

Safeguarding Children Information and News Update Live Consultations – Updated 16th November 2009

Single Equality Scheme (24/08/09)

Ofsted is preparing its first single equality scheme, to replace its existing three separate schemes (disability equality; race equality; gender equality).

Your responses to this questionnaire will help it to define its priorities which will inform the scheme. This will be published in April 2010. Before completing this questionnaire, you may find it useful to look at the Ofsted website to see the kind of work we do.

Closing date: 16th November 2009

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Publications-and-research/Browse-all-by/Documents-by-type/Consultations/Single-equality-scheme>

Strategies to prevent unintentional injuries among under 15s: consultation on the evidence (26/10/09)

All registered stakeholders are invited to comment on evidence assembled to inform the development of this guidance.

The aim of this consultation is to enable stakeholders to consider the evidence and to provide the opportunity to comment, in particular on:

- major gaps in the evidence reviews, including papers in the published literature that we have not been able to identify
- queries around the interpretation of the evidence, both of single studies and the reviewed material as a whole
- the applicability of the evidence and its usefulness for the development of guidance
- issues relating to equity, equality and diversity
- issues relating to cost-effectiveness

Closing Date: 23rd November 2009

<http://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/index.jsp?action=folder&o=45872>
www.nice.org.uk/nicemedia/pdf/StrategiesToPreventUnintentionalInjuriesAmongUnder15sFinalScope.pdf

Consultation on a Review of Parental Order Regulations (01/09/09)

A Parental Order transfers parenthood from the surrogate (and her husband or partner if she has one) to the couple who commission the surrogacy arrangement.

Parental Orders are currently available to married couples only.

The Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 2008 enables same sex couples and unmarried couples as well as married couples to apply for a Parental Order.

Regulations are necessary to set out the processes for the court to grant Parental Orders.

This consultation is on the Draft Human Fertilisation and Embryology (Parental Orders) Regulations. They replace the Parental Orders (Human Fertilisation and Embryology) Regulations 1994 and the Parental Orders (Human Fertilisation and

Embryology) (Scotland) Regulations 1994. They will bring the processes for granting Parental Orders more closely into line with updated adoption legislation.

Closing Date 23rd November 2009

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Liveconsultations/DH_104791

Consultation on the Fulfilled Lives Supportive Communities Commissioning Framework and Guidance (07/09/09)

Social care commissioning involves each Social Services authority fulfilling its statutory duties and making decisions about what services are required to respond to the social care needs of children and young people, adults and older people within their areas.

It also involves making decisions about the capacity, location, cost and quality of services together with how and who will deliver them.

Once finalised, this Commissioning Framework and Guidance will be issued under Section 7 of the Local Authority Social Services Act 1970 and meets one of the central themes contained within Fulfilled Lives Supportive Communities, the 10 year Social Services Strategy for Wales.

Closing Date: 30th November 2009

<http://wales.gov.uk/consultations/healthsocialcare/fulfilledlives/?lang=en>

<http://www.basw.co.uk/Default.aspx?tabid=105&articleID=999>

Metropolitan Police - Policing Plans

The policing and performance plans describe the arrangements for policing London over the year and gives details of priorities and objectives; past performance and future performance targets; funding and use of resources and work to support continuous improvement.

THE MPA is considering the priorities for 2011/12 and would like to know what you think the police in London should be focusing on.

Closing date: 30th November 2009

<http://www.mpa.gov.uk/publications/policingplans/>

Safeguarding Targets and Indicators (28/10/09)

In *The Protection of Children in England: A Progress Report* Lord Laming recommended that the current set of safeguarding/child protection indicators in the National Indicator Set should be revised and new statutory safeguarding targets introduced.

The National Safeguarding Delivery Unit (NSDU) has been working with stakeholders over the summer to develop proposals in this area. This consultation outlines these proposals, which include:

- the proposed safeguarding content for the next National Indicator Set;
- the plans for further indicator development;
- the proposed coverage of statutory targets; and
- the timetable for their introduction.

Closing Date: 8th December 2009

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/nsdu/consultations.shtml>

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/nsdu/downloads/safeguarding-indicators-and-targets-consultation.doc>

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/nsdu/downloads/safeguarding-indicators-and-targets-consultation-response-form.doc>

Safeguarding Targets and Indicators (28/10/09)

Lord Laming recommended that the safeguarding/CP indicators in the National Indicator Set should be revised and new statutory safeguarding targets introduced.

Proposals from the National Safeguarding Delivery Unit (NSDU), include:

- safeguarding content for the next NI Set;
- plans for further indicator development;
- proposed coverage of statutory targets; and
- timetable for their introduction.

Closing Date: 8th December 2009

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/nsdu/consultations.shtml>

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/nsdu/downloads/safeguarding-indicators-and-targets-consultation.doc>

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/nsdu/downloads/safeguarding-indicators-and-targets-consultation-response-form.doc>

A public consultation on the DPP's interim policy for prosecutors on assisted suicide (23/09/09)

The purpose of this consultation is to seek a wide range of views on the Director of Public Prosecution's (DPP's) recently published interim policy on assisted suicide.

On 30 July 2009, the House of Lords Appellate Committee gave its judgment in the case of *R (on the application of Purdy) v Director of Public Prosecutions*. The Law Lords required the DPP to publish an offence-specific policy identifying the facts and circumstances which he will take into account in deciding whether or not to consent to a prosecution under section 2(1) of the Suicide Act 1961.

On the same day, the DPP announced that he intended to issue an interim policy before the end of September 2009, and to launch a public consultation exercise. Once the DPP has considered all the responses, he will decide whether, and if so, how to amend the policy.

Closing Date: 16th December 2009

http://www.cps.gov.uk/consultations/as_index.html

Revising the National Minimum Standards for Adoption, Children's Homes and Fostering (24/09/09)

Regulations and NMS are the basis for the inspection of adoption, children's homes and fostering by Ofsted:

Regulations are mandatory - service providers must comply with them.

NMS are taken into account by Ofsted when deciding whether the service is complying with the regulations and providing an acceptable level of service.

As well as being used in the inspection of services, the NMS are also used by providers, homes and agencies to self-assess the services they provide, for the induction and training of staff and carers and as a guide to parents, carers, prospective adopters, children and young people as to what they can expect from the service.

Following feedback from stakeholders over the years, implementation of Care Matters, and changes made to the legislative framework we have revised the NMS for adoption, children's homes and fostering.

This consultation seeks views on the proposed revisions and asks for comments on how to improve the standards further.

Closing date: 17th December 2009

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations/index.cfm?action=consultationDetails&consultationId=1662&external=no&menu=1>

ContactPoint: Consultation on Proposed Amendments to the Children Act 2004 Information Database (England) Regulations 2007 (02/10/09)

This consultation seeks views on proposed amendments to The Children Act 2004 Information Database (England) Regulations 2007 (the ContactPoint regulations) which were made under section 12 of the Children Act 2004 and came in to force on 1 August 2007. They apply to England only. The ContactPoint regulations provide a legal framework for the operation and maintenance of ContactPoint (formerly known as the Information Sharing Index).

Proposed changes include:

- Updating the law so that children whose parents live overseas but who go to school in England will be included on ContactPoint. Following a recommendation by Sir Roger Singleton this aims to make it easier for schools to implement ContactPoint, as well as better ensure that it is universal so that no child slips through the net.
- Replacing the definition of 'parental responsibility' with the more commonly used term 'parent.' This does not change the scope of ContactPoint but ensures that the same legal terminology is used across different laws;
- Changing the term 'targeted and specialist services' to additional services. Again, this will not change the scope of the information held;
- When a decision is taken to shield a child's record, the name of their parent or carer will also be hidden. In this case, the law is being updated to reflect what is existing practice: parent or carer information is already hidden on shielded records;
- Making it clear, to conform to existing practice, that where relevant more than one address for an individual child can be held on the system.

ContactPoint is an online directory holding basic contact information for all children. The directory is designed to ensure that there is easier and faster contact between professionals who work with children.

The Government today also confirmed that the national rollout of ContactPoint is on track and practitioners across England can start to be trained and access the system

from late October.

Closing Date: 29th December 2009

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/pns/DisplayPN.cgi?pn_id=2009_0174

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations/index.cfm?action=consultationDetails&consultationId=1644&external=no&menu=1>

Consultation on Draft Code of Practice on Provision of the Free Entitlement for 3 and 4 year-olds (07/10/09)

The DCSF consulted over the summer on changes to delivery of the free entitlement, which will be implemented through a revised Code of Practice for LAs, from September 2010.

As part of the second phase consultation process the DCSF will be publishing a package of documents for consultation.

Included will be:

- a draft Code of Practice which draws upon the findings of the first phase;
- a summary of responses to the consultation;
- the Government response and further questions;
- new draft regulations reflecting the increase in the entitlement and
- an impact assessment on the extension from 12.5 hours to 15 hours

Closing Date: 8th January 2010

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations/index.cfm?action=consultationDetails&consultationId=1676&external=no&menu=1>

Complaints About Ofsted's Work: Proposed improvements to the process

(21/10/09)

Ofsted is reviewing arrangements for the handling and investigation of concerns about its work and the conduct of its staff. Ofsted want to ensure that its approaches are closely matched to the needs of those making complaints. This consultation outlines how it propose to develop its complaints procedures. It aims to achieve a transparent process that is fair, accessible, and makes the best use of the valuable information provided by complainants to improve the service provided to children, young people and learners of all ages.

Closing date: 13th January 2010

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Publications-and-research/Browse-all-by/Documents-by-type/Consultations/Complaints-about-Ofsted-s-work-proposed-improvements-to-the-process>

Consultation on Proposed Amendments to the School Premises Regulations on School Kitchen and Dining Facilities (29/10/09)

In May 2009, the Secretary of State wrote to all schools and LAs seeking their ongoing support with transforming the school meals service and increasing take up of school lunches. He urged everyone to tackle inadequate kitchen and dining facilities.

DCSF and the School Food Trust have produced a range of resources for this work, including Kitchen and Dining Spaces, a design note, checklists to use when

refurbishing or building kitchens and dining facilities, and A Fresh Look Guide on effective kitchen and dining spaces. This consultation sets out our proposals on amendments to the School Premises regulations.

Closing Date: 22nd January 2010

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations/index.cfm?action=consultationDetails&consultationId=1626&external=no&menu=1>

New Statutory Children's Trust Guidance and New Children and Young People's Plan Regulations (13/11/09)

This brings together guidance on CTs and CYPPs into one statutory guidance. It includes further advice arising from the recent changes to the Children Act 2004 made by the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009. It also includes the draft new CYPP regs.

Closing Date: 29th January 2010

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations/index.cfm?action=consultationDetails&consultationId=1670&external=no&menu=1>

Consulting the Capital: London Councils voluntary sector commissioning programme 2011-15

London Councils distributes £26m funding to the voluntary sector in London each year. It is setting its priorities for 2011-15 and wants your opinions on:

- The challenges in London that our funding should tackle
- Whether currently funded services are the right ones and if not how to update them
- The differences funding makes to local people, voluntary sector and other organisations
- How our funding can help local people and organisations get through the recession

We are holding public meetings in various locations across London in November and December 2009.

Closing Date: 29th January 2010

<http://www.londoncouncils.gov.uk/grants/news/pressdetail.htm?pk=812>

<http://www.londoncouncils.gov.uk/grants/aboutourfunding/consultingthecapital.htm>

Pupil and School Information Regulations (09/11/09)

This consultation sets out proposed amendments to legislation that governs the information that schools record and provide on pupils (in educational and curricular records and school reports); and on themselves (in prospectuses). These aim to help parents have better access to information about their children's learning and development. The regulations will be accompanied by guidance for schools/LAs.

Closing Date: 1st February 2010

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations/index.cfm?action=consultationDetails&consultationId=1665&external=no&menu=1>

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

The Registration of Births (Parents Not Married And Not Acting Together) Regulations 2010 (10/11/09)

These draft Regs set out detailed processes for registering births where unmarried parents are not co-operating. They aim to ensure that - wherever possible - the names of both parents are registered.

Closing Date: 2nd February 2010

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations/index.cfm?action=consultationDetails&consultationId=1666&external=no&menu=1>

Health and Safety of Learners Outside the Classroom (HASLOC) - Revision of guidance (06/11/09)

HASLOC will replace Health and Safety of Pupils on Educational Visits: a good practice guide 1998 and the 3-part supplement published in 2002. HASLOC will have a wider audience across all children's services (not just schools). It sets out the enabling nature of sensible risk management and how to reduce 'red tape'. It flags up the lessons learned from serious incidents.

HASLOC also sets out how and why staff can expect to be treated fairly if a participant is injured despite their care. In general HASLOC works at a high level and leaves most of the detail to the operational parts of the Learning Outside the Classroom Council's website which will carry downloadable material. In this consultation, we seek views and suggestions to help us make this an accessible, user-friendly and effective guide for front-line professionals.

Closing Date: 8th February 2010

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations/index.cfm?action=consultationDetails&consultationId=1599&external=no&menu=1>
http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/pns/DisplayPN.cgi?pn_id=2009_0209

Drugs: Guidance for schools (13/11/09)

This provides guidance to maintained primary, secondary, special schools and PRUs in England on all matters relating to drug education and management of drugs within the school community. It is for all staff, particularly senior managers and those responsible for co-ordinating, teaching and supporting delivery of drug education. Heads and governing bodies are required by law to have regard to the guidance.

Closing Date: 15th February 2010

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations/index.cfm?action=consultationDetails&consultationId=1673&external=no&menu=1>