

**SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN
INFORMATION & NEWS UPDATE
6th November 2009**

**ContactPoint rolled out nationally
(06/11/09)**

Faster and better contact between children's services professionals across England will now become a reality as ContactPoint starts to be rolled out nationally to LAs and frontline practitioners.

An evaluation report of the initial phase of the ContactPoint rollout, Lessons Learned from the Early Adopter Phase, shows how ContactPoint is making a positive difference daily to the practitioners already using it.

It highlights that early feedback from practitioners is good, with over 75% saying they believe ContactPoint will be helpful in their future work. In one area a deputy principal has already been able to locate 8 students missing from education for over a year using ContactPoint

ContactPoint is being implemented in a steady and staged way. It is now available for LAs and national partners across England to train frontline practitioners, including doctors, nurses, social workers, the police and voluntary sector workers, if ContactPoint can help them in their work with children.

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/news/content.cfm?landing=contactpoint_rolled_out_nationally&type=1
<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/download/?id=6745>
<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/strategy/deliveringservices1/contactpoint/contactpoint/>

Personal Social Health and Economic education (05/11/09)

Building on the independent review by Sir Alasdair Macdonald and public consultations, PSHE is to become a statutory part of the national curriculum at primary and secondary level for all young people from September 2011.

PSHE gives young people the information they need to make the right choices about their future. It covers issues such as leading healthier lifestyles; body image and health issues; managing personal finance; careers education; avoiding harm from alcohol and drugs; and sex and relationships.

Ed Balls also reinforced support for 3 important principles underpinning Sex and Relationship Education:

- Schools can continue to tailor the curriculum in ways they think best
- Governing bodies can retain their right to determine their own approach, in accordance with the ethos of their school.
- Arrangements put in place appropriately recognise and respect the rights of the very small minority of parents who already withdraw their children, and of those parents who might want to do so in future.

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from SRE until age 19, but the Govt believes this should be lowered. It is to bring forward legislation to lower the age to 15.

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/pns/DisplayPN.cgi?pn_id=2009_0208
<http://publications.dcsf.gov.uk/default.aspx?PageFunction=productdetails&PageMode=publications&ProductId=QCDA%2f09%2f4358&>

Local authorities and voluntary organisations newly equipped in the front-line fight against forced marriage

(02/11/09)

The issuing of protection orders for those at risk of forced marriage will be more responsive to the needs of victims under new powers which come into force today.

LAs can now seek a protection order for vulnerable adults and children without first having to seek leave of the court. Forced Marriage Protection Orders can help vulnerable victims in a range of situations depending on what is needed most. These include orders to:

- prevent anyone entering into any arrangements for engagement or marriage
- hand over passports to stop someone from being taken abroad
- stop intimidation and violence
- reveal the whereabouts of a person.

Failure to comply with an order could lead to imprisonment. Courts are also able to initiate steps to return those already forced into marriage back to the UK. 11 voluntary and charitable organisations have also benefited from funding for a pilot scheme providing a dedicated trained adviser to help with the fight against forced marriage. This resource will help them in their role in supporting victims who need to leave home, need support through the court process, and in rebuilding their lives.

The number of applications has already exceeded expectation with 72 orders made as at the end of September.

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/news/newsrelease021109a.htm>

Guidance for local authorities on applying for forced marriage protection orders and information for other agencies.

Anyone threatened with forced marriage or forced to marry against their will can apply for a Forced Marriage Protection Order.

Third parties, such as relatives, friends, voluntary workers and police officers, can also apply for a protection order with the leave of the court. 15 county courts deal with applications and make orders to prevent forced marriages.

The guidance explains how LAs can apply for protection orders and provides information for other agencies.

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/guidance/forced-marriage.htm>

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/guidance/docs/forced-marriage.pdf>

New global education funding to benefit thousands of UK school children

(02/11/09)

Thousands more children in the UK and overseas could get involved in the government's Global School Partnership Programme thanks to new starter grants launched today by International Development Minister Mike Foster.

The new funding provides 1,000 £250 starter grants for teachers to develop global education within the curriculum and establish school partnerships with developing countries. They are funded by the Department for International Development and can be used towards lesson cover and travel costs for teachers to attend information workshops and also in-school training to build development education expertise.

<http://nds.coi.gov.uk/Content/detail.aspx?NewsAreaId=2&ReleaseID=408166&SubjectId=2>

A Minute for Madeleine (03/11/09)

The Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre has issued an online viral message aimed at anyone close to the person who was involved in the disappearance of Madeleine McCann. That person could be a relative, friend, work colleague or neighbour. Whoever they are they have a secret that could reveal what happened to Madeleine and protect other children.

In order to increase the possibility of reaching that person CEOP, supported by global law enforcement agencies and specialist charities, is asking the public to help spread the message via the internet.
http://www.ceop.gov.uk/mediacentre/pressreleases/2009/ceop_03112009g.asp
<http://www.ceop.gov.uk/madeleine/madeleine.asp>

Hidden Children (02/11/09)

Children and young people trafficked into the UK or exploited after arrival are struggling to get help from authorities responsible for their welfare, according to new research. Some say that even when they do alert frontline professionals including the police, teachers and social workers, many are unwilling to help, disbelieve the seriousness of their situation or do not know where to refer them for advice.

Whilst recent media reports have claimed that the problem has been overstated, this new report brings into perspective the problems faced by children separated from their carers and exploited and mistreated by those responsible for them in the UK.
http://www.childrensociety.org.uk/whats_happening/media_office/latest_news/18792_pr.html
http://www.childrensociety.org.uk/resources/documents/media/18843_full.pdf

Statement of Ethical Principles for the Public Prosecutor (02/11/09)

This statement sets out what is expected of public prosecutors in England and Wales. It applies to all prosecutors, including Crown Advocates and Associate Prosecutors in the CPS, the Revenue and Customs Prosecutions Office, and those briefed to appear on their behalf.

The Statement lays down standards of conduct and practice, including:

- Basic obligations under the law and the Criminal Procedure Rules;
- Professional conduct in general - which means acting with integrity, impartiality and fairness, preserving professional confidentiality at all times;
- Professional conduct in criminal proceedings - upholding the duty to the court to act with independence and in the interests of justice;
- Consider the concerns of victims and witnesses when their personal interests are, or might be affected, subject to the requirements of a fair trial.

http://www.cps.gov.uk/news/press_releases/153_09/

http://www.cps.gov.uk/legal/s_to_u/statment_of_ethical_principles_for_the_public_prosecutor/

Learning about inclusion (30/10/09)

Inclusion is a challenge for many schools. This research explores a project in which groups of teachers were inspired to improve practice in their schools by engaging in action research. 7 comprehensive schools from England and Wales each had 2 teacher action research groups, both facilitated by an educational psychologist.

<http://www.gtce.org.uk/teachers/rft/inclusion1009/>

<http://www.gtce.org.uk/pdf/teachers/rft/inclusion1009>

Child obesity 'levelling off' (03/11/09)

Data published today suggests the rapid rise in child obesity may be levelling off. The figures, produced by a team of independent experts led by Professor Klim McPherson of Oxford University, looked at children's overweight and obesity levels that have been forecast to 2020.

Analysis using data from the past few years indicate a:

- 17% drop in the forecasted number of overweight 2 – 11 year old girls
- 4% drop in the anticipated numbers of obese girls of the same age
- 5% drop in the forecast number of overweight boys of the same age
- 7% drop in the anticipated numbers of obese boys of the same age

<http://nds.coi.gov.uk/content/detail.aspx?NewsAreaId=2&ReleaseID=408158&SubjectId=2>

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/News/Recentstories/DH_107835

Suspension: information for providers, parents and carers on suspension of childcare (05/11/09)

Sometimes we find it necessary to suspend a provider's registration. We only suspend a provider's registration where we believe a child or children may be at risk of harm.

This does not always mean that the provider has done something wrong, but it does allow us time to investigate our concerns or provide time for steps to be taken to reduce or eliminate the risk. We stop the suspension as soon as we are satisfied that children are not at risk.

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Forms-and-guidance/Browse-all-by/Other/General/Suspension-information-for-providers-parents-and-carers-on-suspension-of-childcare>

Childcare - Regulating play-based provision (03/11/09)

This factsheet explains Ofsted's role in regulating play-based provision. 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-Regulating-play-based-provision>
<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/content/download/10283/117903/file/Regulating%20play-based%20provision.doc>

Inspection service providers' protocol for managing conflicts of interest (03/11/09)

This protocol is designed to deal with actual and potential conflicts of interest, as well as addressing perceived conflicts of interest. It will provide clarity for providers, inspection service providers and Ofsted and should minimise the potential disruption and the increased workload that result from conflicts of interest.

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Forms-and-guidance/Browse-all-by/Other/General/Inspection-service-providers-protocol-for-managing-conflicts-of-interest>
<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/content/download/10280/117875/file/Inspection%20service%20providers%20protocol%20for%20managing%20conflicts%20of%20interest.doc>

Social Care & Early Years (Nov 2009)

These newsletters provide inspectors and stakeholders with information and guidance about its inspection work in social care and early years.

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/content/download/10271/117764/file/Social%20care%20November%202009.pdf>
<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/content/download/10309/118150/file/Early%20years%20November%202009.pdf>

Ofsted: How to object - Guidance for registered childminders and childcare providers (29/10/09)

This leaflet tells you how and when someone applying to register as, or already registered as, a childcare provider, can object to an intention to take steps that will affect their registration.

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Forms-and-guidance/Browse-all-by/Other/General/How-to-object-guidance-for-registered-childminders-and-childcare-providers>
<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/content/download/10258/117637/file/How%20to%20object.doc>

Ofsted: How to appeal - Guidance for people applying to provide and those registered to provide childcare or children's social care (29/10/09)

This leaflet explains how and when someone, applying to provide or already registered to provide childcare or children's social care, can appeal against a decision to take steps that affects their registration.

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Forms-and-guidance/Browse-all-by/Other/General/How-to-appeal-guidance-for-people-applying-to-provide-and-those-registered-to-provide-childcare-or-childrens-social-care>
<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/content/download/10256/117627/file/How%20to%20appeal.doc>
<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Forms-and-guidance/Browse-all-by/Other/General/Information-for-providers-and-parents-and-carers-on-suspending-the-provision-of-childcare>

Improving Educational Outcomes for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Pupils: What works? Contextual influences and constructive conditions that may influence pupil achievement (October 2009)

Between February and June 2009, case studies were undertaken in 10 secondary schools, 5 primary schools and 5 alternative education provisions. The sample was selected from schools with Gypsy, Roma and Traveller pupils on roll that completed and returned a national survey in the autumn term 2007.

The main aim of the case studies was to explore in greater depth some of the strategies and approaches described by schools in the questionnaire returns. Researchers conducted face-to-face interviews with senior leaders and other key staff from schools and LAs, and led focus group discussions with pupils, parents and teachers.

This publication reports on the findings of these case studies.
<http://publications.dcsf.gov.uk/default.aspx?PageFunction=productdetails&PageMode=publications&ProductId=DCSF-RR170>
<http://publications.dcsf.gov.uk/eOrderingDownload/DCSF-RR170.pdf>

Independent review of elective home education (28/10/09)

This is a copy of a letter from Graham Badman sent to Mr Barry Sheerman, Chairman of the Children, Schools and Families Select Committee
<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/ete/independentreviewofhomeeducation/irhomeeducation/>
<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/download/?id=6737>

Mind the Road!

Road safety resources for childminders

This website launched by CAPT contains downloadable resources for childminders to use with the children and families they work with.

The website is about helping young children to develop road safety awareness. So they can develop basic skills to stay safe during their early years – which they can build on as they grow older and eventually become independent road users.

And it's about helping adults to polish up their own road safety awareness – so they can communicate the right messages to children and young people. It also aims to help adults increase their understanding of how young children learn, so they can develop the most effective ways of teaching road safety awareness.

<http://www.mindtheroad.org.uk/>

New online resources for mums, dads, carers and grandparents (29/10/09)

The minister for Children, Young People and Families, has announced 3 new pilot projects to help up to 5m mums, dads, carers and grandparents get important parenting information support and guidance.

The Parent Know How Innovation Fund has created the 3 projects, as recent research showed that 80% of parents reported they were 'satisfied' or 'very satisfied' with the information or support provided by existing Parent Know How services.

These latest additions will launch in January and join a range of other helpline and innovative services available to ensure that wherever they look for information, mums, dads, carers and grandparents receive coherent advice from respected sources.

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/pns/DisplayPN.cgi?pn_id=2009_0203

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

Evidence review of access to independent advocacy (October 2009)

Independent advocacy involves a partnership between a concerned member of the community (advocate) and a person who may be feeling vulnerable, isolated or disempowered. This review examined 4 situations where disabled people are particularly at risk of losing choice and control over their lives:

- During transition to adulthood
- When the children of disabled parents are subject to safeguarding procedures
- When entry to residential care is a possibility
- When disabled people are victims or alleged perpetrators of anti-social behaviour

Limited evidence was found about the costs, benefits or need for advocacy in these situations. Existing evidence is mainly from small-scale qualitative studies making it difficult to generalise findings. However, the review found that whilst outcomes achieved did not always match the person's wishes, the support provided by the advocate was positive. This included having a better understanding of the process a disabled person was going through and receiving emotional support.

A framework for research on costs/benefits of independent advocacy is also published.

<http://www.dwp.gov.uk/newsroom/press-releases/2009/october-2009/dwp055-09-291009.shtml>

<http://www.odi.gov.uk/research/research-reports.php>

<http://www.odi.gov.uk/docs/res/iar/iar-exec-summary-standard.pdf>

<http://www.odi.gov.uk/docs/res/iar/iar-exec-summary-easy.pdf>

<http://www.odi.gov.uk/docs/res/iar/iar-full.pdf>

Budget Holding Lead Professional Pilots in Multi-agency Children's Services in England: National evaluation (October 2009)

In 2006, pilots were established in a variety of locations in England to allow lead professionals (LPs) working with children and young people with additional needs to hold budgets and commission services tailored to each child's needs.

This evaluation assessed the benefits of enabling lead professionals to control budgets for commissioning / purchasing support services for children and young people with additional needs and looks at the costs of establishing BHL P practice and its impact on resource use. The study analysed the cost-effectiveness of BHL P practice and described the operation of the programme and determined whether particular contexts influence its effectiveness.

The report is written primarily for policymakers and practitioners who are interested in the minutiae of the evaluation. It contains eleven chapters and the more technical detail is contained in Annexes 1 and 2.

The evaluation involved analysis of case level data on children and young people from 16 BHL P pilots and 2 non-BHL P LAs. E-surveys of BHL Ps and managers and in-depth interviews with children, young people, parents and practitioners in 3 case study pilots were carried out. Multi-agency working in 2 BHL P pilots was examined.

<http://publications.dcsf.gov.uk/default.aspx?PageFunction=productdetails&PageMode=publications&ProductId=DCSF-RR143> & <http://publications.dcsf.gov.uk/eOrderingDownload/DCSF-RR143.pdf>

Family courts: Information pilot announced (02/11/09)

Online publication of some judgments in family cases, like care proceedings and contact and residence cases, will be piloted at courts in Leeds and Cardiff. These are part of a drive to help public and media find out how family courts work and how decisions are reached. The online judgments will be anonymous to protect family identities, and the families themselves will receive a copy. The MoJ will consider retaining copies of judgments for children involved in the case to read when they are older.

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/news/newsrelease021109b.htm>

Doctors warn of dangers of allowing media access to reports in family court cases (28/10/09)

17 organisations representing doctors, lawyers, social workers, and children have joined to fight plans to allow media access to medical and welfare reports in family court cases. The Interdisciplinary Alliance for Children says that the plans threaten doctor-patient confidentiality; may breach the UNCRC and the right to privacy in the European human rights convention; and threaten substantial further harm to children who are already at risk.

The government plans to unveil the changes in the Queen's speech, which will announce forthcoming legislation, on 18 November. They are set to be included in the Improving Schools and Safeguarding Children Bill, which is expected to be introduced early in the new legislative session.

http://www.bmj.com/cgi/content/extract/339/oct28_2/b4449

<http://www.baspcan.org.uk/latest-bulletins.php>

<http://www.baspcan.org.uk/files/PressreleaseInterdisciplinaryAllianceForChildren.doc>

Children, young people and alcohol: how they learn and how to prevent excessive use

(30/10/09)

Two linked research reviews:

- Influences on how children and young people learn about and behave towards alcohol: A review of the literature for the JRF (part 1) - looks in detail at the influences on children, including family processes and structures, peers, marketing and cultural representations, and other major forces such as religion, school and community.
- Alcohol prevention programmes: A review of the literature for the JRF (Part 2) - reviews what interventions have been attempted to try to prevent excessive use of alcohol by young people, summarises the findings and suggests how a universal prevention programme might be delivered.

<http://www.jrf.org.uk/publications/young-people-alcohol-excessive-prevention>

<http://www.jrf.org.uk/sites/files/jrf/children-and-alcohol-use.pdf>

<http://www.jrf.org.uk/sites/files/jrf/children-alcohol-use-partone.pdf>

<http://www.jrf.org.uk/sites/files/jrf/alcohol-prevention-progs-parttwo.pdf>

Doing better for children

This report published by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development finds that the UK's high public spending on child welfare and education has failed to produce positive results. Compared with other OECD countries, figures for the UK reveal it has a high proportion of young people who are not in school, training or employment as well as the 4th highest teen pregnancy rate after Mexico, Turkey and the US.

Drawing on a wide range of data sources, this publication formulates and analyses different indicators of child well-being



across the OECD. These indicators cover 6 key areas: material well-being; housing and environment; education; health and safety; risk behaviours; and quality of school life. They show that no one OECD country performs well in all areas and that every OECD country can do more to improve children's lives.

How much countries are spending on children and when is also considered. Additional chapters offer detailed examinations of countries' policies for children under the age of 3; the impact of single parenthood on children; and the effect of inequalities across generations. The publication concludes with recommendations for improving child well-being.

http://www.nationalschool.gov.uk/policyhub/news_item/child_welfare_oecd09.asp

<http://browse.oecdbookshop.org/oecd/pdfs/browseit/8109031E5.PDF>

<http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/21/6/43590251.pdf>

Think Families - Speech by Dawn Primarolo in London on 03/11/09 -

Government has been prioritising action to support families at risk – including families affected by substance misuse and offending. The national roll out of Think Family is encouraging all services to co-ordinate support, so they can intervene earlier. Every LA is receiving extra investment to provide more parenting, and intensive family support. The planned allocation for next year's LA grant will be £89m, an increase on last year.

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/speeches/search_detail.cfm?ID=944

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/speeches/media/documents/thinkfamiliesweb.doc.doc>

National Support Team for Response to - Sexual Violence (02/11/09)

Following 'The Cross Government Action Plan on Sexual Violence and Abuse (April 2007)', the HO and DH jointly agreed to deliver the cross government Tackling Violence agenda through the National Support Team for Response to Sexual Violence (RSV).

The NST has taken the leadership role commissioned by the DH to ensure that the specific delivery of aspects of the cross government sexual violence agenda, which includes development of SARCs, is of a high quality and consistent across England.
<http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/PublicHealth/HealthImprovement/NationalSupportTeams/SexualViolence/index.htm>

HSE Myth of the Month (November 2009)
'Health and safety rules stop classroom experiments'

Hands-on lessons are an essential part of learning. They bring science to life and also teach kids how to handle dangerous substances safely.

Classroom demos can be spectacular - just ask HSE Chair Judith Hackitt. Earlier this year she 'set her hands alight' - safely - to show science and sensible risk management in action!

There's no reason why health and safety should stop schools carrying out science experiments. They can help children learn how to manage risk - and all that's required in most cases are a few sensible precautions.
<http://www.hse.gov.uk/myth/nov09.htm>

Toolkit for high quality neonatal services - (04/11/09)

The DH has published new guidance to help the NHS improve the care provided for premature and sick babies during their first days.

Babies who are born prematurely or have a low birth weight require very specialised care in their first hours and days. A Neonatal Taskforce was established to identify ways of further improving services to offer the best neonatal care possible. It has recommended that neonatal care become more family-centred to ensure the psychological as well as physical needs of babies and families are considered.

The Toolkit provides practical advice on how to improve on the areas that really matter to parents including:

- making sure the right staff are on hand at the birth
- managing high-risk pregnancies to make sure babies are born in the best place
- improving transfers between services where necessary

It includes a set of 8 principles that aim to establish the following standards in neonatal care:

- Organisation of neonatal services
- Staffing of neonatal services
- Care of the baby and family experience
- Transfers
- Professional competence, education and training
- Surgical services
- Clinical governance
- Data requirements

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_107845

http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/@dh/@en/@ps/@sta/@p

New programme launched to cut youth crime (05/11/09)

A pioneering project dedicated to making London safer by helping young offenders turn their backs on crime was launched today by Justice Secretary Jack Straw and the Mayor of London Boris Johnson.

The Heron Unit is the UK's first dedicated resettlement unit for 15 - 17 year olds who have demonstrated a commitment to changing their criminal pasts. It is a key part of the Mayor's youth plan 'Time for Action' and helps to deliver the government's £100m Youth Crime Action Plan.

Offenders referred to the Heron Unit, located inside Feltham Young Offenders Institution, will be placed on a programme designed to tackle their offending behaviour. This includes 1 to 1 help in finding somewhere to live; getting important life skills and finding a job. They will be prepared to make a positive contribution to their local communities when they leave custody.

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/news/newsrelease051109a.htm>

Reducing reoffending: supporting families, creating better futures (03/11/09)

This is a framework for improving the local delivery of support for families of offenders. The framework, developed with the DCSF, sets out key tasks for criminal justice agencies and local services to support the children and families of offenders at each stage of the criminal justice system and beyond.

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/latest-updates/reducing-reoffending-supporting-families.htm>

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/about/docs/reducing-reoffending-supporting-families.pdf>

20 areas to deliver £6.5m Child Poverty Family Intervention Projects (03/11/09)

The most vulnerable children in the country are to receive extra help from a package of measures that will help many different types of families at risk, specifically supporting: children living in poverty; children whose parents are in prison; children of parents with drug and alcohol problems; and children who are caring for their parents or other family members.

These projects will address the underlying problems that are preventing parents from gaining employment and lifting their family out of poverty - such as drugs and alcohol misuse, domestic violence and mental health problems. Other measures include:

- A new framework setting out how probation and prison services must work together with children's services to help offenders maintain family ties and improve support for their children and families.
 - New guidance for professionals working in adult drug and alcohol treatment services and family and parenting services to provide more support for children of parents with substance misuse problems, to meet their welfare needs and protect them from harm.
 - A £3.6m expansion of the Young Carer Pathfinder projects to 12 new local authority areas to improve the outcomes of children who often miss education due to caring responsibilities at home.
 - New indicative 'Think Family' grant funding allocations for every LA from 2010-2011 so that they can plan the recruitment and training of extra professionals to help families at risk, and to provide FIPs for all families that need one.
- http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/pns/DisplayPN.cgi?pn_id=2009_0206

Consultations

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

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>

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>

Consultations (continued)

Should the National Assembly for Wales have greater powers over the role of school governors in Wales? (28/10/09)

The Assembly's Legislation Committee No. 4 is calling for evidence to be considered for the proposed Legislative Competence Education Order 2010 relating to school governance and wants to hear from interested parties including members of the public.

The proposed Order has been laid by the Welsh Government and in a statement the Minister for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills Jane Hutt AM said:
"The debate in plenary on 30/09/09 gave Members an opportunity to discuss the Enterprise and Learning Committee's report 'The Role of School Governors' published in July. That report, whilst highlighting the excellent work already undertaken by governing bodies, highlighted some areas where improvements are possible.

"These included support and advice for governors; governors training; the role of the clerk; communications and knowledge of the policy context within which governors work; and the relationship between governors' effectiveness and school performance."

At present the National Assembly does not have the powers to make Measures to address these issues. The purpose of the proposed Order is to provide those powers and the role of the Legislation Committee No. 4 is to examine whether the powers being asked for by the Welsh Government are suitable.

<http://www.assemblywales.org/newhome/new-news-third-assembly.htm?act=dis&id=149644&ds=11/2009>

Conferences

Information sharing: responsibilities of managers in Children's Trusts

17th November, Birmingham

18th November, Leeds

20th November, London

These events focus on how to achieve sustainable improvements in information sharing practice. The objectives include:

- raising awareness of roles and responsibilities of managers within Children's Trusts arrangements in embedding good practice in information sharing at the front-line
- Discussing the implications of the issues and recommendations on information sharing raised in Lord Laming's report
- Hearing about the latest information sharing products available from DCSF
- Sharing best practice and lessons learned

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<http://www.pauljamesassociates.co.uk/>

From Child Abuse to Safeguarding - the Changing Face of Child Protection

20th November 2009 Cheshire

£85 - £130 + VAT

This conference has the following objectives:

- To consider what has improved, what has got worse, and what has stayed the same for Children at Risk and In Need;
- To provide a critical outline of the current Child Protection System;
- To look at what changes are in prospect; and
- To pose the question – overall, is the welfare of Children At Risk better or worse safeguarded in 2009 than it was in 1974?

<http://www.togethertrust.org.uk/download/conference/DayConfNov09CHESHIRE.pdf>

Extended services: Getting “hard to reach” schools on board

23rd November 2009 London

£150 - £250 +VAT

LAs have made rapid progress in rolling out extended services. By July 09 83% of schools were delivering the core offer of childcare, after-school activities, access to specialist services, parenting support and community access to facilities. But rolling out coverage to the remaining schools represents a significant challenge for LAs.

This seminar will therefore explore best practice in engaging senior leaders with the extended services agenda with an experienced, expert panel.

The seminar will cover:

- Understanding the school perspective
- The positive impact of extended services on hard-to-reach schools
- An overview of best practice in engaging hard-to-reach schools

<https://member.lgiu.org.uk/events/Pages/CSN231109.aspx>

Conferences (continued)

Delivering the behaviour challenge – how nurture groups can make a difference

30th November 2009 London

£150 - £250 +VAT

The Govt's Behaviour Implementation Plan / Strategy expects more action from schools where pupils exhibit poor behaviour, urges LAs to make this a high priority, and targets some LAs to develop a local action plan.

Nurture groups is one way to address emotional problems that can lead to poor behaviour. The Ofsted report on exclusion of 4–7 year olds and Sir Alan Steer's review of behaviour also recommend wider use of nurture groups.

This seminar will:

- show how nurturing principles and practice can form part of children and young people's plans, including reducing offending and re-offending
- explain how to fund nurture groups, saving expenditure on providing withdrawal facilities for permanently excluded pupils
- help LAs develop action plans to improve behaviour
- assist heads, senior staff and governors to develop and improve their school's plan.

<https://member.lgiu.org.uk/events/Pages/CSN301109.aspx>

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Repositioning child protection: learning from good practice - the 16th national symposium on inter-agency training

1st -2nd December 2009 Leicester

£335 - £395

This symposium will empower inter-agency trainers to address the national CP agenda and share effective practice.

Objectives:

- provide an opportunity for people to reflect critically on the debate on child protection
- help delegates share and learn from examples of good practice
- reinvigorate trainers' confidence and enhance skills and knowledge.

The symposium is for those with direct responsibility for the provision of inter-agency safeguarding training, including:

- inter-agency training coordinators/managers
- members of LSCB training sub-groups
- members of inter-agency training pools

What can you expect?

- updates on research, policy and practice developments in the field
- keynote presentations that stimulate thinking and strengthen practice within inter-agency training
- workshops that explore core and innovative subjects in safeguarding training
- opportunities to network and share resources with others involved in inter-agency training and development.

http://www.nspcc.org.uk/Inform/newsandevents/CPConferences/PIATSymposium_wda50415.html

http://www.nspcc.org.uk/Inform/newsandevents/CPConferences/PIATSymposium_PDF_wdf68122.pdf

Conferences (continued)

Five Years On - What's Changed for Children and Young People?

8th December 2009 London

£212.75 including VAT

This conference will help DCSs and senior managers meet statutory duties to listen to and involve children and young people and champion their interests. Reflecting on 5 years of the Children Act 2004, it will identify what has worked well and what still needs to be done to ensure that the views and opinions of children and young people help to shape and influence policy and practice. The conference will draw on examples of best practice from a range of LAs.

Interactive round table discussions will cover topics including:

- 11 Million: partnership working with LAs
- CAAs & LAAs – Involving C&YP
- The Play Agenda – the impact on LAs and how it is managed
- Apprentices – LA directives, young people and peer delivery
- Engaging young people in the assessing of service provision
- Children's Trusts and the G.O.S.E. Participation Pilot
- Participation – the cost benefit analysis
- Participation & Children's Rights
- Involving C&YP in education settings
- Changing Public Perceptions of Children & Young People
- Participatory Budgeting

<http://www.participationworks.org.uk/fiveyearson>

Is there a crisis in adoption and permanent post placement support? Lessons and learning from a one year project

19th January 2009 London

£129 - £149 + VAT

The provision of services to support families who have a child placed for adoption or in permanent alternative kinship or foster care has been recognised as crucial. It is a core part of the framework in the Adoption and Children Act 2002.

The part that CAMHS play in this framework is critical yet there has been uncertainty about the availability of CAMHS and its effectiveness and its relationship with those services provided by LAs and the voluntary sector.

The conference will explore:

- Range and nature of children's difficulties in the context of new family relationships
- Nature of the 'parenting' task in adoption and other forms of permanent family care
- Contribution that CAMHS make to providing support and the difficulties in providing an effective CAMH service
- Importance and development of comprehensive and effective assessment systems
- Development of effective multi-agency systems of intervention and support

http://www.baaf.org.uk/res/training/details/100119_conf.shtml

http://www.baaf.org.uk/res/training/details/100119_conf.doc

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