

**SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN
INFORMATION & NEWS UPDATE - 148
6th January 2010**

**Working Together to Safeguard Children,
Chapter 8: Serious Case Reviews (2009)**
(18/12/09)

Working Together sets out how individuals and organisations should work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. 'Chapter 8' of the guidance has been updated to reflect Lord Laming's recommendations on SCRs and the outcomes of the recent public consultation. This revised statutory guidance replaces 'Chapter 8' of Working Together to Safeguard Children (2006).

The guidance is addressed to all practitioners and front-line managers who have particular responsibilities for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. Local safeguarding children boards (LSCBs), agencies and professionals are required to implement the statutory guidance on SCRs with immediate effect.

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/resources-and-practice/IG00634/>
<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/download/?id=7215>

**Working Together to Safeguard Children
– Chapter 8 Serious Case Reviews:
Government response to public
consultation (18/12/09)**

Chapter 8 sets out the processes for SCRs, undertaken when a child dies or is seriously injured and neglect or abuse is suspected or known to be factor.

The purpose of a SCR is to:

- establish whether there are lessons to be learnt from the case about the way in which local professionals and organisations work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children;

- identify clearly what those lessons are, how they will be acted on, and what is expected to change as a result; and
- as a consequence, improve inter-agency working and better safeguard and promote the welfare of children.1.3

On 12 November 2008 Ministers announced to Parliament that they had asked Lord Laming to prepare an independent report on the progress being made across the country to deliver effective arrangements to protect children, and to identify any barriers to effective, consistent implementation and how these might be overcome. Lord Laming published his report, The Protection of Children in England: A Progress Report, on 12 March 2009.

In his report, Lord Laming made a number of recommendations to strengthen and clarify the SCR process. These were accepted in full by the Government and a public consultation was carried out. This document provides:

- an overview of responses
- a summary of key findings
- information on next steps

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/download/?id=7214>

**Why are decisions to prosecute in cases of
child abuse so complex? (Dec 09)**

This factsheet gives a definition of child abuse and describes how criminal investigations are undertaken. It also explains why it is sometimes decided not to prosecute in cases in child abuse.

http://www.nspcc.org.uk/Inform/research/questions/prosecuting_child_abuse_wda70195.html

**National Safeguarding Delivery Unit:
Interim Progress Report & Work
Programme 2009-2010 (Dec 09)**

The Government has set out its priorities for driving forward improvements in child protection. This report outlines progress since its action plan in response to Lord Laming's recommendations was published and details the units forthcoming work plan.

Specific developments include:

- a recruitment campaign for social workers
- an action plan to increase the capacity of the health visitor workforce
- consultation on new indicators and statutory targets for keeping children safe
- action to improve child protection skills and capacity in police forces

The role of the NSDU (operational since 01/07/09) is to drive improvements in frontline practice, monitor progress on the implementation of the Government's action plan in response to Lord Laming's report and increase public and professional confidence in child protection arrangements.

The Unit's priorities include:

- Developing a model for the recruitment and training of Independent Serious Case Review panel chairs and authors;
- Embedding good practice in information sharing between local agencies on the ground; and
- Identifying, interpreting and disseminating lessons learned from SCR and Child Death Overview Panels.

<http://publications.everychildmatters.gov.uk/default.aspx?PageFunction=productdetails&PageMode=publications&ProductId=DCSF-01181-2009&>

<http://publications.everychildmatters.gov.uk/eOrderingDownload/01181-2009DOM-EN.pdf>

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

Impact of Alcohol Consumption on Young People (30/12/09)

New research shows that parents worry more about their children having unwanted pregnancies, road traffic accidents and taking drugs than they do about their child drinking alcohol. This is despite evidence showing alcohol is often the link between young people and these risky behaviours.

The research follows publication of the final guidance for young people and alcohol from the CMO, which gave young people and their families a 5 point alcohol advice guide.

As part of the Government's commitment to provide support and advice for young people and their families, a new online campaign will run until the launch of a national advertising campaign in January which aims to help young people establish a safe and sensible relationship with alcohol.

Findings from the Mumsnet survey of 800 parents of children aged 9 to 16 include:

- 97% feel comfortable discussing alcohol consumption with their children
- Over 90% recognise that alcohol is harmful to children and young people
- 1 in 3 do not discuss the role alcohol plays in other issues such as sex, drugs or personal safety.
- Only weight problems and smoking rank lower in parents concerns than alcohol
- 63% were not at all concerned that their child would drink alcohol
- 27% speak to their children regularly about the risks associated with drinking alcohol but 30% have not discussed the risks at all.

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/news/content.cfm?landing=one_in_three_parents_do_not_talk_to_their_children_about_the_risks_associated_with_drinking_alcohol&type=1
<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/research/data/upload/files/DCSF-RR067.pdf>

Guidance on the consumption of alcohol by children and young people - A report by the Chief Medical Officer (17/12/09)

In April 2008 the CMO was asked by the Secretaries of State for Health and for Children, Schools and Families to prepare guidance on the consumption of alcohol by children and young people. Over the last decade, public concern about the impact of alcohol on health and society has steadily mounted. Particular concern has centred on the level and pattern of drinking among children and young people and its consequences on health, crime, violence and antisocial behaviour.

Following publication of draft guidance in January this year, parents were asked what they thought. Parents from across the country commented on the guidance, with the majority welcoming its focus on parental responsibility and the clear advice on the health effects and risks of children drinking alcohol.

The final guidance advises:

1. an alcohol-free childhood is the healthiest and best option - if children drink alcohol, it shouldn't be before they reach 15 years old;
2. if young people aged 15 - 17 years old drink alcohol, it should always be with the guidance of a parent or carer or in a supervised environment;
3. parents and young people should be aware that drinking, even at age 15 or older, can be hazardous to health and not drinking is the healthiest option for young people. If children aged 15 - 17 drink alcohol they should do so infrequently and certainly on no more than one day a week. They should never drink more than the adult daily limits recommended by the NHS;



4. the importance of parental influences on children's alcohol use should be communicated to parents, carers and professionals. Parents and carers need advice on how to respond to alcohol use and misuse by children; and

5. support services must be available for children and young people who have alcohol-related problems and their parents.

<http://nds.coi.gov.uk/Content/detail.aspx?NewsAreaId=2&ReleaseID=409657&SubjectId=2>

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_110258

Full Report

http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/documents/digitalasset/dh_110256.pdf

Supplementary Report

http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/documents/digitalasset/dh_110257.pdf

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/news/content.cfm?landing=chief_medical_officer_publishes_final_guidance_on_alcohol_and_children&type=1

Guidance on inspecting providers registered on both the Childcare and Early Years Registers (17/12/09)

The aim of this guidance is to assist inspectors to carry out inspections of providers who are registered on both the Childcare and the Early Years Registers.

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Forms-and-guidance/Browse-all-by/Other/General/Guidance-on-inspecting-providers-registered-on-both-the-Childcare-and-Early-Years-Registers>

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/content/download/7449/75856/file/Guidance%20on%20inspecting%20providers%20registered%20on%20both%20the%20Childcare%20and%20Early%20Years%20Registers.pdf>

Childminders using assistants (18/12/09)

This revised factsheet sets out our policy and understanding of the law about the use of assistants by childminders on the Early Years and Childcare Registers. It is part of a suite of childcare factsheets available via our website.

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Forms-and-guidance/Browse-all-by/Other/General/Factsheet-childcare-Childminders-using-assistants>
<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/content/download/10303/118098/file/Childminders%20using%20assistants.pdf>

Integrated Children's System improvement: Newsletter and guidance (16/12/09)

This resource contains a covering newsletter providing an update on progress on ICS improvement and a package of further guidance for LAs on improving ICS.

The guidance comprises:

- Improving the usability of ICS systems - a guidance note jointly produced with the Expert Panel to help and support LAs as they seek to make usability improvements to their systems
- ICS and 'interoperability' - a paper produced in response to the request from the Social Work Task Force, in their letter of 5 May, for the DCSF to explain how ICS interfaces with other systems including ContactPoint and National eCAF
- ICS Usability Toolkit - an update to the toolkit that was originally issued to LAs in the summer

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/resources-and-practice/ig00635/>
<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/safeguardingandsocialcare/integratedchildrenssystem/ics/>

Application forms for the Childcare Register (24/12/09)

CR1 This form is to register as a childminder, childcare provider on domestic or non-domestic premises or home childcarer on the voluntary and/or compulsory part of the Childcare Register.

CR2 Every person other than the applicant who requires checking must complete a declaration and consent form CR2 to allow us to carry out checks and use the information from them to decide on their suitability.

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Forms-and-guidance/Browse-all-by/Other/General/Application-forms-for-the-Childcare-Register-forms-CR1-and-CR2>

Local Authority Link HMI (23/12/09)

In September 2009 we introduced the role of local authority Link HMI. This role provides a personal point of contact with Ofsted for LAs. It offers the opportunity for discussions with senior managers in LAs on recent outcomes from Ofsted inspections. It also enables LAs to update the link HMI about any local issues relating to care, education and skills.

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Forms-and-guidance/Browse-all-by/Other/General/Local-authority-Link-HMI>
<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/content/download/10612/126842/file/Local%20authority%20Link%20HMI.pdf>

Extra resources to tackle domestic abuse and violence against women (05/01/10)

During a visit to Welsh Women's Aid to thank those who staffed the helpline over the festive period, the Social Justice and Local Government Minister announced funding to help put in place an information system that will keep victims and their children safer
<http://new.wales.gov.uk/news/latest/100105extra/?lang=en>

Disabled Children's Access to Childcare (DCATCH) Pilot Activity (30/12/09)

Improving childcare for the families of disabled children is a national priority and an integral part of expanding service provision and choice for parents who want to balance work and family life.

The Childcare Act 2006 placed a duty on LAs to have particular regard to the provision of services suitable for disabled children when assessing sufficiency and supply of childcare. LAs' strategic leaders, in facilitating the development of the childcare market, are also expected to have Disability Equality Schemes in place.

In 2007, the AHDC programme announced an investment of £35m to support development by testing out ways of achieving better access to childcare for disabled children and young people. 10 pilot areas were identified to work with the DCATCH initiative.

This report summarises learning from DCATCH pilot areas for the information of LAs and children's trusts as they prepare new childcare sufficiency assessments for 2011 and develop strategies to expand the range, quality, and affordability of childcare available to families with disabled children.

A £12.5m cash boost from the Government will fund the national roll out of the DCATCH Programme to help parents of disabled children benefit from expert advice and support when choosing services for their child.

As part of the programme, 'Parent Champions', recruited by LAs, could help other parents understand the services and support available to them.



The £12.5m fund is being allocated across the country, with the 142 LAs who were not part of the pilot each receiving at least £59,000.

LAs will have flexibility to use the funds to meet local needs, choosing from options developed by the 10 pathfinders, including creating the 'Parent Champions'; providing specialist training for childminders and staff; and producing better information for parents of disabled children.

<http://publications.everychildmatters.gov.uk/default.aspx?PageFunction=productdetails&PageMode=publications&ProductId=DCSF-01203-2009>

<http://publications.everychildmatters.gov.uk/eOrderingDownload/DCATCH-Report.pdf>
http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/news/content.cfm?landing=125_million_extra_help_for_childcare_for_disabled_children&type=1

Research shows children still not safe in UK churches (15/12/09)

Safeguarding Children in the Church shows that children are still not as safe as they should or could be in UK churches. Statistics revealed by the CCPAS shows:

- Fewer than 50% of employees paid to work with children in church settings are asked to complete application forms or are formally interviewed - contrary to government recommendations in force since 1993.
- Only half of such workers are required to provide written references before being taken on.
- Only 56% of churches insist that their children's workers undergo safeguarding training on appointment.
- In some church denominations and groups, as many as 40% such of workers had no named supervisor.

<http://www.ccpas.co.uk/Press%20releases/15%20Dec%202009.html>

New national number for non-emergency healthcare (18/12/09)

A new free 3 digit number – 111 - making it easier for patients to access non-emergency healthcare wherever they are, 24 hours a day, was given the go ahead by Ofcom today.

The 111 service will effectively assess callers' needs to ensure they receive the right service, first time. It will route patients to a locally available service or provide appropriate advice and information.

The NHS across England offers a range of options for accessing non-emergency healthcare. Services such as walk-in centres, out-of-hours GP services and minor injuries units mean patients now have more choice than ever before when they need non-emergency healthcare. However, patients are not always sure where to go for treatment when they need medical help - but the situation is not life-threatening - especially when away from home.

When someone calls 111, they will be assessed straight away. If it is an emergency, their call will be immediately passed to the ambulance service who will despatch an ambulance without the need for any further assessment. For minor illnesses and injuries the 111 service will be able to provide immediate clinical advice. Should the caller need to see a GP, they will be referred to the nearest local centre.

The 111 service will be piloted by the local NHS in the North East, East of England and East Midlands from 2010 to evaluate the benefits to the public and the NHS, before potentially rolling it out nationally.
<http://nds.coi.gov.uk/Content/detail.aspx?NewsAreaId=2&ReleaseID=409746&SubjectId=2>

Partner exploitation and violence in teenage intimate relationships (11/12/09)

This is the first study in GB to provide a detailed picture of the incidence and impact of teenage partner violence.

Although a body of evidence exists on adult experiences of domestic violence, very little is known about partner exploitation and violence in teenagers' own intimate relationships and encounters in the UK.

Research from the US has highlighted the high level of violence in young people's intimate relationships. However, how these findings apply to the UK context has been unknown. This research, funded by the Big Lottery Fund and the NSPCC, sought to bridge this gap in understanding.

http://www.nspcc.org.uk/Inform/research/Findings/partner_exploitation_and_violence_wd_a68092.html

http://www.nspcc.org.uk/Inform/research/Findings/partner_exploitation_and_violence_summary_wdf68093.pdf

http://www.nspcc.org.uk/Inform/research/Findings/partner_exploitation_and_violence_report_wdf70129.pdf

The Police Act 1997 (Criminal Records and Registration) (Guernsey) Regulations 2009 SI 3297

These Regulations, in force from 16/12/09, make detailed provision re applications in Guernsey for criminal record certificates and enhanced criminal record certificates under Part 5 of the Police Act 1997. They mirror, with appropriate modifications, the Regulations in England and Wales.

http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2009/uksi_2009_3297_en_1

Keeping in touch (17/12/09)

This report on children's experiences in care from the Children's Rights Director, finds that the longer children stay in care the more likely it is that all contact with their parents, siblings and friends are lost. Once children have been in care for over 2 years, they have much less contact with their birth family and for those who have been in care for over 6 years all contact is most likely to be lost.

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/News/Family-contact-is-lost-the-longer-children-stay-in-care>
<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/content/download/10586/126600/file/Keeping%20in%20touch.pdf>
http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/pns/DisplayPN.cgi?pn_id=2009_0258

Restraint Minimisation Strategies (Dec 09)

Minimising the use of restrictive physical interventions is a responsibility for everybody working with children and young people in secure establishments. By successfully minimising the use of restrictive physical interventions, risks to the safety and well-being of young people, as well as staff, are reduced. In December 2008, the government made a commitment to implement the majority of recommendations made by the Independent Review of Restraint in Juvenile Secure Settings. As a result, the YJB was given the task of providing guidance regarding the development and implementation of restraint minimisation strategies in secure establishments.

<http://www.yjb.gov.uk/en-gb/practitioners/Custody/BehaviourManagement/RestraintMinimisationStrategies/>
<http://www.yjb.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/6E5C27F6-00C1-4126-9B86-CD5707516056/0/Developingarestraintminimisationstrategyguidanceforsecureestablishments.pdf>

Children to learn about money matters (03/01/10)

Ed Balls and money expert Martin Lewis have stressed the importance of children learning about money matters to learn the best way to save and pick financial products like mortgages and pensions. As part of the new compulsory PSHE curriculum, all 5-16s will be taught about handling money, savings and the financial skills they need as adults.

Starting at primary school through to secondary school, pupils will learn age appropriate information:

- 5 -7s could be taught how to identify different notes and coins, and how to save money for example in a piggybank
- 7-11s could learn about managing a bank account and savings account, and about budgeting.
- 11-14s might have lessons on how credit cards, mortgages and loans work. Or about managing personal finances including paying household bills etc.
- 14-16s could explore how money problems can have an impact on people – learning about debt and effective budgeting skills.

Also later this year, new standards for those working with children in residential care and fostering are due to come into force, which will further strengthen the importance of supporting young people to manage money so they can reach their potential and achieve economic wellbeing later in life.

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/pns/DisplayPN.cgi?pn_id=2010_0005

Safeguarding London's children

All presentations and related papers from the London Board's 09 annual safeguarding London's children conference are available.

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

300 New Year's Day babies could grow up to be obese (01/01/10)

Start4Life is a new campaign to support pregnant women and parents of babies to give their baby a healthier start in life. It is part of Change4Life, launched a year ago, which is helping families 'eat well, move more and live longer'.

Start4Life centres around 6 'building blocks', based on infant health research, to help parents know what's right for their baby. They are:

- mum's milk - why breast milk is better for both mum and baby;
- everyday counts – information about how each day of breastfeeding makes a difference to babies' health;
- no rush to mush - the Start4Life banana challenge shows the 3 signs to look out for that together show babies are ready to start on solid foods - if your baby is able to sit up with their head steady, reach out, grab a finger-sized piece of peeled, ripe banana, and eat some of it all by themselves, they are ready!;
- taste for life – advice on how giving babies a variety of food now, can stop them turning into a fussy eater later;
- sweet as they are – tips on how to avoid giving babies a sweet tooth; and
- baby moves – guidance on why it's important for all little ones to be lively and active.

A short film showing a Change4Life plasticine character being moulded by a mum will be screened in antenatal clinics and on Baby TV to raise awareness.

<http://nds.coi.gov.uk/content/detail.aspx?NewsAreaId=2&ReleaseID=410068&SubjectId=2>

<http://www.nhs.uk/start4life>

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/News/Recentstories/DH_110639

Children Schools and Families Committee Second Report - The Review of Elective Home Education (16/12/09)

This report discusses the Badman Report and its recommendation that registration and monitoring be introduced. It says there is a dearth of information on home educated children in England and research is needed.

The report recommends that:

- LAs need improved means of identifying and differentiating between children in school, those being home educated, and those otherwise not in school.
- Parental responsibility in relation to the provision of home education should be strengthened.
- We support proposals to introduce annual registration for home educating families but suggest that this be voluntary and reviewed after 2 years.
- Any registration system should be accompanied by better information sharing between agencies to help identify which children are in school, which are being educated at home, and which are in neither category.
- Home educating families should provide a statement of their intended approach to their child's education, supplemented by annual meetings with LA officers and underpinned by a more precise definition of what constitutes a "suitable" education.
- existing safeguarding legislation is the appropriate mechanism for the purpose of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of home educated children
- proposed annual visits would offer little direct safeguarding benefit over and above this.
- the notion that LA home education teams should be given a more overt safeguarding role should be discouraged

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmselect/cmchilsch/39/39i.pdf>

GBL and other 'legal highs' banned

(23/12/09)

The following former so called 'legal highs' are now banned under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971:

- chemical solvent GBL (Gamma-Butyrolactone) and a similar chemical – which are converted into GHB (Gamma-Hydroxybutyrate) in the body and often used as 'club drugs' – are now controlled as Class C drugs when intended for human consumption
- synthetic cannabinoids – man-made chemicals sprayed on herbal smoking products such as 'Spice', which act on the body in a similar way to cannabis but can be far more potent, are now controlled as Class B drugs alongside cannabis
- BZP (Benzylpiperazine) and related piperazines, which are stimulants, similar to amphetamine, are now controlled as Class C drugs.

Home Secretary Alan Johnson said, 'We are cracking down on so called 'legal highs' which are an emerging threat, particularly to young people. That is why we are making a range of these substances illegal from today with ground-breaking legislation which will also ban their related compounds'.

In addition, 15 anabolic steroids, testosterone-like products often used by sports people and increasingly being used by the general public for their growth promoting properties, are to be controlled as Class C drugs, alongside two growth promoters.

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/about-us/news/gbl-and-other-legal-highs-banned.html>

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/about-us/publications/home-office-circulars/circulars-2009/021-2009/21-20092835.pdf?view=Binary>

Icy water warning as big freeze continues

(05/01/10)

RoSPA is warning about the dangers of frozen-over lakes in a bid to prevent needless deaths. The freezing conditions have already sparked a flurry of calls to RoSPA from people concerned about the danger of heading on to ice at frozen lakes.

Last year, RoSPA urged people to steer clear of deep frozen waterways, but still heard of at least 2 cases in which people lost their lives when ice gave way, and there were many more rescues. The majority of incidents involved children or dog walkers.

RoSPA is speaking out about ice safety in the hope that people will heed the warning and that lives will be saved. If someone falls through the ice:

- Call the emergency services
- Do not attempt to go on to the ice yourself
- Tell the person to stay still to maintain heat and energy
- Try finding something which will extend your reach, such as a rope, pole or branch
- Throw the object out and, once ensuring you are stable on the bank either by lying down or having someone hold on to you, pull them in
- If you cannot find something to reach with, try finding an object that will float and push that out to them
- Ensure you keep off the ice at all times, continue to reassure the casualty and keep them talking until help arrives
- Once the person has been rescued, keep them warm and take them to hospital even if they appear to be unaffected

RoSPA's ice advice is not confined to frozen water, extra care also needs to be taken on the roads and pavements.

http://www.rospace.com/news/releases/2010/pr756_05_01_2010_water.htm

New survey data on perceptions of anti-social behaviour (06/01/10)

The Youth Taskforce survey shows:

- residents in areas most affected by youth anti-social behaviour have noticed an increase in police presence and extra activities to keep young people off the streets since the launch of the Youth Crime Action Plan.
- 80% say more positive activities for young people and confiscating alcohol is the right thing to do and
- 90% felt it was a good idea to make alcohol more difficult to buy.

Ministers say more needs to be done to impose tough sanctions and offer non-negotiable support, as the survey also shows that just over two thirds of people in the 69 priority areas think anti-social behaviour has stayed the same or got better, with just over a quarter saying anti-social behaviour has got worse.

Other figures also show that:

- Street based teams have dealt with over 86,000 young people at risk in priority areas, redirecting them to support services and positive activities
- Since 2008, 28,000 disruptive young people have faced tough measures and support to tackle their behaviour through Challenge and Support projects, with 2165 Acceptable Behaviour Contracts and 313 Anti-Social Behaviour Orders issued
- 517 young people have benefitted from targeted and persistent support through Intensive Intervention Projects.
- Recent data from the British Crime Survey shows that concerns about teenagers hanging around have dropped by 3% over the last 2 years.

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/pns/DisplayPN.cgi?pn_id=2010_0008

Consultations

Working Together to Safeguard Children (18/12/09)


In *The Protection of Children in England: A Progress Report* Lord Laming made a number of recommendations which the Government has proposed to address through the revision of *Working Together to Safeguard Children* statutory guidance.

This revised draft guidance addresses 17 of Lord Laming's recommendations, as indicated in the National Safeguarding Delivery Unit's earlier pre-consultation. The revised draft also updates the guidance to reflect changes to the policy and legislative landscape since *Working Together* was last published in 2006.

Closing Date: 11th February 2010
<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations/index.cfm?action=consultationDetails&consultationId=1667&external=no&menu=1>

Responding to Lord Laming's recommendation for further guidance on effective practice for LSCBs - A Summary Outline for consultation and a call for evidence (18/12/09)

In *The Protection of Children in England: A Progress Report* (March 2009), Lord Laming recommended that the DCSF must provide further guidance to LSCBs on how to operate as effectively as possible. This summary outline builds on the progress already made in addressing Lord Laming's recommendations.

The NSDU welcomes your views on the proposed outline and issues that the practice guidance should cover, the style and format of the practice guidance and how to produce the final practice guidance. 

The NSDU also welcomes contributions of evidence of models or templates of effective local practice, exemplars of good practice and case studies which relate to any of the proposed issues identified here.

Closing Date: 29th January 2010

<http://publications.everychildmatters.gov.uk/default.aspx?PageFunction=productdetails&PageMode=publications&ProductId=DCSF-01184-2009&>

<http://publications.everychildmatters.gov.uk/eOrderingDownload/01184-2009DOM-EN.pdf>

<http://publications.dcsf.gov.uk/eOrderingDownload/01184-2009DOM-EN.pdf>

Updated guidance to support local authority Childcare Sufficiency Assessments and Action Planning (18/12/09)

On 22 October 2009, the DCSF noted in the LA email that it would be launching a consultation on the revised statutory Childcare Sufficiency and Assessment Guidance to inform the 2010-11 assessment and action planning process.

The guidance builds on the existing guidance included in *Securing Sufficient Childcare and the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment Guidance* (2007) and is intended to assist LAs in their assessment of sufficiency and action planning.

The primary purpose of this consultation is to seek LAs' views on the structure and content of the draft guidance.

Closing Date: 26th February 2010

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations/index.cfm?action=consultationDetails&consultationId=1693&external=no&menu=1>

Consultations (continued)

Ofsted Single Equality Scheme

Consultation: Stage 2 (18/12/09)

Ofsted is preparing its first single equality scheme to replace its existing 3 separate schemes (disability equality, race equality, gender equality). The first stage identified the priority equality objectives which have shaped the scheme so far.

Responses will help to define not only our equality priorities but also the key activities for achieving our priorities. Our single equality scheme will be published, along with a detailed action plan, in April 2010.

We ask for feedback in particular on:

- our approach to embedding equality
- our equality priorities
- our planned activities.

Closing date: 12th March 2010.

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

Office of the Public Guardian: Amendments to secondary legislation (17/12/09)

This next step in the review process of the Mental Capacity Act 2005 addresses areas of legislation and policy that in practice have not worked as well as intended.

The proposed changes will help the Act meet its aims and objectives. The OPG intends to implement them on the 1 April 2010.

Closing Date: 9th March 2010

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/latest-updates/opg-amendments-legislation-consultation.htm>

Mainstreaming the commissioning of local services to address violence against women and girls (22/12/09)

This draft guidance follows publication of *Together we can end violence against women and girls (25/11/09)*. It will help local commissioners and partnerships develop the best approach to commissioning services to prevent violence against women and girls, protect victims and potential victims and provide services to victims and perpetrators.

With so many agencies and budgets contributing to provide services there are real risks of lack of ownership, duplication and poor links between services leading to an ineffective allocation of resources with money being spent on expensive interventions when simpler joint preventative and protective strategies could reduce future needs and costs.

The document is organised into 5 sections:

- getting the right people involved through a whole system approach
- using intelligence to understand need and set priorities
- staying in the mainstream by reframing service priorities
- getting good value by following the money and working with providers
- holding services and commissioning to account.

Closing Date: 15th March 2010

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/documents/cons-2009-mainstreaming/index.html>

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/documents/cons-2009-mainstreaming/mainstreaming.pdf>

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/documents/va-wg-strategy-2009/>

Consultations (continued)

Inquiry into the provision of safe places to play and hang out (15/12/09)

The National Assembly for Wales' Children and Young People Committee has launched an inquiry into the provision of safe places to play and hang out and is keen to hear the views of children and young people.

The inquiry will:

- consider issues affecting the play experiences of specific groups of children and young people;
- review issues relevant to existing provision;
- review the effectiveness of current policy provision and initiatives in providing safe places to play and hang out;
- Examine the impact of specific barriers to safe places to play and hang out.

Closing Date: 19th February 2010

<http://www.childreninwales.org.uk/policy/consultations/consultations/12716.html>

http://www.assemblywales.org/final_call_for_evidence_e-2.pdf

Conferences

Regional Events: Making Health Services work for Young People

3rd February 2010 Bristol
26th February 2010 London
3rd March 2010 Leeds
£35

Following the success of the Investing in Teenage Health conference in January 2009, a regional 1 day workshop is available to share the learning and good practice from the Teenage Health Demonstration Sites.

The day will feature workshop sessions and key note speakers, and will give practical advice and information about developing and extending services in your area.

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/publications/documents/laemakinghealthserviceworkforyoungpeople/>

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/download/?id=7188>

<http://www.profileproductions.co.uk/events.php>

Drug and alcohol treatment for young people

24th February 2010 London £135 - £255

The aims of this conference are to:

- Provide an overview and assessment of current policy frameworks for young people's drug and alcohol treatment, nationally and locally;
- Examine the distinctive characteristics of drug and alcohol problems for young people, and the relationship to other problems (including physical and emotional problems, family issues, social exclusion and problems at school);
- Consider the evidence-base on what works in tackling substance misuse problems among young people, including the balance between specialist treatment

and mainstream interventions, and the challenges of working with young people with complex needs;

- Highlight and showcase innovative practice and provide opportunities to hear from and talk with people providing specialist drug and alcohol services for young people.

[http://www.saphna-](http://www.saphna-professionals.org/node/364)

[professionals.org/node/364](http://www.pavpub.com/pavpub/conferences/showfull.asp?Conference=883)

<http://www.pavpub.com/pavpub/conferences/showfull.asp?Conference=883>

What children are worried about?

25th February 2010 London £75 - £150

This conference will consider trends in calls made to ChildLine and the broader social policy and practice implications. Discussion will particularly focus on bullying, sexual abuse and suicidal feelings.

This conference will:

- demonstrate the value of what children and young people are saying
- help professionals inform their practice by sharing with them what children and young people are saying are issues for them
- identify ways of working together to achieve the best outcome for children and young people
- highlight areas of best practice in relation to the prevention of bullying, sexual abuse and suicide
- share how children and young people's issues change over time.

http://www.nspcc.org.uk/Inform/newsandevents/CPConferences/what_are_children_worried_about_wda70325.html

Conferences (continued)

Framework for the Inspection of Maintained Schools

2nd March 2010 Westminster £225 + VAT
Delegates will have the opportunity to examine the new inspection framework and consider the impact these new developments will have on the future of school inspections and what more needs to be done to ensure their effectiveness & credibility.

Key issues to be discussed include:

- Implications for schools, LAs and parents
- New priorities for inspectors
- Implications of changing focus of central government
- Ofsted's role in context of new framework
- Role of inspectorates in monitoring child protection
- Involvement of parents & governors
- New proposals for seeking students' and parents' views of schools
- Supporting & challenging schools
- Changing role of the School Improvement Partners & LAs
- New relationship between schools and LAs

<http://www.westminster-briefing.com/?p=5384>

The National Children and Adult Services Conference

3rd November 2010 – 5th November 2010
Manchester £495 + VAT

This is an established event that sees an audience of approximately 1200 high-level attendees coming together for 3 days to discuss and debate the latest issues affecting children and adult services.

This event is vital to councillors, senior officers, policymakers and service managers with responsibilities for children's services and adult social care in the statutory, voluntary and private sector. It is also an important opportunity for networking with partners and MP's in related fields.

<http://www.lga.gov.uk/lga/events/display-event.do?id=6127051>

Data: Making the Case for Children and Young People in the Next Decade

2nd March 2010 Central London
£175 - £300 + VAT

Improvements in children's services over the next decade will be led by knowing more about existing needs, and using resources better. The key will be turning the data which are already collected into performance information in order to assist local decision making and national accountability exercises.

This conference will explore what national and local government and their partner bodies are doing to improve the quality of children's services through using data better to make the case for children. There will be a theme of integrating data sets which will be reflected in a CSN/NFER survey on behalf of PIRGE which challenges local government to use data better to make the case for children and young people.

<https://member.lgiu.org.uk/events/Documents/CSN/CSN020310.pdf>

This weekly newsletter collates information from various sources that is relevant to safeguarding children. Anyone working in this area who would like to be added to the circulation list can forward their details to – keithdriver@btinternet.com