service
- the absence of a manager from an adoption support agency, children's home, independent fostering agency or residential family centre
- changes to your registered premises or when you acquire additional premises.

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/sc3-changes-individuals-and-premises>

**Fostering agencies and fostering services dataset 2010/11 (27/10/11)**

This dataset has provisional data. The final dataset will be published in Dec 2011.

This publication covers data on fostering services, in England between 01/04/10 – 31/03/11. The data are being published as experimental statistics as they are still subject to testing in terms of their volatility.

Although not fully complete, it gives a useful picture of the numbers and profile of foster carers and children in LA and independent services. It also gives data relating to types of foster care, registrations and de-registrations, and a range of other subjects.  
<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/fostering-agencies-and-fostering-services-dataset-201011>

**Report on Ofsted's consultation about the new draft framework for inspecting residential provision in boarding and residential special schools (02/11/11)**

An evaluation report on Ofsted's consultation about the new framework for inspecting residential provision in maintained, non-maintained and independent boarding and residential special schools, which is due to come into force in January 2012.

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/report-ofsted-consultation-about-new-draft-framework-for-inspecting-residential-provision-boarding>

**NCB New Website (28/10/11)**

The National Children's Bureau has unveiled its new website.

<http://www.ncb.org.uk/news/ncb-launches-new-website>

**Poll results show negative view of children (03/11/11)**

Barnardos has published the results of Research which reveals that the public holds a negative view of all children, despite the majority being well behaved, attending school, taking part in activities and a significant number contributing to their communities and volunteering.

The findings show:

- 49% of the UK population agree that children today are beginning to behave like animals.
- 44% agree that children in this country are becoming feral
- 47% agree that the trouble with young people is that they're angry, violent and abusive
- 25% of people think that children who behave badly or anti-socially are beyond help by the age of 10
- more people disagreed with the statement that children who get into trouble are in need of help (38%) than agreed (36%).

[http://www.barnardos.org.uk/news\\_and\\_events/current\\_news.htm?ref=74120](http://www.barnardos.org.uk/news_and_events/current_news.htm?ref=74120)

**When will the next inspection take place? Guidance on inspecting new schools, schools working collaboratively and federated schools, and on the cancellation, deferral and re-scheduling of inspections (03/11/11)**

This document sets out Estyn's arrangements for inspecting schools in commonly occurring situations, such as when new schools are established, schools work collaboratively, or schools work in federations.

It also sets out Estyn's approach to the cancellation, deferral and re-scheduling of schools inspected under s28 Education Act 2005.

<http://www.estyn.gov.uk/english/news/whats-new/>

**Evaluation of the Welsh School-based Counselling Strategy: Final Report (03/11/11)**

School-based Counselling is an integral part of school provision in Wales, according to an independent evaluation report from BACP published today.

In the Clywch Inquiry Report the Children's Commissioner for Wales recommended that all young people in schools should have a trusted adult to talk to about their concerns. Funding was made available to implement the national strategy for school-based counselling and all LAs now have counselling provision in place. The new report evaluates the success of the strategy and the longer term effect of the service on children and young people.

The report found that:

- young people, teaching staff, LAs and counsellors all expressed high overall levels of satisfaction with school-based counselling.
- Approximately 85% of young people using the service felt more positive about going to school and more able to cope since going to counselling.
- Amongst the counsellors surveyed there was strong agreement that school counselling was an integral part of school provision, and that the counselling service was recognised and valued by school staff, parents and pupils.
- Teachers showed high levels of agreement that counselling services met the needs of pupils and were in agreement that the perceived attainment, attendance and behaviour of pupils who had received school-based counselling had improved, whilst in addition there had been little impact on staff workload.

<http://wales.gov.uk/newsroom/educationandskills/2011/111103counselling/;jsessionid=2N4GTyPX7PT4R2c6DfNPTvnmlyKCN1H93>

**School buildings rules(03/11/11)**

Ministers are consulting on simplifying and reducing regulations around school buildings. The new proposals provide strong safeguards, especially for vulnerable pupils, but free up schools to take a more common sense approach. (see Consultations)

The current regs for maintained and independent schools contain overprescriptive rules, including:

- Complicated lighting requirements. Schools would find it impossible to know whether these are met without expert advice. Safeguards will remain in place for children with SEN to ensure schools get specialist advice when required.
- Specific requirements on numbers of toilets and wash basins per pupils e.g. washrooms in secondary schools with 3 or more toilets or urinals must have 2/3 the number of sinks. Under proposed changes schools will still have to provide well planned and designed facilities but will be freed from unnecessary over-prescription.
- Schools having to provide a space to dry pupils' coats. Schools will instead take a common sense approach making sure there are suitable facilities.
- Boarding schools must have at least 0.9m between beds in dormitories and 2.3m<sup>2</sup> of living space per pupil. This will be removed, but schools will still follow fire regulations and provide suitable facilities.

Under the new proposals, the same regulations will apply to all schools. The relevant supporting guidance will also be simplified, from 32 to 8 pages. A further 5,000 pages of other guidance on school buildings will be reduced next year, by around 75%.

<http://www.education.gov.uk/inthenews/inthenews/a00199880/schools-to-be-freed-from-over-prescriptive-buildings-rules>

## Consultations

### **Call for Evidence for the Independent Review of Early Education and Childcare Qualifications (28/10/11)**

Professor Cathy Nutbrown has been asked by the Minister of State for Children and Families, Sarah Teather MP, to conduct an independent review into qualifications in the early education and childcare sector. Details of this review are set out in the Terms of Reference. As a first step in her review, Professor Nutbrown would like to hear the views of parents and families, and all those involved in the delivery of early education and childcare. Please help us by responding to the consultation questions.

Closing Date: 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2011

<http://www.education.gov.uk/consultations/index.cfm?action=consultationDetails&consultationId=1781&external=no&menu=1>

### **Domestic violence disclosure scheme**

The HO are launching a consultation asking whether the protection of victims of domestic violence can be improved by the establishment of a national domestic violence disclosure scheme and, if so, how such a scheme could work in practice.

This consultation seeks your views on whether to introduce a scheme for disclosing information about an individual's history of domestic violence to a new partner.

The police already have common law powers to disclose information relating to previous convictions or charges to the public where there is a pressing need for disclosure of the information concerning an individual's history in order to prevent further crime. However, calls for the introduction of a national disclosure scheme have gained



momentum following the tragic case of Clare Wood, who was murdered by her former partner in Greater Manchester in 2009. Her partner had three previous convictions under the Protection from Harassment Act 1997.

Today's consultation presents three options:

1. continue current arrangements under existing law
2. a 'right to ask' national disclosure scheme - this would enable a person to ask the police about a person's previous history of domestic violence or violent acts
3. a 'right to know' national disclosure scheme where the police would proactively disclose information in prescribed circumstances

Closing Date: 13<sup>th</sup> January 2012

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/about-us/consultations/domestic-violence-disclosure/>  
<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/media-centre/news/clare%27s-law-consultation-launch>

### **Consultation on Revised School Premises Regulations (03/11/11)**

This consultation aims to seek views on revisions to the regulations governing school premises, and on a reduction in the amount of guidance produced by the Department.

Closing Date: 26<sup>th</sup> January 2012

<http://www.education.gov.uk/consultations/index.cfm?action=consultationDetails&consultationId=1784&external=no&menu=1>

## Conferences / Training

### **Staying Safe — Emerging Themes**

15<sup>th</sup> March 2012 Cheshire £100 - £125

Issues to be discussed at this conference include:

- Young People's Voices
  - Teenage Representatives from Unipol (UNICEF) & Youth Parliament
- Risk Assessment and Professional Judgements for Children Living in Households where Domestic Violence is a Factor
  - Laura Richards
- Working to Safeguard Children in a Multi - Agency Context
  - Professor Eileen Munro
- Working with Chaotic and Dysfunctional Families
  - Professor Jan Horwarth: Sheffield University
- Supervision of Designated Staff in Schools
  - Raminder Aujla and Roy T Woollard, FRSA, Partner, former Head Teacher, Head of Children's Department, Berrymans Lace Mawer Solicitors, Leeds

Keynote speaker: Sir Roger Singleton

The Conference will be of interest to:

- Those responsible for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of C&YP
- Practitioners who work with C&YP in both statutory and non-statutory settings
- Managers and Policy makers responsible for delivery of special/universal services
- Governors
- Safeguarding Children Trainers
- CP Officers in Early Years, FE, Private, Independent and Voluntary Settings

Closing Date for Applications: 17<sup>th</sup> February 2012

<http://www.cape.org.uk/events.aspx>

### **"Facing the Unthinkable"**

12th November 2011	Hampshire
19th November 2011	Newcastle
26th November 2011	Birmingham
3rd December 2011	London
18th February 2011	Hertfordshire
25th February 2011	Middlesex
10th March 2011	Kent
17th March 2011	Suffolk
24th March 2011	Derby
31st March 2011	Devon
21st April 2011	Dorset
28th April 2011	Hampshire
12th May 2011	Essex
19th May 2011	Peterborough
26th May 2011	Bristol
7th July 2011	London
6th October 2011	Edinburgh

£19.50 (includes £5 notebook)

The seminar is designed to equip trustees, leaders and those who work with children and vulnerable adults within churches and organisations. It covers areas including:

- Understanding the nature of abuse
- Definitions and how to recognise signs and symptoms of abuse
- Sex offenders and grooming
- Helping a child or adult talk about abuse
- Working with statutory agencies, including Social Services, Police, the ISA, LA Designated Office and the Charity Commission
- Safeguarding policy issues
- Managing sexual offenders
- Safe recruitment and supervision of workers
- Safe practice in working with children
- Helping children to develop self-protection skills

<http://www.ccpas.co.uk/Training/FtU.html>

## Conferences (continued)

### **Radically Improving the Adoption System: Meeting the Needs of Children and Families**

6th December 2011 London £225 + VAT  
The Government wants to overhaul the care and adoption system and believes that changes to the family justice system; publication of adoption performance tables; and publication of the Adopters' Charter will reduce the time taken to adopt.

Key issues to be addressed include:

- Examining the new 'Adopters' Charter'
- Reform of the family justice system
- Will the publication of transparent data challenge LAs to do better?
- Strategies to reduce delays in the system
- Will intervention in poorly performing LAs be effective?
- What the new Ofsted inspection framework for adoption services look like
- Overhauling the assessment process for potential adopters
- Matching the hardest to place: Over 5s, BME children & those with disabilities
- Balancing the needs of looked after children and the wishes of their parents
- The impact on outcomes of early adoption
- The financial implications of adoption: the cost of keeping a child in care
- The training of social workers in dealing with families wishing to adopt

<http://www.westminster-briefing.com/home/event-detail/newsarticle/radically-improving-the-adoption-system-meeting-the-needs-of-children-and-families/>

### **PIAT Symposium 2011 - Supporting inter-agency training in turbulent times**

5-6 December 2011 Leicester £200 - £285  
At this symposium you will have the opportunity to:

- appreciate the impact of the current child protection context on inter-agency training
- explore how inter-agency training can be encouraged in the current climate
- identify networks supportive of inter-agency training and trainers
- share innovative ideas for the development and delivery of inter-agency child protection training

[http://www.nspcc.org.uk/Inform/newsandevents/cpconferences/piat2011\\_wda85136.html](http://www.nspcc.org.uk/Inform/newsandevents/cpconferences/piat2011_wda85136.html)

### **Child Protection and Substance Misuse: What Works Best?**

25<sup>th</sup> November 2011 London £130  
This event will focus on how front-line professionals can work effectively and apply assessments in order to protect children and determine the best decisions for the family.

- It will cover all aspects of best practice in:
  - Assessment
  - Treatment
  - The view of the court
  - Evidence
  - Child-centred decisions
  - Case examples linking theory to practice

It will also give an insight into the innovative work of the Family Drug and Alcohol Court, whose clinical team will be available for discussion during the day.

<http://www.tavistockandportman.ac.uk/fdacc/onf>

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](mailto:keithdriver@btinternet.com)