

**SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN
INFORMATION UPDATE - 205
9th January 2012**

CEOP appeal to potential victims of online abuse (21/12/11)

CEOP is involved in an ongoing criminal investigation which has resulted in the arrest and detention of an individual in Kuwait for the suspected sexual abuse of children.

The investigation has been co-ordinated by CEOP, working with authorities in the UK, Kuwait, representatives in the UK, and other law enforcement agencies around the world. It relates to a non-UK offender who hacks into the online accounts of children and young people, threatening and forcing them to perform sexual acts on web cam. CEOP believes this has been going on since 2008. CEOP are issuing this media release to provide any as yet unidentified victims the opportunity to seek appropriate advice and support.

Children and young people who think they may have been targeted are being encouraged to call an NSPCC helpline that has been set up - 0800 614 458 - where they can speak to specialist NSPCC staff, all of whom are fully briefed in relation to the investigation.

West Yorkshire Police contacted CEOP in March 2011 regarding a suspect who had targeted a young girl online. Police enquiries established a number of victims who described performing sexual acts online which has resulted in a number of UK Police Forces now being involved. CEOP ask the media to publish the following in full to help correctly identify victims of this particular Offender.



Generally, the offender's method has been to use an instant messenger service and pretend to be a friend of the targeted a victim. During subsequent conversations, the offender directed victims to an internet link. When clicking on this link, victims were asked to provide their e-mail account(s) and password(s), allowing the offender to take control of their login information. The offender was then able to take control of and hack of the victims' accounts, changing their passwords and security information.

The offender would then inform the victims' that their account had been hacked and they no longer had control of it. The offender continued the threats, saying that personal information about them would be sent to friends and family on the internet, unless they continued to perform sexual acts via the webcam.

If you think you or a friend has been a victim of the above crime, or wish to discuss any related concerns in greater detail, please call the NSPCC helpline 0800 614 458. Your call will be answered by a fully briefed NSPCC Helpline officer, who will be able to offer you the appropriate advice and support. Information will be treated confidentially unless a child may be at risk of harm.

<http://nds.coi.gov.uk/content/detail.aspx?ReleaseID=422608&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>
<http://www.ceop.police.uk/Media-Centre/Press-releases/2011/CEOP-APPEAL-TO-POTENTIAL-VICTIMS-OF-ONLINE-ABUSE/>

Positive for Youth (19/12/11)

Publishing the Government's new vision for young people and youth services, Children's Minister Tim Loughton called on every LA to get young people involved in local decision-making. The Government also wants LAs to build stronger partnerships with voluntary organisations and local businesses to develop opportunities for young people in their local communities.

The Government is:

- Providing £320,000 to Business in the Community to build links between businesses and young people in local areas.
- Giving young people the chance to 'youth proof' government policy. A new national scrutiny group and youth select committee will monitor and advise on govt policy.
- Calling on all LAs to give young people a voice in local decision-making. LAs should introduce programmes like youth mayors or youth inspectors to give youngsters a say e.g. auditing local services such as youth clubs and leisure services to make them more youth-friendly.
- Establishing 4 new Youth Innovation Zones to develop new, creative approaches to youth services across the country.
- Publishing revised statutory guidance for consultation on LAs' duty to secure activities and services for young people.
- Capital investment to complete 63 myplace centres by April 2013, and developing a national approach to exploit their potential to be led by communities and businesses.
- Expanding National Citizen Service to offer 30,000 places to young people in 2012, 60,000 in 2013, and 90,000 in 2014.

<http://www.education.gov.uk/inthenews/inthenews/a00201047/government-sets-out-strategy-to-be-positive-for-youth>

<http://www.education.gov.uk/childrenandyoungpeople/youngpeople/Positive%20for%20Youth/>

Assessment process for adopters to be reformed (22/12/11)

The assessment process for prospective adopters is to be overhauled, the Government has announced. Children's Minister Tim Loughton has asked a group of experts to draw up a new process to recruit, train and assess people as adoptive parents.

The current system is slow and unnecessarily bureaucratic. Potentially suitable adopters are often turned away because they may not be the right ethnic match, may be overweight or may have smoked. Adoptive parents can wait up to a year or more to be approved, which leaves thousands of children in care waiting months, and even years, for a family.

The new expert panel of representatives from the adoption sector, has been asked to:

- Consider arrangements for an improved recruitment process for adopters and ensure those who do come forward are not lost to the system.
- Streamline the training and assessment process, building on existing good practice.
- Remove bureaucracy and over-prescription regarding the information to be collected about prospective adopters.
- Provide set timescales for training and assessing the suitability of adopters, along with a new national assessment form based on a concise but robust analysis of capacity to care for a child in need of adoption.
- Suggest what, if any, new monitoring and evaluation mechanisms would need to be put in place to measure the success of the new system.

<http://www.education.gov.uk/inthenews/inthenews/a00201235/assessment-process-for-adopters-to-be-reformed>

New powers for schools to beat the takeaways (03/01/12)

Schools will now be able to take on the takeaways with special meal deals to boost uptake of school lunches and tackle obesity.

Under new powers, schools will be able to offer price promotions on meals to particular pupils, encouraging more children to try a healthy school lunch. Takeaways frequently target school pupils by tempting them with cheap lunchtime deals. Previously schools were unable to do so and had to charge the same price for the same item for every pupil, unless they applied for special permission from the Government.

The new, voluntary rules will mean schools can target pupils not eating school lunches or where uptake traditionally drops off, such as at the start of secondary school. For example, schools may choose to offer:

- £1 meal deals for pupils starting a new school to get them into the canteen
- special prices for siblings regularly eating school lunches – helping families afford healthy food
- cut price meals for a different year group each day to encourage them choose healthy school meals regularly.

<http://www.education.gov.uk/inthenews/inthenews/a00201373/new-powers-for-schools-to-beat-the-takeaways>

Reforming Early Years (20/12/11)

Children's Minister Sarah Teather has confirmed plans for a reformed Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) that reduces bureaucracy for professionals, provides earlier intervention for children facing difficulties and better prepares young children for learning in school. The Government responded to the consultation on the EYFS, and confirmed changes to be introduced from September 2012. ↗

Dame Clare Tickell published an independent review of the EYFS in March this year. She recommended a slimmed down Early Years Foundation Stage for 0-5-year-olds, reducing the number of early learning goals from 69 to 17 and focusing on three prime areas of learning: communication and language, physical development and personal, social and emotional development. The Government is implementing Dame Clare's recommendations for the EYFS.

<http://www.education.gov.uk/inthenews/inthenews/a00201173/reforming-early-years>
<http://media.education.gov.uk/assets/files/government%20response%20to%20eyfs%20review.pdf>

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

(December 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 2007 and 31 March 2011. 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/R/SG/AllPublications/Page1/DFE-RB174>
<https://www.education.gov.uk/publications/R/SG/AllPublications/Page1/DFE-RR174>

Children entering detention held solely under Immigration Act powers November 2011 (29/12/11)

Monthly management information on children entering detention, held solely under Immigration Act powers.

The figures are based on management information and are not subject to the detailed checks that apply for National Statistics.

They may be revised in subsequent quarterly control of immigration publications.

Therefore they should be seen as provisional.
<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/immigration-asylum-research/child-detention-nov2011>

Dump divorce day and make mediation a resolution instead – Djanogly (06/01/12)

The first weeks of January see a much higher number of searches on Directgov for 'divorce' or related terms suggesting that this is a time when couples look into separating from their partners. Justice Minister Jonathan Djanogly is encouraging families to consider mediation as an alternative to going to court.

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/news/press-releases/moj/newsrelease060112a.htm>

Applications to the January 2012 Early Years Professional Status programme will remain open until January 17 (06/01/12)

Training providers across England have extended their recruitment window to provide candidates who currently work in the early year's sector and potential new entrants with an opportunity to apply for the last remaining training places for January 2012. The programme continues to be free to all candidates who apply and meet the entry requirements for a place funded by CWDC.

http://www.cwdcouncil.org.uk/news/6673_fully-funded-early-years-professional-status-places-still-available

Changes to improve provision of child contact services in Wales (22/12/11)

The way that CAF/CASS Cymru funds child contact services in Wales is set to change in an effort to improve consistency of provision across the country.

Child contact services provide child-centred environments that enable children to enjoy contact with their non-resident parent or family member, reflecting the diverse needs of children affected by family breakdown. For some service-users, this type of contact arrangement will be their only opportunity to have contact with their children.

CAF/CASS Cymru funds a number of services across the country, but the provision is not consistent across Wales. It will continue to fund child contact services across Wales in 2012-13, but during 2012, it will make arrangements to begin a new system where a single provider will manage the network of services across Wales.

<http://wales.gov.uk/newsroom/childrenandyoungpeople/2011/5662390/?lang=en>

New Year, new regulations to meet carers' needs (22/12/11)

New regulations aimed at meeting some of the needs of unpaid carers come into force on 1 January 2012. The Carers Strategies (Wales) Regulations 2011 were unanimously approved by National Assembly, just before Christmas. The Regulations implement the Carers Strategies (Wales) Measure 2010 and will ensure that carers' information and consultation needs are met.

<http://wales.gov.uk/newsroom/healthandsocialcare/2011/111229carersregs/?lang=en>
<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/wsi/2011/2939/contents/made>

NHS whistleblowing helpline to be extended to social care staff (21/12/11)

The whistle-blowing helpline for NHS staff is being extended to staff and employers in the social care sector from 1st January 2012. There is also a new number for the service, which encompasses all of the elements of the current helpline service and is free, independent and confidential.

The new helpline number 08000 724 725 will operate on weekdays between 08.00 and 18.00 with an out-of-hours answering service available at weekends and on public holidays. A web-based service is also being developed. You can contact the helpline if you have concerns but are unsure how to raise them or simply want advice on best practice.

The currently government-funded service will also change to a free-phone service provided by the Royal Mencap Society.
http://www.dh.gov.uk/health/2011/12/whistl_eblowing-helpline/

Children and Young People's Mental Health (22/12/11)

This letter issued jointly by Prof Dame Sally Davies (Chief Medical Officer); Dame Christine Beasley (Chief Nursing Officer); Dr Keith Ridge (Chief Pharmaceutical Officer) and Prof Sir Bruce Keogh (NHS Medical Director) highlights the publication of documents by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence relating to improving mental health outcomes for children and young people.

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Lettersandcirculars/Professionalletters/Chiefmedicalofficerletters/DH_131977
<http://www.dh.gov.uk/health/2011/12/mental-health-recent-developments/>

CG134 Anaphylaxis: assessment to confirm an anaphylactic episode and the decision to refer after emergency treatment for a suspected anaphylactic episode (Dec 2011)

Anaphylaxis is a severe, life-threatening, generalised or systemic hypersensitivity reaction. It is characterised by rapidly developing, life-threatening problems involving: the airway (pharyngeal or laryngeal oedema) and/or breathing (bronchospasm with tachypnoea) and/or circulation (hypotension and/or tachycardia).

People who have had a mild or moderate allergic reaction are at risk of, and may subsequently present with, suspected anaphylaxis. Certain groups may be at higher risk, because of an existing comorbidity (e.g. asthma) or because they are more likely to be exposed to the same allergen again (e.g. people with venom allergies or reactions to specific food triggers). These groups were not included within the scope of this guideline, which is specific to those who have received emergency treatment for suspected anaphylaxis.

Food is a particularly common trigger in children, while medicinal products are much more common triggers in older people. In the UK it is estimated that 500,000 people have had a venom-induced anaphylactic reaction and 220,000 people up to the age of 44 have had a nut-induced anaphylactic reaction.

This document is for staff in primary, secondary and tertiary settings who care for people with suspected anaphylaxis.
<http://publications.nice.org.uk/anaphylaxis-assessment-to-confirm-an-anaphylactic-episode-and-the-decision-to-refer-after-emergency-cg134>
<http://www.nice.org.uk/nicemedia/live/13626/57474/57474.pdf>

Right Care, Right Place, First Time?

(21/12/11)

The RCGP, RCN, RCPCH and the CEM have come together to produce a clear statement for commissioners and service providers about the importance of good planning of Urgent and Emergency care services for children and young people. The Colleges have identified clear standards and guidance for service planning and commissioning of U&EC services to patients 0-16 years, in a local pathway model.

Right Care, Right Place, First Time? covers special aspects of children's and young people's care and sets out in an accessible way the principles for commissioning and provision of services for children, with links and references to useful material and standards embedded within the text.

<http://www.rcpch.ac.uk/news/right-care-right-place-first-time>

Involving Children and Young People in Health Services (03/01/12)

Children and young people should be at the heart of decisions and plans related to NHS reforms, according to this RCPH report.

<http://www.rcpch.ac.uk/news/involving-children-and-young-people-health-services>

Presentations relating to the consultation on stalking (04/01/12)

As part of the violence against women and girls action plan, the HO ran events to ensure that best practice guidance on investigation and prosecution of stalking cases is made available across the regions. The events also followed a consultation on stalking on 14th November 2011 to seek views on how to protect victims of stalking more effectively. Presentations from these events are now available.

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/crime/presentations-stalking/>

Go online in 2012 and have fun – but think safety first (04/01/12)

With more than 1,000 reports a month from the public and industry, including around a quarter relating to online grooming, CEOP is urging parents to help in keeping their children safe in 2012.

CEOP's reports can involve internet abuse, making arrangements to meet a child online or a child in immediate danger. The New Year will see more and more children go online, many for the first time using Christmas gifts of laptops, games consoles or mobile phones. The internet is essential for the UK's children, with latest OFCOM findings revealing that 95% of 12-15 year olds now have internet access at home through a PC or laptop (up from 89% in 2010). Over 2 in 5 12-15's have a smartphone, with social networking one of the most popular activities, undertaken by 50% of teen smartphone owners on a regular basis.

Yet many children and young people still go online, without thinking about the consequences of their actions.

<http://www.ceop.police.uk/Media-Centre/Press-releases/2012/GO-ONLINE-IN-2012-AND-HAVE-FUN---BUT-THINK-SAFETY-FIRST/>

Update on products free of colours associated with hyperactivity (05/01/12)

The FS A has updated its list of product ranges that do not contain the 6 food colours associated with possible hyperactivity in young children.

<http://www.food.gov.uk/news/newsarchive/2012/jan/colours>

Helpline Highlight - How the NSPCC Helpline protects babies (December 2011)

This is the second in the series and looks into some of the key concerns people who call the NSPCC Helpline have about babies.

Key findings

- Between April and June 2011, 851 people contacted the NSPCC Helpline with concerns about a baby.
- Almost three quarters (74%) of all calls about children under one led to a referral to the police or children's services.
- 44% of people who contacted the Helpline about a child under one, were worried the child was being neglected.
- In over half (55%) of all calls that resulted in a referral, the caller said they had heard or seen the child in distress.
- Nearly two thirds (60%) of referrals involved either parental substance misuse, domestic abuse or concerns about the parent's mental health.
- One in three referrals for neglect also featured some form of emotional abuse, physical abuse or both.

http://www.nspcc.org.uk/Inform/research/helpline/helpline_highlights_wda83274.html

http://www.nspcc.org.uk/Inform/research/helpline/helpline_highlights_babies_wdf86152.pdf

Bilingual resources for Child Safety Week (20/12/11)

Children in Wales are working with CAPT to identify bilingual resources that can be used during Child Safety Week, and all year round. *One Step Ahead* is an innovative safety wallchart from the CAPT for parents and carers of 0-2 year-olds. Beautifully illustrated in full colour, it consists of an at-a-glance matrix which matches the child's age and development to hazards in the home.



Parents who attend A&E when their child has had an accident often say that they are taken by surprise by the fact that they could roll/crawl/climb/reach/open doors and cupboards or remove lids. The *One Step Ahead* wallchart addresses this by arming them with the knowledge they need to stay one step ahead in preventing their child having a serious accident in the home.

In collaboration with Children in Wales, CAPT is planning, if there is sufficient demand, to produce a version with Welsh on one side and English on the reverse. Packs of 50 full-colour wallcharts are available for £50 including p&p.

To pre-order, simply email

gillian.colver@capt.org.uk with details for invoicing and delivery by 31 January 2012.

If we receive a minimum of 20 orders, the wallcharts will be printed and despatched in February along with your invoice.

<http://www.childreninwales.org.uk/news/17731.html>

Flying Start evaluation report published (14/12/11)

The Deputy Minister for Children Gwenda Thomas has responded to the publication of the first survey report into the Flying Start programme saying that the report will provide useful evidence as the programme expands and develops.

The report provides an insight into the nature of Flying Start Families and the challenges they face. It provides a wealth of information about the take-up and experience of Flying Start from the perspective of families.

<http://wales.gov.uk/newsroom/childrenandyoungpeople/2011/5628862/?lang=en&ts=3>

<http://wales.gov.uk/docs/caecd/research/111214EvalFlyStart-7-20monthsmainen.pdf>

C4EO requests practice examples

Early help for families to prevent the neglect of children (21/12/11)

C4EO has been commissioned by the Children's Improvement Board (CIB) to identify innovative examples of local practice in relation to services that provide early help to vulnerable children and families, in order to reduce the incidences of neglect and abuse.

By collecting and sharing proven local practice, we are seeking to ensure that directors and managers in local authorities, along with their partners, have up-to-date, accurate evidence of robust local practice around early help.

<http://www.c4eo.org.uk/news/whatsnew/22122011requestforlocalpracticeexamples.aspx>

Children in Public Care including Adoption, Permanency planning and Fostering (21/12/11)

C4EO has been commissioned by the Children's Improvement Board (CIB), to identify examples of local practice that could be validated in relation to children and young people in the public care system.

<http://www.c4eo.org.uk/news/whatsnew/21122011requestforpracticeexamples.aspx>

Youth Index 2012 (January 2012)

Growing up without a daily routine or structure such as regular bedtimes and set meal times can harm a young person's school grades and overall wellbeing, warns The Prince's Trust's new report.

The Youth Index reveals how 10% feel their days "lacked structure and direction" while growing up, while those with lower school grades are more than twice as likely to claim this (26%).



According to the research, based on interviews with 2,136 16-to-25-year-olds, 27% claim they did not have a set bedtime while growing up. This increases to 39% among those who left school with fewer than five A*-C grades at GCSE or Standard Grades Level 1-3.

Young people with poorer grades are also twice as likely as their peers to say they did not have regular meal times (30% compared with 14%).

The charity's fourth annual Youth Index - which gauges how content young people are across a range of areas from family life to physical health - shows a significantly lower index number for young people who claim to have "lacked structure and direction" while growing up than for their peers.

http://www.princes-trust.org.uk/about_the_trust/what_we_do/research/youth_index_2012.aspx

Supervision of midwives report (05/01/12)

The NMC's annual report on the statutory supervision of midwives has now been published. It contains analysis of the reports received from every local supervising authority (LSA) in the UK for the last year.

<http://www.rcm.org.uk/midwives/news/supervision-of-midwives-report/>

http://www.nmc-uk.org/Documents/Midwifery-booklets/Supervision-support-and-safety_NMC-quality-assurance-of-the-LSAs_2010-2011.pdf

Whooping cough cases increase (05/01/12)

Cases of whooping cough reported to the HPA in England and Wales have more than doubled from 421 cases in 2010 to 1040 in 2011. Increases in levels of whooping cough are seen every 3-4 years and figures in 2011 are in line with cases reported in the last peak year of 2008.

Whooping cough affects all ages, but over the last few months the HPA has seen an increase in cases in teenagers and adults between the ages of 15–40. Whooping cough in older people can be an unpleasant illness but does not usually lead to serious complications.

Whooping cough, also known as pertussis, can be a serious illness, especially in the very young. The main symptoms are severe coughing fits which, in babies and children, are accompanied by the characteristic “whoop” sound as the child gasps for breath after coughing. Very young children have the highest risk of severe complications and death.

The infection can be treated with a course of antibiotics to prevent the infection spreading further but young infants may need hospital care due to the risk of severe complications.

Vaccination is the most important control measure in preventing this disease and children are offered whooping cough vaccine at 2, 3 and 4 months of age as part of the routine childhood vaccination programme. The vaccine for whooping cough also protects against diphtheria, polio, Haemophilus influenzae type b - a cause of meningitis - and tetanus.

Children should receive a booster at around 3 years of age, before they start school. It is important that children receive all these

doses so that they can build up and keep high levels of immunity to the disease.

[http://www.hpa.org.uk/NewsCentre/National PressReleases/2012PressReleases/120104per t/](http://www.hpa.org.uk/NewsCentre/NationalPressReleases/2012PressReleases/120104per t/)

Payment by results scheme to help troubled families (03/01/12)

The Government has announced a new £200m outreach service to help England's most troubled families. The new programme is being delivered by a mix of public, private and voluntary sector organisations, with the majority of the work being delivered on the ground by local charitable groups.

8 leading welfare to work providers will work with LAs and over 200 local organisations to identify and deliver the services and support needed, ranging from:

- Skills to help people find work such as CV writing, job preparation, timekeeping, problem solving
- Tackling family issues - support for parenting, role models, support for needs children may have, working with schools
- Social and economic issues - debt management, money management, how to look for work
- Health and housing issues - alcohol or drug abuse, working with health agencies, issues around accommodation
- Helping those who are in work to stay in work and progress
- Identifying suitable employment opportunities and helping people get into work
- Helping to move people into the Work Programme

<http://www.dwp.gov.uk/newsroom/press-releases/2012/jan-2012/dwp001-12.shtml>

Handbook for the inspection of learning and skills training for young adults and adults in custody (updated) (06/01/12)
<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/handbook-for-inspection-of-learning-and-skills-training-for-young-adults-and-adults-custody>

Factsheet: childcare - Childcare on domestic premises (updated) (05/01/12)
<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/factsheet-childcare-childcare-domestic-premises>

Guide to registration on the Childcare Register (updated) (05/01/12)
<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/guide-registration-childcare-register>

Compliance, investigation and enforcement handbook (05/01/12)
Our *Compliance, investigation and enforcement handbook* sets out the legal background to our compliance and enforcement work and the extent of our powers.
We use the handbook in our regulation of early years and childcare providers and children's social care services.
<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/compliance-investigation-and-enforcement-handbook>

Evidence form for school inspections (03/01/12)
For use from Jan 2012
<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/evidence-form-for-school-inspections>

Form 1 - confirmation that a school is causing concern or is no longer causing concern (03/01/12)
For use from Jan 2012
<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/form-1-confirmation-school-causing-concern-or-no-longer-causing-concern>

Guidance on the use of evidence forms (03/01/12)
For use from January 2012
<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/guidance-use-of-evidence-forms>

Inspection questionnaire for pupils (03/01/12)
For use from January 2012
<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/inspection-questionnaire-for-pupils>

Pre-inspection briefing for school inspections (03/01/12)
For use from January 2012
<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/pre-inspection-briefing-for-school-inspections>

Report template for inspections of all-through, primary, secondary and special schools and Pupil Referral Units (03/01/12)
For use from January 2012
<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/report-template-for-inspections-of-all-through-primary-secondary-and-special-schools-and-pupil-refer>

Report template for inspections of all-through, primary, secondary and special schools and Pupil Referral Units with boarding (03/01/12)
For use from January 2012
<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/report-template-for-inspections-of-all-through-primary-secondary-and-special-schools-and-pupil-refer-0>

Inspection questionnaire for school staff (03/01/12)
For use from January 2012
<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/inspection-questionnaire-for-school-staff>

Report writing guidance for school inspections (03/01/12)

For use from January 2012

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/report-writing-guidance-for-school-inspections>

Guidance for schools on the distribution of pupil and staff questionnaires (03/01/12)

For use from January 2012

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/guidance-for-schools-distribution-of-pupil-and-staff-questionnaires>

Generic grade descriptors and supplementary subject-specific guidance for inspectors on making judgements during subject survey visits to schools (01/01/12)

In coming to subject survey visit judgements inspectors will use the relevant criteria and grade descriptors from the 2012 section 5 evaluation schedule and additional guidance specific to each subject.

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/generic-grade-descriptors-and-supplementary-subject-specific-guidance-for-inspectors-making-judgements>

Maintained schools inspection documents archive (30/12/11)

This page provides access to previously published inspection guidance documents which are no longer in use but can be used as archive material for research.

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/maintained-schools-inspection-documents-archive>

Letter to parents for maintained school inspections (includes the parents' questionnaire) (30/12/11)

The letter:

- informs parents the school is due to be inspected
- provides some basic information about the inspection

- provides contact details for the inspector
- has the parents' questionnaire.

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/letter-parents-for-maintained-school-inspections-includes-parents-questionnaire>

Letter to parents for maintained school inspections and School inspections: a guide for parents and carers leaflet in different languages (updated) (30/12/11)

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/letter-parents-for-maintained-school-inspections-and-school-inspections-guide-for-parents-and-carers>

School inspections: a guide for parents and carers (30/12/11)

This leaflet gives information on why, how long and when we inspect, and also how parents and carers can share their views.

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/school-inspections-guide-for-parents-and-carers>

Evaluation schedule for the inspection of boarding and residential provision in schools (updated) (20/12/11)

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/evaluation-schedule-for-inspection-of-boarding-and-residential-provision-schools>

Conducting inspections of boarding and residential provision in schools (updated) (20/12/11)

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/conducting-inspections-of-boarding-and-residential-provision-schools>

20-year milestone for children's rights international law (16/12/11)

To mark the 20th anniversary of the UK's ratification of the UNCRC the Children's Rights Director for England has announced that a special guide to the UNCRC for children in care will be published shortly on the Rights4me website.

The guide will explain how the UK Govt ratified the Convention, thereby making a commitment to its implementation. It will say what, according to the Convention, looked after children in England should be entitled to when it comes to the important things like a change of placement, contact with their family, getting a good education and listening to their views on decisions that are likely to affect them.

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/news/20-year-milestone-for-childrens-rights-international-law-0?news=18323>

<https://www.rights4me.org/>

Documents published for new school inspection arrangements (16/12/11)


The 3 main documents for Ofsted's new arrangements for school inspection, due to commence in January 2012, have been published today. They include:

- the inspection framework
- the evaluation schedule and
- guidance on how inspections should be conducted

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/news/documents-published-for-new-school-inspection-arrangements-january?news=18311>

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/framework-for-school-inspection-january-2012>

Framework for school inspection from January 2012 (16/12/11)

This sets out how the general principles and processes of inspection are applied to maintained schools and several other types 

of school in England. It states the statutory basis for inspection and summarises the main features of school inspections carried out under s5 Education Act 2005.

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/framework-for-school-inspection-january-2012>

Evaluation schedule for the inspection of maintained schools and academies from Jan 2012 (16/12/11)

The evaluation schedule provides outline guidance and grade descriptors for the judgements that inspectors will report on.

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/evaluation-schedule-for-inspection-of-maintained-schools-and-academies-january-2012>

Conducting school inspections: guidance for inspectors from Jan 2012 (16/12/11)

This guidance sets out the main activities to be undertaken from the time the school is notified that it is to be inspected until the publication of the report. Schools can use this guidance to see how inspections will be conducted.

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/conducting-school-inspections-guidance-for-inspectors-of-schools-january-2012>

Schools and inspection (16/12/11)

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

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/schools-and-inspection-december-2011>

Schools and inspection digest (16/12/11)

The digest lists the key articles in *Schools and inspection* and its forerunner *Inspection Matters*. The newsletters provide inspectors and stakeholders with information and guidance about our inspection work in schools.

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/schools-and-inspection-digest>

Ofsted seeks views on the regulation of early years and childcare providers

(09/01/12)

Ofsted is consulting on changes to the way it registers and inspects early years providers, including nurseries and childminders. The changes will coincide with the revised EYFS, which the Government intends to publish in September.

The proposals will raise expectations, with a greater focus on children's personal, social and emotional development and the progress that children make in their learning.

The proposed changes would also give those looking after children more freedom in managing their own service, while continuing to keep children safe by strengthening registration and maintaining rigorous enforcement for those who are not complying with requirements.

Closing Date: 6th April 2012

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/news/ofsted-seeks-views-regulation-of-early-years-and-childcare-providers-0>

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/regulation-of-providers-early-years-register>

See Consultations

Barnardo's reveals desperate need of older children in care (09/01/12)

New statistics out today to mark the start of Barnardo's Fostering and Adoption Week suggest that urgent attention needs to be paid to the care of older, vulnerable, children.

Nearly 12,000 (43%) of all the children who entered care in England last year were aged 10 and over – this includes children as old as 16 and 17. The new figures reveal that of those children, a significant number - 80% - entered care for the first time.



While there is considerable focus on placing babies and younger children, the needs of older children are being forgotten. There needs to be a range of placements so that the system works for all children.

The situation is particularly worrying as there is a general shortage of foster families across the UK, with at least 8,750 new foster families needing to be found within the next 12 months.

Barnardo's is urging more people to consider putting themselves forward as potential foster parents - particularly for older children.

http://www.barnardos.org.uk/news_and_events/media_centre/press_releases.htm?ref=76125

Consultations

Revised statutory guidance and regulations for exclusions from schools and PRUs in England (16/12/11)

This revised exclusion guidance document and regulations includes proposals for how regulations will be applied to Academies, including Free Schools. The guidance is aimed at head teachers, governing bodies, LAs, independent review panel members, clerks and SEN experts, but responses are also welcome from parents, pupils, voluntary/community organisations and representative organisations of the above groups.

In both the guidance and this consultation 'head teacher' applies equally to the teachers in charge at a pupil referral unit and Principals of Academies.

'Governing body' applies equally to a PRU management committee and 'governor' to member of a management committee. Apart from where specifically stated, the duties of a local authority to arrange an independent review panel also apply to Academy Trusts.

We welcome suggestions for brief inserts and/or revisions to the new guidance. However, our aim is to increase the effectiveness of the guidance by ensuring that it is concise and directly relevant to the exclusion process. It is not the intention to widen the scope of the document or lengthen it considerably. New guidance on the use of alternative provision will be released next year and the exclusion guidance will be updated to cross-refer where appropriate.

Closing Date: 17th February 2012
<http://www.education.gov.uk/consultations/index.cfm?action=consultationDetails&consultationId=1795&external=no&menu=1>

Consultation on a Revised Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) (Learning and Development Requirements)

(Amendment) Order 2012 (20/12/11)

Between July and September 2011, the Government consulted on a revised Early Years Foundation Stage framework, responding to the recommendations of an independent review by Dame Clare Tickell. This consultation provides a further opportunity to comment on the Government's proposed changes to some parts of the learning and development requirements in the revised EYFS framework: the early learning goals; and the educational programmes. It is also an opportunity to comment on the statutory instrument which gives legal effect to these.

Closing Date: 19th January 2012

<http://www.education.gov.uk/consultations/index.cfm?action=consultationDetails&consultationId=1794&external=no&menu=1>

Qualification Framework Review

(19/12/11)

The Qualification Framework for Social Care in Wales is currently being reviewed. There is an opportunity to provide feedback during this stage of the process by completing the online survey. This will then help to inform the content for the revised Qualification Framework.

Closing date: 3rd February 2012

<http://www.ccwales.org.uk/qualifications-and-careers/qualifications/qualification-framework>

<http://www.childreninwales.org.uk/policy/consultations/consultations/17723.html>

Consultations (continued)

Promoting physical activity for children and young people: consultation on the draft Review Proposal (04/01/12)

All registered stakeholders are invited to comment on the provisional review decision via this website during a 2 week consultation with stakeholders.

Please note the review decision presented is provisional and may change after consultation.

Closing Date: 18th January 2012

<http://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/index.jsp?action=folder&o=57738>

Young Minds Training Survey (15/12/11)

YoungMinds has commissioned a review of its training and consultancy work which it delivers on topics ranging from building emotional health and wellbeing into school settings, to meaningful participation strategies, and specialist advice to commissioners of CAMHS.

As part of the review, YoungMinds is seeking the views of people who have either used, commissioned or thought about using the training.

Particular questions include:

- What aspects of the training did you value?
- What could be improved?
- What new areas of training would you like YoungMinds to provide?

The review will take place between December 2011 and February 2012

http://www.youngminds.org.uk/news/news/511_help_us_shape_our_future_offer_to_you
<http://www.surveymonkey.com/S/W28XBQ5>

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Regulation of providers on the Early Years Register (09/01/12)

This consultation seeks views on proposals for a revised framework for the regulation and inspection of registered early years provision. These views will help to refine and develop the framework.

We are reviewing our framework for the regulation of those on the Early Years Register following the recent review of the Early Years Foundation Stage. The Government's intention to publish a revised Early Years Foundation Stage for implementation in September 2012 along with accompanying regulations, together with the end of the current inspection cycle in July 2012, sets the timetable for change.

Our proposals aim to:

- keep children safe through a robust registration process and taking appropriate and proportionate enforcement action
- allow registered providers more autonomy in managing their own services
- improve outcomes for children through focusing inspection on children's personal and emotional development; the partnership settings have with parents and the progress children make in their learning
- improve information for parents by carrying out full inspections instead of investigating concerns so that they receive a more holistic report on provision; and making inspection reports more user-friendly.

Closing date: 6th April 2012.

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/regulation-of-providers-early-years-register>

Conferences

Early Years: Shaping the Futures of Children and Young People

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

Delegates will have the opportunity to hear the gov't's response to Dame Tickell's Early Years Foundations Stage Review, as well as learn about the enhanced role of health visitors in children centres.

Delegates will also have 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 government 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. Her recommendations include that:

- inspections should be conducted on an unannounced basis in order to minimise the bureaucratic burden; and
- the inspection framework examines the effectiveness of the contributions of all local services, including health, education, police, probation and the justice system, putting the experiences of children, young people and their families at the heart of the inspection system.

This forum will offer delegates the opportunity to discuss and examine strategies to improve quality of child protection and early intervention services and how local services can contribute successfully to the protection of children under the new childrens services inspections framework.
<http://www.insidegovernment.co.uk/children/childrens-services-inspections/>

Working in Partnership to Improve the Outcomes for Families with Multiple Problems

9th February 2012 London
£225 - £495 + VAT

The government has set out its ambition to try to turn around the lives of every troubled family in the country, and create a better future for their children. There are around 120,000 families in England who have complex social, health and economic problems. Statistics published by the DfE show that the cost to local services is up to £330,000 per family per year.

This forum will provide delegates with an understanding of the government's vision for turning around the lives of families with multiple problems, and will offer best-practice case studies for providing targeted and responsive services to address families' multiple social, economic and health problems.
<http://www.insidegovernment.co.uk/children/families/index.php>

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