**Just one day off can hamper children's life chances** (24/03/16)

Missing school for just a few days a year can damage pupils’ chances of gaining good GCSEs, according to a new report published by the DfE.

The new research shows that overall absence had a negative link to attainment, with every extra day missed associated with a lower chance of achieving 5 or more good GCSEs or equivalent at grades A\* to C including in English and mathematics, or gaining the gold standard English Baccalaureate (EBacc).

The research backs the government’s clampdown on absence and truancy to ensure more pupils regularly attend school and leave with the qualifications they need to succeed in modern Britain.

The latest annual pupil absence statistics for 2014 to 2015 were also published today and confirm that school absence has remained at near historic low levels. In particular, they show that:

* the overall rate of absence was 4.6% compared to 6% in the same period in 2009 to 2010 - demonstrating that the government’s and schools’ approach to tackling absence is working
* the slight 0.1% rise in overall absence since last year was driven by increases in absence due to illness - the most prevalent reason for taking time off from school, accounting for over 60% of all absence. This is in line with the rise in

rise in influenza between 2013 to 2015 and 2014 to 2015 seen in PHE statistics

* tightening of rules around term-time holidays is also working - in 2014-15, 13.8% of pupil enrolments had missed at least half a day for family holidays (both authorised and unauthorised), down from 15.0% in 2013 to 2014
* term-time holidays (authorised and unauthorised) accounted for 7.5% of all absences in 2014 to 2015 compared to 8.5% in 2013 to 2014 - equating to 4.1m school days lost due to term-time holidays, down from 4.4m in the previous year
* nearly 200,000 fewer pupils were persistently absent from school than in the same period in 2009 to 2010, with the persistent absence rate remaining at historic lows at 3.7% compared to 6.8% in 2009 to 2010

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/just-one-day-off-can-hamper-childrens-life-chances>

**Absence statistics guide** (24/03/16)

A guide outlining how we produce statistics on pupil absence.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/absence-statistics-guide>

**Pupil absence in schools in England: 2014 to 2015** (24/03/16)

This release reports on pupil absence in primary and secondary schools in the 2014 to 2015 academic year.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/pupil-absence-in-schools-in-england-2014-to-2015>

SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN

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**Next steps for delivering landmark childcare offer unveiled** (03/04/16)

Proposals to provide hard-working parents with greater choice and flexibility over their childcare as part of the government’s landmark 30-hour free offer have been published today.

The 9-week consultation sets out plans to broaden the types of hours offered to cover 6am to 8pm and extending the minimum length of childcare sessions so as to provide greater flexibility to hard-working mothers and fathers, giving them the support they need.

It follows the Childcare Act being given royal assent, meaning the government is on track to deliver its manifesto commitment, backed-up with the greatest ever investment in childcare - with an extra £1 billion funding per year over this Parliament - and an increase to the national hourly funding rate.

The consultation is being launched alongside a review into ways of reducing red tape within the sector, so that childcare providers are freed from the burdens this can place on their time and resources, giving them more contact time with the children they look after.

Plans to fund provider expansions so they can offer more childcare places in the areas of greatest need and deliver our 30-hour offer will also get underway.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/next-steps-for-delivering-landmark-childcare-offer-unveiled>

See consultations

**Education Secretary unveils a new blueprint for adoption** (27/03/16)

A new strategy to transform the life chances of those children, who spend up to 18 months in care waiting to be adopted, has been unveiled by.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/education-secretary-unveils-a-new-blueprint-for-adoption>

**Adoption: a vision for change** (31/03/16)

How the government plans to address challenges in the adoption system over the next 4 years.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/adoption-a-vision-for-change>

**Children looked after in England including adoption: 2014-15** (30/03/16)

Information on looked-after children at both national and LA levels.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/children-looked-after-in-england-including-adoption-2014-to-2015>

**Adoption scorecards** (27/03/16)

Data showing the amount of time LAs take to place children in need of adoption with a family.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/adoption-scorecards>

**Children adopted from care and the pupil premium: template letter** (22/03/16)

A template LAs can use to tell alternative education providers how to claim the pupil premium for children adopted from care.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/children-adopted-from-care-and-the-pupil-premium-template-letter>

**£200m to transform life chances of vulnerable young people** (03/04/16)

Nicky Morgan unveils new investment to overhaul services for the most vulnerable children and young people.

Hundreds of millions are being invested in a new programme to revolutionise support for the most vulnerable children and families, backed by brand-new freedoms for town halls to provide life-changing services for troubled young people, the Education Secretary has announced.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/200-million-to-transform-life-chances-of-vulnerable-young-people>

**Outcomes for children looked after by LAs: 31 March 2015** (24/03/16)

Outcome measures at national and LA level in England for children continuously looked after for at least 12 months.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/outcomes-for-children-looked-after-by-las-31-march-2015>

**Characteristics of children in need: 2014 to 2015** (24/03/16)

Children referred to and assessed by children's social services for the financial year ending March 2015.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/characteristics-of-children-in-need-2014-to-2015>

**New support to improve the life chances of millions** (14/03/16)

The PM announces new support including the Help to Save scheme, a national mentoring campaign - and increases in the National Minimum Wage.

* Government to help kick-start savings

with a £1,200 bonus for up to 3.5m people through new Help to Save

* £14m investment to help turn around the lives of 25,000 struggling teens through national mentoring campaign
* Almost half a million young people to receive a pay rise of up to £450 a year thanks to the largest increases in the National Minimum Wage for 8 years

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pm-announces-new-support-to-improve-the-life-chances-of-millions>

**Rise across the country in teenagers studying or training** (09/03/16)

The proportion of young people in education or training rose across England last year, according to figures published today.

Data collected by LAs shows that at the end of 2015 91.2% of 16- and 17-year-olds were in some form of education or training. This was a 1% rise on the same period in 2014.

As part of its commitment to delivering educational excellence everywhere, the government is determined to ensure all young people, irrespective of their background, have the chance to fulfil their potential.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/rise-across-the-country-in-teenagers-studying-or-training>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/participation-in-education-and-training-by-local-authority>

**Children’s Social Care Innovation programme** (03/04/16)

A programme that seeks to develop, test and share effective ways of supporting children who need help from children’s social care services.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/childrens-social-care-innovation-programme>

**Secure children’s homes reform: Edward Timpson letter** (03/01/16)

Edward Timpson writes to the Association of Directors of Children’s Services and Local Government Association.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/secure-childrens-homes-reform-edward-timpson-letter>

**Child death overview panels: contacts** (07/04/16)

Contact details of the people in CDOPs who are responsible for receiving child death notifications.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/child-death-overview-panels-contacts>

**Mental health and behaviour in schools** (18/03/16)

How to identify and support pupils whose behaviour suggests they may have unmet mental health needs.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/mental-health-and-behaviour-in-schools--2>

**DfE strategy 2015 to 2020: world-class education and care** (17/03/16)

How DfE will work towards achieving our vision of world-class education and care.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/dfe-strategy-2015-to-2020-world-class-education-and-care>

**Academy trusts: notices about poor performance** (24/03/16)

Pre-warning notice or warning notice letters to academy trusts about poor performance in academies.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/list-of-letters-to-academy-trusts-about-poor-performance>

**Intervening in failing, underperforming and coasting schools** (24/03/16)

Consultation outcome - Summary of responses we received, along with the government’s response outlining the next steps.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/intervening-in-failing-underperforming-and-coasting-schools>

**Schools causing concern** (24/03/16)

Statutory guidance explaining LAs' and regional schools commissioners' responsibilities relating to schools causing concern.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/schools-causing-concern--2>

**Common transfer file 16: specification** (15/03/16)

Technical information to help software suppliers.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/common-transfer-file-16-specification>

**Pupil premium: summer schools programme 2015** (11/03/16)

Information for schools taking part in the 2015 to 2016 summer schools programme.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pupil-premium-summer-schools-programme-2014>

**Nicky Morgan unveils new vision for the education system** (17/03/16)

Education white paper outlines plans to transform England's schools and build on the progress that has already been made.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/nicky-morgan-unveils-new-vision-for-the-education-system>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/nicky-morgan-educational-excellence-everywhere>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/stepping-up-to-shape-an-education-system-which-delivers-opportunity-for-all>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/educational-excellence-everywhere-letters-from-ministers>

**Edward Timpson speaks to virtual school heads** (23/03/16)

Children and Families Minster gives a keynote speech at the Annual Conference of Virtual School Heads.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/edward-timpson-speaks-to-virtual-school-heads>

**Young people’s experiences of the transition to work: survey results** (08/04/16)

The House of Lords Select Committee on Social Mobility has published its report on the transition from school to work today. As part of its inquiry, the Committee conducted an online survey to find out more about the experiences of young people in their transition into work. The results of this survey have been published today, alongside the Committee’s report.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/lords-select/social-mobility/news-parliament-2015/social-mobility-survey-results/>

**Report - Overlooked and left behind: improving the transition from school to work for the majority of young people** (08/04/16)

53% of young people do not follow the ‘traditional’ academic route into work. This majority of young people are significantly overlooked in their transition for work by the education system and the focus on apprenticeships is not suitable for everyone, the House of Lords Select Committee on Social Mobility has found.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/lords-select/social-mobility/news-parliament-2015/social-mobility-report-published/>

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201516/ldselect/ldsocmob/120/12002.htm>

**Participation in education and training: LA figures** (09/03/16)

Databases showing the proportion of 16- and 17-year-olds in education and training.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/participation-in-education-and-training-by-local-authority>

**British schools overseas: inspection reports** (09/03/16)

Inspection reports of British schools overseas meeting DfE accreditation standards and their registration as education settings on Edubase.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/british-schools-overseas-inspection-reports>

**SEND: guide for health professionals** (11/03/16)

Guidance for health professionals on the support system for children and young people with special educational needs and disability.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/send-guide-for-health-professionals>

**NICE Pathway - Food allergy in children and young people** (March 2016)

This quality standard covers the diagnosis, assessment and management of food allergy in children, young people and adults. Children and young people are those aged under 19.

<https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/qs118>

**NICE Pathway – Anaphylaxis** (March 2016)

This quality standard covers the care of adults, young people and children after emergency treatment for suspected anaphylaxis, including referral to a specialist allergy service.

<https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/qs119>

**Child Health Profiles 2016 published by Public Health England** (15/03/16)

The profiles provide a snapshot of children and young people’s health by local authority and CCG in England.

The Child Health Profiles 2016 present data across 32 key health indicators of child health and wellbeing. The data will help local organisations work in partnership to improve health in their local area. The profiles provide a snapshot of children and young people’s health by LA and CCG in England.

There is a 4 page profile for each LA in England which includes:

* an ‘At a glance’ summary description of child health in the area which highlights key findings
* maps and charts showing how the health of the area compares to the national view and other local authorities in England
* a ‘spine chart’ health summary showing the difference in health between the area and the England average for 32 indicators within the 5 domains of the Public Health Outcomes Framework

PHE’s Child and Maternal (ChiMat) Health Intelligence Network’s website also provides interactive maps and charts for users to create customised views of the data, and links to further supporting and relevant products.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/child-health-profiles-2016-published-by-public-health-england>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/2016-child-health-profiles>

**Childhood influenza vaccination pilot programme, England 2014 to 2015: End of season report** (07/04/16)

This document describes and reports on the cumulative uptake of influenza vaccine during the 2014 to 2015 pilot programme, with a focus on the results from the final end of season data submitted to PHE at school-level between March and April 2015.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/childhood-influenza-vaccination-pilot-programme-england-2014-to-2015report>

**Screening tests for you and your baby: description in brief** (04/04/16)

This document explains the screening tests offered during and after pregnancy, in English and 12 other languages. Local programmes should commission new translations.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/screening-tests-for-you-and-your-baby-description-in-brief>

**Newborn and infant physical examination: programme handbook** (04/04/16)

This document brings together all the guidelines that relate to the NHS newborn and infant physical examination (NIPE) screening programme.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/newborn-and-infant-physical-examination-programme-handbook>

**Newborn and infant physical examination screening: standards** (04/04/16)

Standards required by healthcare professionals working in newborn and infant physical examination screening.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/newborn-and-infant-physical-examination-screening-standards>

**Newborn blood spot screening** (March 2016)

Annual report on data collected by the NBS screening programme.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/newborn-blood-spot-screening-data-collection-and-performance-analysis-report>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/newborn-blood-spot-screening-sampling-guidelines>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/declined-newborn-blood-spot-screening-template-letters>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/guidelines-for-newborn-blood-spot-sampling-2015>

**The complete routine immunisation schedule** (23/03/16)

Immunisation information for health professionals and immunisation practitioners

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-complete-routine-immunisation-schedule>

**3 year project helps to bring down number of teenage pregnancies in Wales** (08/03/16)

The Teenage Pregnancy Reduction report describes a programme of work carried out between 2011 and 2015 aimed at reducing teenage conceptions in Wales.

<http://www.wales.nhs.uk/sitesplus/888/news/40647>

**Fact sheet on mandatory reporting of FGM** (06/04/16)

Fact sheet, with translations, for communities on mandatory reporting of FGM.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/fact-sheet-on-mandatory-reporting-of-female-genital-mutilation>

**Multi-agency statutory guidance on FGM** (01/04/16)

Multi-agency guidelines on FGM for those with statutory duties to safeguard children and vulnerable adults.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/multi-agency-statutory-guidance-on-female-genital-mutilation>

**National referral mechanism: guidance for child first responders** (23/03/16)

Guidance outlines the role of a first responder, the use of children’s services and when and how to refer the child to the national referral mechanism.

Also provides information on the steps after referral, including reasonable grounds tests, decisions and reviews.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-referral-mechanism-guidance-for-child-first-responders>

**Forced Marriage Unit - Statistics 2015** (08/03/16)

Details of the FMU's casework during 2015

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/forced-marriage-unit-statistics-2015>

**Strategy to end violence against women and girls: 2016 to 2020** (08/03/16)

This document provides an overview of the wide range of actions the government will be taking towards its strategy of ending violence against women and girls between 2016 and 2020.

It also details how the government intends to build on the previous action plan to end violence against women and girls.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/strategy-to-end-violence-against-women-and-girls-2016-to-2020>

**£80m to stop violence against women and girls** (08/03/16)

In a radical shift from crisis response to the committed funding to £80 million to protect women and girls from violence,

as part of a new violence against women and girls (VAWG) strategy.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/80-million-to-stop-violence-against-women-and-girls>

**WePROTECT: fighting online CSE** (23/03/16)

The Home Secretary and Baroness Shields have hosted the first meeting of the WePROTECT Global Alliance to End Online CSE Advisory Board.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/weprotect-fighting-online-child-sexual-exploitation>

**Circular 002/2016: amendment to the definition of 'arrested juvenile'** (08/04/16)

The upper age limit in the definition of 'arrested juvenile' in section 37(15) of PACE is raised from 16 to 17.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/circular-0022016-amendment-to-the-definition-of-arrested-juvenile>

**Prevent duty guidance** (23/03/16)

Prevent duty guidance for Scotland and England and Wales.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/prevent-duty-guidance>

**Prevent Duty: training courses** (23/03/16)

A catalogue of training courses to help individuals covered by the requirements of the Prevent Duty.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/prevent-duty-catalogue-of-training-courses>

**Missing children: who cares? – The police response to missing and absent children** (23/03/16)

Dedication of police officers to help missing and absent children undermined by unacceptable inconsistencies across forces, leaving children at risk

Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary has today published a report on the police response to missing and absent children.

<http://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmic/news/news-feed/dedication-of-police-officers-to-help-missing-and-absent-children-undermined/>

**Youth custody** (01/04/16)

Justice Minister Andrew Selous has written to the chair of the Justice Select Committee about Medway Secure Training Centre – intention to extend current G4S contract and review arrangements.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/youth-custody>

**Youth custody data** (08/04/16)

Monthly statistics on the population in custody of children and young people within the secure estate.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/youth-custody-data>

**Support for victims of modern slavery** (24/03/16)

A leaflet outlining the support available for victims of modern slavery in 11 foreign languages.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/support-for-victims-of-human-trafficking>

**Review of the youth justice system** (03/03/16)

Interim report of emerging findings from the review of the youth justice system.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/review-of-the-youth-justice-system>

**Sale of knives: voluntary agreement by retailers** (23/03/16)

Voluntary agreement with major retailers on a set of principles to prevent the underage sale of knives in their stores and through their websites.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sale-of-knives-voluntary-agreement-by-retailers>

**Disclosure and Barring Service** **– applicant guide** (22/03/16)

Guidance about the DBS update service, how to join and how to renew a subscription to the service.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/dbs-update-service-applicant-guide>

**DBS update service: employer guide** (22/03/16)

Guidance about the DBS update service.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/dbs-update-service-employer-guide>

**DBS Service** (30/03/16)

March edition of the DBS newsletter.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/dbs-news-march-2016>

**DBS barring referrals: making representations** (11/04/16)

How to make representations to the DBS when you are being considered for barring.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/dbs-referral-guide-making-representations>

**Online application to provide childcare** (24/03/16)

In May, Ofsted will update the Ofsted Online site for applying to provide childcare. Online application will be unavailable from Monday 9 May until Sunday 15 May.

Ofsted will update Ofsted Online for the requirements of the Small Business, Enterprise and Employment Act 2015 as the Act affects childcare provision.

Applicants will get further information after logging into Ofsted Online.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/online-application-to-provide-childcare-unavailable-9-to-15-may>

**Local areas to get more notice of SEND inspections** (10/03/16)

From May, Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission will inspect local areas' responsibilities to children and young people with SEND.

Local areas will have a longer notice period of inspections so that parents and others have greater opportunity to contribute their views and experiences.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/local-areas-to-get-more-notice-of-send-inspections>

**Joint inspections of CSE and missing children: February to August 2016** (05/04/16)

Guidance for inspectors for joint targeted area inspections of local area services.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/joint-inspections-of-child-sexual-exploitation-and-missing-children-february-to-august-2016>

**Inspecting boarding and residential provision in schools: framework** (01/04/16)

Framework for Ofsted inspection of boarding and residential provision in maintained, non-maintained and independent boarding and residential special schools.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-framework-for-inspecting-boarding-and-residential-provision-in-schools>

**Inspecting boarding and residential provision in schools: guidance for inspectors** (01/04/16)

Ofsted inspectors use this guidance when inspecting boarding and residential provision in schools.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/inspecting-boarding-and-residential-provision-in-schools-guidance-for-inspectors>

**Ofsted's further education and skills inspections outcomes from December 2015** (31/03/16)

Monthly management information showing in-year and most recent inspection outcomes.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/monthly-management-information-ofsteds-further-education-and-skills-inspections-outcomes-from-december-2015>

**Inspecting children's homes: framework** (30/03/16)

Framework for the inspection of children’s homes by Ofsted and Annex A as a form for providers to complete.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/inspecting-childrens-homes-framework>

**Inspecting children's homes: guidance for inspectors** (30/03/16)

Ofsted inspectors use this guidance when inspecting children’s homes and secure children’s homes.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/inspecting-childrens-homes-guidance-for-inspectors>

**Open a children's home: do you need to register?** (30/03/16)

Document to read if you want to become this children's social care provider type.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/how-to-open-a-childrens-home>

**Childcare providers and inspections** (24/03/16)

This release includes registered childcare providers and places, inspection outcomes and movement in the childcare sector as at 31 December 2015.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/childcare-providers-and-inspections-as-at-31-december-2015>

**Preparing learners with high needs for adult life** (22/03/16)

This report examines how well FE and skills provision meets the needs and interests of young people with high levels of need

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/preparing-learners-with-high-needs-for-adult-life>

**Ofsted's children’s homes inspection outcomes** (22/03/16)

Quarterly management information.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/quarterly-management-information-ofsteds-childrens-homes-inspection-outcomes>

**Ofsted's school inspections outcomes** (17/03/16)

Management information published monthly and a one-off publication of inspection outcomes from 2005 to 2015.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/monthly-management-information-ofsteds-school-inspections-outcomes>

**School inspection newsletter: 2015 to 2016** (15/03/16)

This newsletter provides inspectors and stakeholders with information and guidance about Ofsted's inspection work in schools.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-inspection-newsletter-2015-to-2016>

**Maintained schools and academies: inspections and outcomes** (10/03/16)

Maintained schools and academies inspections and outcomes covering the period April to August 2015 provisional and January to March 2015 revised.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/maintained-schools-and-academies-inspections-and-outcomes-sep-2014-to-aug-2015>

**Inspection outcome letters: School Partnership Trust academies** (10/03/16)

Outcome letters for inspections of academies within the School Partnership Trust in 2014 and 2015.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-partnership-trust-academies-spta-inspection-outcome-letter>

**Focused inspections of academies in multi-academy trusts** (10/03/16)

This advice note from Sir Michael Wilshaw to the Education Secretary sets out the findings from Ofsted's assessments of multi-academy trusts.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/focused-inspections-of-academies-in-multi-academy-trusts>

**Local area SEND consultation** (10/03/16)

This report summarises the responses to the formal consultation.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/local-area-send-consultation>

**Memorandum of understanding between Ofsted and DfE: independent schools** (10/03/16)

How Ofsted and the DfE will work together to deliver inspections of independent schools.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/memorandum-of-understanding-independent-schools>

**Placements under section 20 remain a viable option for looked after children** (01/04/16)

New guidance issued today by Cafcass, ADCS and ADSS Cymru clarifies expectations on LAs for children looked after under section 20 of the Children Act 1989, following judicial and sector concerns about its use.

The guidance confirms that being looked after under s20[1] of the Children Act 1989 remains a viable option for many children despite the recent concern, expressed by the judiciary and others in the sector, at cases where children have

been left to ‘drift’, without decent care plans in place, with those children suffering harm or detriment as a result.

The guidance also confirms that LAs should review all open s20 cases to ensure that s20 status remains the appropriate current legal option and framework for the child. It sets out best practice for s20 for newborn babies, and examples of where s20 is used appropriately.

The guidance also clarifies the duties and responsibilities a LA has to a child who is looked after under s20.

There is no existing statutory guidance relating to the general use of section 20 of the Children Act 1989, leading ADCS, ADSS Cymru and Cafcass to work in partnership to produce this note. All children’s social workers are expected to familiarise themselves with this guidance and to see it being applied in cases.

<https://www.cafcass.gov.uk/news/2016/march/placements-under-section-20-remain-a-viable-option-for-looked-after-children.aspx>

**Making the most of Child Safety Week** (16/03/16)

Child Safety Week offers you a great opportunity to raise families’ awareness, forge partnerships and put child accident prevention on the local agenda.

“Child Safety Week gives us the opportunity to promote child safety and engage with families. It also gives us the opportunity to work in partnership with local agencies and organisations to help support local families. The reward for all the hard work is when parents come back and say how well a piece of equipment or advice has helped keep their child safe.”

Child Safety Week is CAPT’s flagship annual community education campaign. This year Child Safety Week runs from Monday 6 to Sunday 12 June with the theme Turn off technology for safety.

<http://www.capt.org.uk/who-we-are/news/making-most-child-safety-week>

**Poor Mental Health: The Links Between Child Poverty and Mental Health Problems** (30/03/16)

Young people living in poverty are less likely to feel optimistic about the future and more likely to think of themselves as failures than their wealthier classmates, a report by The Children’s Society reveals.

The report, which also finds poorer children are more likely than their richer peers to say that they do not feel useful, highlights the growing body of evidence linking poverty to unhappiness and mental health problems.

<http://www.childrenssociety.org.uk/news-and-blogs/press-releases/poor-teenagers-more-likely-to-feel-like-a-failure-than-wealthier>

**Poverty and children’s personal and social relationships** (30/03/16)

New research shows the impact growing up in deprived households can have on children's friendships and family life.

<http://www.ncb.org.uk/news/growing-up-in-poverty-detrimental-to-children%E2%80%99s-friendships-and-family-life>

**Teenage runaways are at great risk of CSE in North Wales** (18/03/16)

Research undertaken confirms the link between running away and going missing and risk of CSE in North Wales.

<http://www.barnardos.org.uk/news/Teenage-runaways-are-at-great-risk-of-sexual-exploitation-in-North-Wales/press_releases.htm?ref=114280>

**Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse**(03/04/16)

Statement from Hon. Dame Lowell Goddard in response to recent media reporting inaccuracies in how the Inquiry conducts its work.

<https://www.iicsa.org.uk/news>

<https://www.iicsa.org.uk/news/statement-chair-inquiry-april-2016>

**Draft statutory multi-agency practice guidance on FGM** (01/04/16)

This document covers:

* the background to the consultation;
* a summary of the responses to the consultation;
* the next steps following

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/consultation-on-the-draft-statutory-multi-agency-practice-guidance-on-female-genital-mutilation-fgm>

**SI 2016/452 - The Children and Young Persons Act 2008 (Commencement No. 8 and Saving Provision) (Wales) Order 2016** (06/03/16)

Article 2 provides that s8(1) and 8(2) in so far as that subsection relates to specified paragraphs of Schedule 1, and ss 10 and 16 of the Act come into force on 06/04/16 (in so far as they are not already in force).

S8 replaces s23 of the Children Act 1989 with new ss 22A to 22F. It re-enacts the duties on LAs to provide accommodation for children who are in their care (new s22A) and to maintain all looked after children in other respects apart from the provision of accommodation (new s22B).

S10(1) and (3) replaces s26(2)(k) and (2A) to (2D) of the 1989 Act with new ss 25A and 25B that set out: requirements regarding the appointment of an IRO for each LAC; the IRO’s functions; and an associated provision enabling the functions of CAFCASS officers and Welsh family proceedings officers to be extended.

S16 replaces paragraph 17 of Schedule 2 to the 1989 Act, extending the group of LAC for whom an independent person must be appointed to visit, befriend and advise the child, to include all those for whom an appointment would be in their interests. The appropriate national authority may by regulations extend those to whom the duty is owed to other prescribed groups of looked after children (subsection (1)(a)).

Article 3 contains a saving provision which provides that despite the amendments made to s26 of the 1989 Act by the coming into force of provision within s10(3) of the Act, s26 continues to have effect without amendment for the purposes of making regulations under

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| paragraph 10(2)(l) of Schedule 6 to the Children Act 1989 (regulations as to the placing of children in private children’s homes). <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/wsi/2016/452/contents/made>**SI 2016/466 - The Education and Adoption Act 2016 (Commencement, Transitional Provisions and Savings) Regulations 2016** (04/04/16) |

These Regulations bring into force on 18th April 2016 all of the provisions of the Education and Adoption Act 2016, except for section 1 (which provides for coasting maintained schools to be eligible for intervention), s15 (which deals with LA adoption functions) and s16 (which makes consequential repeals).

Regulation 3 amends the Academies Act 2010 so that the references to s14 of the Education and Adoption Act coming into force are replaced with the actual date on which it comes into force. The power to do this is in s104 of the Deregulation Act 2015.

Regulation 4 provides that the old law will continue to apply where a local authority has given either a performance standards and safety warning notice or a teachers’ pay and conditions warning notice before 18th April and an appeal could be or has been made against the warning notice.

Regulation 5 provides that the Secretary of State does not have to make an Academy order for schools which are scheduled to close after 18th April 2016, following completion of the procedure for school closure set out in the Education and Inspections Act 2006.

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2016/466/contents/made>

**2016 c. 6 - Education and Adoption Act 2016** (17/03/16)

An Act to make provision about schools in England that are causing concern, including provision about their conversion into Academies and about intervention powers; and to make provision about joint arrangements for carrying out LA adoption functions in England.

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2016/6/contents/enacted>

**Childcare Act 2016** (17/03/167)

An Act to make provision about free childcare for young children of working parents and about the publication of information about childcare and related matters by LAs in England.

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2016/5/contents/enacted>

**SI 2016/312 - The Children (Secure Accommodation) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2016** (14/03/16)

These Regulations amend the Children (Secure Accommodation) (Wales) Regulations 2015 and come into force at the same time on 6 April 2016.

The amendments to regulations 1, 2, 9 and 12 of the Principal Regulations make changes to ensure that the requirements imposed on Welsh LAs in relation to placements in secure accommodation apply regardless of whether they place children in Wales or in England.

The amendments to regulation 1 amend the definition of “secure accommodation” so that where the words are used they refer to accommodation whether in Wales or England unless the

contrary is indicated.

The amendments to regulations 2, 9 and 12 insert words to make clear that in those regulations the references to “secure accommodation” are limited to Wales.

The effect of the amendment to regulation 7 is to ensure that a child who is remanded to LA accommodation and who is placed in secure accommodation cannot be placed for longer than 28 days without reverting to the court.

The amendment to regulation 14 removes the prohibition on LAs applying to court for authority to place 16 and 17 year olds in secure accommodation where the 16 and 17 year olds are accommodated under section 76 of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014.

The amendment to regulation 15 is made to reflect an amendment made to the effect of section 38 of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 so that the obligation on a custody officer in section 38(6) to move arrested juveniles to local authority accommodation has now been extended to children under 18 years of age. This amendment therefore aligns the provisions of regulation 15 of the Principal Regulations accordingly so that the lower threshold applies to all such children.

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/wsi/2016/312/contents/made>

**SI 2016/412 - The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 (Commencement No. 3, Savings and Transitional Provisions) Order 2016** (04/04/16)

Article 2 brings the provisions of the Act into force, to the extent that they are not already in force, on 6 April 2016.

Article 3 introduces the Schedules, which make savings and transitional provisions.

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/wsi/2016/412/contents/made>

**SI 2016/216 - The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 (Consequential Amendments) and Care Planning, Placement and Case Review (Miscellaneous Amendments) (Wales) Regulations 2016** (14/03/16)

These Regulations are made as a result of the commencement of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014.

The 2014 Act replaces, in relation to Wales, the provision formerly made by Part 3 of and Schedule 2 to the Children Act 1989.

The powers within the 2014 Act have been exercised (in the main using the powers within Part 6 of that Act (looked after and accommodated children)) to make the Care Planning, Placement and Case Review (Wales) Regulations 2015.

The 2015 Regulations make provision about care planning and associated matters for looked after children, that is, for children who are looked after by a LA (whether or not they are in the care of that authority by virtue of a care order under section 31 of the 1989 Act).

These Regulations make consequential and incidental amendments to secondary legislation required as a consequence of the commencement of the 2014 Act and the making of the 2015 Regulations in exercise of the powers within Part 6 of the 2014 Act.

The secondary legislation which is amended by these Regulations makes provision (in the main) about care planning, placement decisions and the review of cases of certain children (those looked after by a LA, accommodated by voluntary organisations, or placed in a private children’s home).

The effect of the amendments made in these Regulations is that the earlier secondary legislation, which makes provision about care planning and associated matters for children, will apply only in relation to children who are provided with accommodation by a voluntary organisation and to children who are placed in private children’s homes and will make reference to the appropriate provision made by the 2014 Act.

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/wsi/2016/216/contents/made>

**National Outcomes Framework for Youth Work** (24/03/16)

This consultation sets out the Welsh Government’s proposals for a new National Outcomes Framework for Youth Work in Wales.

Closing date: 9th June 2016

<http://gov.wales/consultations/education/nof-for-youth-work/?lang=en>

**Consultation on the refreshed Autistic Spectrum Disorder Strategic Action Plan** (04/03/16)

We are seeking views from people with autism and their parents, carers and professionals who provide services and support.

Closing date: 27th May 2016

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

**30-hour free childcare entitlement – Consultation** (04/04/16)

We’re seeking views on:

* how LAs should work with childcare providers to provide the entitlement
* how we meet the needs of working parents
* provision for children with special education needs and disabilities
* how LAs tell parents about locally available childcare
* how LAs would operate a ‘grace period’ (what happens if a parent loses their eligibility for the entitlement)

Closing date: 6th June 2016

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/30-hour-free-childcare-entitlement>

**Carers strategy: call for evidence** (18/03/16)

Informal carers (aka unpaid carers) are people who look after family members, friends, neighbours or others because of long-term physical or mental ill health or disability, or care needs related to old age. This does not include any activities as part of paid employment.

Carers freely give their time and energy to support friends or family members and many rightly take pride in providing essential support for those close to them. Caring for others should not be to the detriment of the carer’s own health and wellbeing and carers can receive support e.g. from social services, the NHS, or the benefit system.

We think that we need a new strategy for carers setting out how we can do more. One which reflects their lives now, the health and financial concerns they have, and gives them the support they need to live well whilst caring for a family member or friend.

To help us develop the strategy, we want to hear from carers, those who have someone care for them, business, social workers, NHS staff and other professionals that support carers.

Closing date: 30th June 2016

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/carers-strategy-call-for-evidence>

<https://consultations.dh.gov.uk/carers/how-can-we-improve-support-for-carers>

Consultations

**Transforming Child Mental Health: Innovation and Impact**

6th July 2016 London

£249 - £459 + VAT

This conference will enable you to:

* Hear the government’s update on implementing the Future in Mind reforms, changes in commissioning, and plans to increase workforce skills
* Understand the prevalence of children and young people’s mental health problems and current state of provision
* Intervene effectively with young people at risk of self-harming
* Hear about improving perinatal mental health and early attachment
* Spot the signs and respond appropriately to young people with eating disorders
* Hear how services provide early help to young people with moderate emotional and behavioural diffculties; and provide support to those at risk of entering care
* Hear how special and mainstream schools support children to build resilience, understand their emotions and run peer mentoring programmes
* Learn about the whole-system programme to improve mental health for under-25s across Birmingham
* Hear how young people can infuence and shape their own support, service design and strategy
* Learn about the successes and challenges of talking therapies

<https://www.eventsforce.net/mag/frontend/reg/thome.csp?pageID=107016&eventID=292&language=1&traceRedir=2&eventID=292>

**Local Area Joint SEND Inspections: Understanding Policy, Preparing for Implementation**

18th May 2016 London £225 + VAT

From May 2016 Ofsted and CQC will begin inspecting jointly to assess how local areas are identifying and supporting children and young people with SEN. Receive a brief on how these inspections will be carried out, what they mean for pupils & local areas and how they fit with other assessments.

Key Issues to be Addressed:

* An overview of the new inspection arrangements
* Rationale and impetus behind changes
* High-needs funding: future changes, impacts and ways forward
* Understanding the expectation to identify disabled children and young people and those who have special educational needs
* How can local areas work together effectively to meet the needs of children and young people?
* Evidencing improvement in outcomes and identification & support processes
* Effective practise in working for and with children, young people and their families
* Innovative examples of joint working and successful delivery
* Ideas for you to take back and implement with colleagues

<http://www.westminster-briefing.com/home/event-detail/newsarticle/local-area-joint-send-inspections-understanding-policy-preparing-for-implementation/>

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|   | The conference will enable you to:Hear the government’s update on implementing the Future in Mind reforms, changes in commissioning, and plans to increase workforce skills to build capacity across the systemUnderstand the prevalence of children and young people’s mental health problems and the current state of provisionIntervene effectively with young people at risk of self-harmingHear about improving perinatal mental health and early attachmentSpot the signs and respond appropriately to young people with eating disordersHear how services provide effective early help to young people with moderate emotional and behavioural diffculties; and provide crisis support to those at risk of entering careHear how special and mainstream schools support children to build resilience, understand their emotions and run peer mentoring programmesLearn about the whole-system programme to improve mental health for under-25s across BirminghamHear how young people can infuence and shape their own support, service design and strategyLearn about the successes and challenges of talking therapies in developing local transformation plans |

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Conferences

**Learning from Experts by Experience**

27th June 2016 Leeds £33 - £180

Working with parents who have mental health problems: Understanding how to develop inclusive practices in child protection
<http://www.baspcan.org.uk/>

**Pushed, Pulled and Ignored- Exploring messages from research into children and young people's experiences of CSE**

17th May 2016 Birmingham

£33 - £180
This event will consider the lessons learned in respect of CSE and how such knowledge must shape future responses to children and young people at risk.

This event will also enable delegates to examine a range of studies sponsored through BASPCAN's annual research awards that have all explored crucial areas relating to CSE. As with all BASPCAN events the day will be relevant to a broad range of professionals working in both statutory and non-statutory partner agencies.

<http://www.baspcan.org.uk/booking.php?event=61>

**Transforming Children and Young People’s Mental Health Services**

17th May 2016 London

£245 - £595 + VAT

This Forum provides an update on the progress being made in implementing government strategies for promoting Children and Young People’s mental health.

Participants will examine ways in which to identify children at higher risk of mental health problems, and learn from best practice examples around better mental health service delivery.

The forum also explores the vital role of multi-agency working in supporting parents and services to ensure Children and Young People get the quality of services required. The objectives for the newly available funding for schools and clinical commissioning groups to improve service delivery will be explained.

<http://www.insidegovernment.co.uk/event-details/childrens_mental_health/#overview>

Conferences (continued)

This newsletter collates information from various sources that is relevant to

safeguarding children. Anyone working in this area who would like to be added to

the circulation list can forward their details to – keithdriver@btinternet.com