

**SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN
INFORMATION UPDATE - 296
13th June 2018**

Members announced for new Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel
(07/06/18)

The DfE has announced six new members to the new Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel, drawing on professional experience from the police, children's social care, education and health sectors.

The independent panel, created under the Children and Social Work Act 2017, is one of the Government's major reforms to child safeguarding and protection, and will bring together individuals who have a wide range of expertise to improve the welfare of children around the country.

The new panel members will work with the chair, Edward Timpson CBE, to consider and share lessons to improve practice from the most serious child safeguarding cases.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/members-announced-for-new-child-safeguarding-practice-review-panel>

Multi-million pound investment in state of the art facilities for children with special educational needs (29/05/18)

Schools to benefit from an extra £50m to improve facilities and create more good school places for children with special educational needs. The Government also announced a further £680m to create 40,000 new good school places.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/multi-million-pound-investment-in-state-of-the-art-facilities-for-children-with-special-educational-needs>

Strengthened guidance for schools and colleges on safeguarding
(17/05/18)

The revised Keeping Children Safe in Education statutory guidance now provides additional advice to help school and college staff deal with allegations of child-on-child sexual violence and sexual harassment, following a 10-week public consultation launched in December.

The majority of the responses to the consultation on the guidance welcomed the additional advice on how to support victims of this type of 'peer abuse' and the new guidance will be applicable to all schools, including primary schools, on how to best support children of all ages.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/strengthened-guidance-for-schools-and-colleges-on-safeguarding>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/keeping-children-safe-in-education--2>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/keeping-children-safe-in-education-proposed-revisions>

Voices of Children in Foster Care
(17/05/18)

The voices of children and young people in foster care

<https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/publication/voices-of-children-in-foster-care/>

Boost in support for children with additional needs (10/05/18)

New measures to boost support for children and young people with additional needs set out the next steps in the government's drive to give every child the tools to fulfil their potential.

Data published today shows more than 98% of Statements of SEN were reviewed by the 31 March 2018 deadline, as part of the introduction of new Education, Health and Care plans. These new plans provide tailored support for children and young people with additional needs, bringing together their education, health and social care needs for the first time.

The DfE has also confirmed three new contracts to boost support for children with SEND and their families, to build on the progress being made to tackle inequalities in the education system.
<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/boost-in-support-for-children-with-additional-needs>

Children accommodated in secure children's homes: 31 March 2018 (07/06/18)

Statistics on approved placements by type, gender, age and length of stay.
<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/children-accommodated-in-secure-childrens-homes-31-march-2018>

Carers action plan 2018 to 2020 (05/06/18)

The plan sets out how the government will improve support for carers in England over the next 2 years.
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/carers-action-plan-2018-to-2020>

Children looked after data return 2018 to 2019: guide (31/05/18)

Guide for LAs submitting the children looked after data return for the year 2018 to 2019.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/children-looked-after-return-2018-to-2019-guide>

Child death overview panels: contacts (25/05/18)

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>

Education, health and care plans: parents and young people survey (24/05/18)

The views and experiences of people who received an EHC plan in 2015.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/education-health-and-care-plans-parents-and-young-people-survey>

Special educational needs: analysis and summary of data sources (24/05/18)

Analysis and links to data sources on children and young people with SEN in England.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sen-analysis-and-summary-of-data-sources>

Statements of SEN and EHC plans: England, 2018 (24/05/18)

Statistics and analysis on statements of special educational needs and education, health and care plans in England.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/statements-of-sen-and-ehc-plans-england-2018>

Children in need census 2018 to 2019: specification (23/05/18)

Specification and validation rules for LAs and software suppliers preparing for the 2018 to 2019 children in need census.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/children-in-need-census-2018-to-2019-specification>

Intercountry adoption: list of restricted countries (21/05/18)

A list of countries where special restrictions are in place.

This document details:

- countries where intercountry adoption has been suspended or where a moratorium is in place
- dates when the restrictions for each country came into force
- reasons why the restrictions are in place for each country

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/intercountry-adoption-list-of-restricted-countries>

Sexual violence and sexual harassment between children in schools and colleges (17/05/18)

Advice for schools and colleges on how to prevent and respond to reports of sexual violence and harassment between children.

This is for:

- governing bodies of maintained schools and colleges
- proprietors of independent schools (including academies, free schools and alternative provision academies) and non-maintained special schools
- management committees of pupil referral units

- headteachers, principals, senior leadership teams and designated safeguarding leads

It covers:

- what sexual violence and harassment is
- schools' and colleges' legal responsibilities
- a whole school or college approach to safeguarding and child protection
- how to respond to reports of sexual violence and sexual harassment

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sexual-violence-and-sexual-harassment-between-children-in-schools-and-colleges>

Pupil absence in schools in England: autumn term 2017 (17/05/18)

Indicative figures on overall, authorised, unauthorised and persistent absence by school type.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/pupil-absence-in-schools-in-england-autumn-term-2017>

Children's services omnibus (17/05/18)

A summary of responses from senior leaders in LAs to questions asked in waves 1, 2 and 3 of the children's services omnibus survey.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/childrens-services-omnibus>

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**Cross-government plan launched to
support unpaid carers (05/06/18)**

The 2-year plan will raise the profile of carers, improve employment opportunities and help to better identify young carers. The action plan sets out a 2-year programme of work to support unpaid carers, ahead of the forthcoming social care green paper which will set out long-term sustainable solutions for the social care system.

The measures include:

- a new scheme to improve employment support for carers, promoting best practice for flexible working, to enable carers to continue to work alongside their caring role
- a new £500,000 Carer Innovations Fund to promote creative and innovative ways to support carers
- funding for a review of best practice in identification of young carers and access to support

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/cross-government-plan-launched-to-support-unpaid-carers>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/carers-action-plan-2018-to-2020>

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



**Innovation fund open to help children
of dependent drinkers (22/05/18)**

£4.5m of joint funding for up to 8 LAs, aimed at improving the support services for children of dependent drinkers and alcohol dependent parents, has been committed by the DH and Social Care and the DWP. The fund is being managed by PHE, who announced today that LAs can now bid for funding.

Alcohol can be a major factor in causing parental conflict, which can lead to a range of poor outcomes for children including damaging their education, employment and health. It's estimated there are 200,000 children living with adults who are dependent drinkers. Not only are children of parents with alcohol dependency more likely to become dependent themselves, but between 2011 and 2014 parental alcohol misuse was recorded as a factor in 37% of cases where a child was seriously hurt or killed. Similarly, a DfE census showed that in 2016 to 2017 18% of children 'in need' were affected by alcohol.

Alongside this call for bids PHE has published a toolkit to support LAs in planning services. The toolkit includes data and advice on how best to meet the needs of children growing up in these situations and those of their parents and carers. This is the first time PHE has published local prevalence data of this nature. It is hoped that the data will assist LAs in identifying and commissioning appropriate services with sufficient capacity and resources in their area.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/innovation-fund-open-to-help-children-of-dependent-drinkers>

Routine enquiry about adverse childhood experiences: implementation pack evaluation (31/05/18)

An evaluation of the findings from a pilot of an implementation pack to support routine enquiry about adverse childhood experiences.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/routine-enquiry-about-adverse-childhood-experiences-implementation-pack-evaluation>

CSA: trauma-informed care (31/05/18)

A review of current evidence on trauma-informed care for responding to CSA and exploitation.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/child-sexual-abuse-trauma-informed-care>

New funding for suicide prevention in England (16/05/18)

Funding given to local communities that are worst affected by suicide to develop suicide prevention and reduction schemes.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-funding-for-suicide-prevention-in-england>

Measles outbreaks (11/05/18)

PHE England is advising the public to ensure they have had 2 doses of MMR vaccine after outbreaks of measles are confirmed across England.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/measles-outbreaks-across-england>

2018 child health profiles (05/06/18)

Profiles providing an overview of child health and wellbeing for each LA in England.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/2018-child-health-profiles> 

Health protection in schools and other childcare facilities (29/05/18)

A practical guide for staff on managing cases of infectious diseases in schools and other childcare settings.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-protection-in-schools-and-other-childcare-facilities>

National Child Measurement Programme: school feedback letters

(24/05/18)

Letter templates for LAs to send to schools participating in the NCMP.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-child-measurement-programme-school-feedback-letter>

Seasonal flu vaccine uptake in children of primary school age: winter 2017 to 2018 (24/05/18)

Report on the uptake of influenza vaccine in children of school years reception to year 4 during the 2017 to 2018 influenza vaccination programme in England.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/seasonal-flu-vaccine-uptake-in-children-of-primary-school-age-winter-2017-to-2018>

Parental alcohol and drug use: understanding the problem (22/05/18)

Guidance for local areas to identify problematic parental substance use to help commission services to reduce and prevent harm to children and families.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/parental-alcohol-and-drug-use-understanding-the-problem>

New laws will be created to make sure that the UK is the safest place in the world to be online, Digital Secretary Matt Hancock has announced

(20/05/18)

- New online safety laws to be created to make sure the UK is the safest place in the world to be online
- Response to Internet Safety Strategy consultation published today
- Government to collaborate with industry, charities and public on a White Paper

The move is part of a series of measures included in the government's response to the Internet Safety Strategy green paper. The Government has been clear that much more needs to be done to tackle the full range of online harm.

Our consultation revealed users feel powerless to address safety issues online and that technology companies operate without sufficient oversight or transparency. 6 in 10 people said they had witnessed inappropriate or harmful content online.

The Government is already working with social media companies to protect users and while several tech giants have taken positive steps, the performance of the industry overall has been mixed.

The UK Government will therefore take the lead, working collaboratively with tech companies, children's charities and other stakeholders to develop the detail of the new legislation.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-laws-to-make-social-media-safer>

Facing the Future - standards for children and young people in emergency care settings (June 2018)

These Standards were developed by the Intercollegiate Committee and are aimed at all health professionals working in emergency care.

The landscape of urgent and emergency care provision for children has changed significantly in recent years and continues to evolve at pace, albeit with much complexity and variation across the UK. These standards aim to ensure that urgent and emergency care is fully integrated to ensure children are seen by the right people, at the right place and in the right setting.

70 standards cover:

- An integrated urgent and emergency care system
- Environment in emergency care settings
- Workforce and training
- Management of the sick or injured child
- Safeguarding in emergency care settings
- Mental health
- Children with complex medical needs
- Major incidents involving children and young people
- Safe transfers
- Death of a child
- Information system and data analysis
- Research for paediatric emergency care

<https://www.rcpch.ac.uk/resources/facing-future-standards-children-young-people>

£1m Home Office funding to boost fight against knife crime (18/05/18)

Charities in England and Wales can bid from today for a share of a £1m fund to help steer young people away from gangs and violent crime.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/1-million-of-home-office-funding-to-boost-fight-against-knife-crime>

Youth custody data (08/06/18)

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>

Secure Schools vision (01/06/18)

Govt vision for Secure Schools -part of MoJ commitment to reform youth justice system.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/secure-schools-vision>

Draft: How to apply guide for Secure Schools (01/06/18)

Publication of the draft 'How to apply guide' for Secure Schools.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/draft-how-to-apply-guide-for-secure-schools>

Representation of children in public law proceedings (17/05/18)

Research on the role of children's representation in public family law proceedings.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/representation-of-children-in-public-law-proceedings>



'Involving parents – Communication between schools and parents of school-aged children' (06/06/18)

Schools should explore the most effective ways to communicate with parents so they can be better involved in their child's education, according to this report. While many schools are embracing a growing range of ways to help break down barriers between school and home, such as using digital apps, only a few schools actively consult with parents about which types of communication they prefer.

Today's report found that schools do not always involve fathers as well as they do mothers. Also, parents from areas of high deprivation are sometimes harder to reach. The report contains case studies outlining innovative strategies from schools that have successfully achieved effective parental communication and involvement.

<https://www.estyn.gov.wales/news/parental-involvement-schools-helps-pupils-achieve>

<https://www.estyn.gov.wales/thematic-reports/involving-parents-communication-between-schools-and-parents-school-aged-children>

Cafcass Private Law Applications

In April 2018, Cafcass received 3,541 new private law cases, up 12.9% compared with those received in April 2017. This is the highest demand for the month of April in the last 4 years.

<https://www.cafcass.gov.uk/about-cafcass/research-and-data/private-law-data/>

Cafcass Public Law Applications

In April 2018, Cafcass received a total of 1,110 care applications. This figure represents a 6.2% increase in comparison with April 2017.

<https://www.cafcass.gov.uk/about-cafcass/research-and-data/public-law-data/>

DBS News 2018: Edition Two (04/06/18)

Read the latest edition of the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) newsletter.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/dbs-news-2018-edition-two>

DBS update service: applicant guide

(30/05/18)

Guidance for the applicant 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 ID checking guidelines (10/05/18)

Guidance to help you validate the identity of a DBS check applicant and a new lead/countersignatory.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/dbs-identity-checking-guidelines>

Independent Inquiry into CSA

Anglican Church investigation

(04/06/18)

The Inquiry has today published a notice of determination in regards to the Anglican Church investigation.

<https://www.iicsa.org.uk/news/inquiry-publishes-notice-determination-anglican-church-investigation>



Inquiry announces mandatory reporting seminar (22/05/18)

The IICSA has confirmed the date of the seminar on mandatory reporting.

The aim of the seminar will be to gather information and views on whether mandatory reporting should be introduced as a response to CSA. The seminar will invite key individuals with valued insight in the subject and will examine the issues, concerns and practical implications of mandatory reporting.

Possible topics for discussion include: existing reporting obligations in England and Wales, arguments for and against the introduction of mandatory reporting, and views on how it might work in practice.

The one-day seminar will be held on Thursday 27 September 2018 at the Inquiry's hearing centre, 18 Pocock Street, London, SE1 0BW.

<https://www.iicsa.org.uk/news/inquiry-announces-mandatory-reporting-seminar>

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Who cares? (09/05/18)

A Children's Commissioner report on public expectations for the care of vulnerable children

<https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/publication/who-cares/>

Annual Stability Index for children in care (01/06/18)

CC Anne Longfield is publishing her second Stability Index, an annual report which tracks the experiences of children in care. The Index gathers data from LAs in England to assess how frequently children in care are ‘pinging’ around the care system – changing home, school or social worker over the course of a year.

This year’s Index shows many children in care receive stable and consistent care but reveals that thousands of children are still ‘pinging’ around the system, changing homes, schools or social worker. The report also shows just how disruptive changing school can be.

The research suggests that older children – especially those entering care from 12 to 15 – are most at risk of instability and may need extra support to prevent placements breaking down. It also highlights the importance of getting children in care into the best schools: children at poor-performing schools are more likely to experience a school move, and less likely to move to a better school. By comparison, those in good schools are less likely to move, and when they do it is usually to another good school.

<https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/2018/06/01/childrens-commissioners-annual-stability-index-for-children-in-care-warns-thousands-of-vulnerable-teenage-pinball-kids-are-pinging-around-the-care-system/>



Children in care are doing well in Wales (15/05/18)

Most children and young people in care in Wales are doing well, new research shows. The study set out to explore the placement journeys for children in care in Wales, how these compare with the outcomes aspired to in their Care Plan and the key success factors associated with positive placements.

The report found:

- Over ¾ of the whole cohort of children experienced a high level of placement stability – with either no placement move (30%) or only one placement move (46%) over the 4-5 year period that the study looked at.
- 71% of the smaller sub-sample had overall positive outcomes in relation to their home environment, communication and attachments; education; physical health and the absence of offending; 19% had mixed outcomes; and 10% had overall negative outcomes;
- Whilst 78% of the whole cohort of children was officially recorded as having a primary need for care relating to abuse and neglect, the in-depth analysis found that almost all children in the sub-sample had experienced abuse and neglect before the Care Order was made.

<https://gov.wales/newsroom/health-and-social-services/2018/carec/?lang=en>

Service helping to keep families together goes Wales-wide (29/05/18)

The Reflect programme was initially developed by Newport City Council, with the assistance of Barnardo's Cymru, to support mothers following the compulsory, permanent removal of one or more children due to child protection concerns.

In every year since 2010, Newport has seen between 11 and 16 babies removed at birth and placed for adoption when the child's mother has previously had a child removed. In one family, nine children had been removed at birth. Heads of Children's Services across Wales have established this pattern is common across the country.

Last year, the Welsh Government announced an additional £8m investment to provide further support for looked after children. £850,000 a year has been allocated to support the roll-out of the Reflect programme across Wales.

Reflect delivers intensive, one-to-one support to at-risk women in the hope that they can improve their lives, by reducing the emotional, social and financial costs of children being taken into care in the future. Those involved are offered emotional support alongside practical help including contraceptive advice and access to housing, education and employment services.

<https://gov.wales/newsroom/health-and-social-services/2018/fservice/?lang=en>



Letter to parents for school inspections (07/06/18)

Letter explaining why and when Ofsted inspects maintained and independent schools, and how parents share their views.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/letter-to-parents-for-school-inspections>

Local area SEND inspections: information for families (05/06/18)

Information for families about inspections of local area services for children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-area-send-inspections-information-for-families>

Become a childminder: pre-registration briefing (31/05/18)

This is a presentation of the pre-registration briefing for childminders.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pre-registration-briefing-for-those-wishing-to-become-childminders>

Ofsted Parent View: management information (31/05/18)

Management information published annually in the interests of transparency.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/ofsted-parent-view-management-information>

Annual questionnaire of pupils at non-association independent schools

(29/05/18)

Ofsted's annual point-in-time survey for all pupils aged 2 to 19 at non-association independent schools.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/annual-questionnaire-of-pupils-at-non-association-independent-schools>

Questionnaire for LAs placing children in independent schools

(29/05/18)

Annual point-in-time questionnaire for inspecting education in non-association independent schools and inspecting boarding provision in maintained and independent boarding and residential special schools.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/questionnaire-for-local-authorities-which-place-children-in-independent-schools>

Inspecting independent schools: letter for parents and carers

(29/05/18)

This is a letter sent to parents and carers about independent school inspections at the time of inspection.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/letter-for-parents-and-carers-about-independent-school-inspections>

Inspecting independent schools: pre-registration and material change inspections

(29/05/18)

A leaflet for registered and proposed new independent schools outlining what Ofsted inspectors will look at.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/inspecting-independent-schools-pre-registration-and-material-change-inspections>

Inspecting non-association independent schools: leaflet for parents

(29/05/18)

A leaflet for parents and carers about inspections of non-association independent schools.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/inspecting-non-association-independent-schools>

Inspecting non-association independent schools: leaflet for schools

(29/05/18)

This leaflet sets out what Ofsted will look at during an inspection of a non-association independent school.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/inspections-of-non-association-independent-schools-boarding-schools-and-residential-special-schools-a-leaflet-for-non-association-independent-school>

Inspecting schools: leaflet for schools

(23/05/18)

This leaflet outlines what Ofsted will look at during a school inspection.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/inspecting-schools-leaflet-for-schools>

Inspecting schools: guidance for parents

(23/05/18)

A leaflet for parents and carers of children whose school is due for inspection.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-inspections-a-guide-for-parents>

Inspecting further education and skills: leaflet for providers (23/05/18)

This leaflet outlines what Ofsted will look at during an inspection.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/inspecting-further-education-and-skills-leaflet-for-providers>

Short inspections of FE and skills: leaflet for providers (23/05/18)

This leaflet outlines what Ofsted will look at during a short inspection.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/short-inspections-of-further-education-and-skills-leaflet-for-providers>

Children's homes: inspection documents (22/05/18)

For inspection from 01/04/18. Annex A and inspection guidance for secure children's homes.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/childrens-homes-inspection-documents>

Welfare and duty of care in Armed Forces initial training (21/05/18)

Annual reports on the effectiveness of welfare and duty of care for recruits and trainees in Armed Forces initial training.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/welfare-and-duty-of-care-in-armed-forces-initial-training>

Local area SEND inspection outcome letters (18/05/18)

Outcome letters from inspections of local area services for children and young people with SEN and/or disabilities.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-area-send-inspection-outcome-letters>

Unregistered schools management information (15/05/18)

Management information on unregistered schools in England, from 1 January 2016 onwards.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/unregistered-schools-management-information>

Social care surveys: guidance for providers (14/05/18)

Guidance for social care providers about distributing the 2018 surveys and a promotional poster that they can use.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/social-care-online-questionnaires-guidance-for-providers>

Joint inspections of child sexual exploitation and missing children (09/05/18)

Inspection guidance and reports on the multi-agency response to CSE, children associated with gangs and at risk of exploitation and missing children.

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

Green Paper on Child Mental Health lacks ambition (09/05/18)

The Government's proposed Green Paper on Transforming Children and Young People's Mental Health lacks ambition and will provide no help to the majority of those children who desperately need it, say the Education and Health and Social Care Committees in a joint report.

The Committees are worried that the long timeframes involved in the Government's strategy will leave hundreds of thousands of children and young people unable to benefit from the proposals. The Government is rolling out new "Trailblazer" pilot projects where mental health teams provide extra support alongside waiting time targets. But these schemes are set to roll out in only a fifth to a quarter of the country by 2022/23.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/health-and-social-care-committee/news/green-paper-on-mental-health-report-published-17-19/>

SI 2018/688 - The Education (Pupil Information) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2018 (08/06/18)

These amend the 2005 Regulations and provide that the information to be included in the head teacher's report to parents for pupils with SEN in KS2 must include the pupil's assessment in English and mathematics and remove the reporting requirement for science.

They also amend the information to be included in the CTF when a pupil in the first or second key stage has been assessed

against P Scales of attainment moves from a maintained school to another school (whether maintained or not) to include the pupil's assessment in English and mathematics.

The Regulations also remove the inclusion of the reporting requirements in science and other foundation subjects.

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2018/688/contents/made>

Childhood obesity: Time for action (30/05/18)

The Government is expected to publish a refreshed version of the 2016 childhood obesity plan and the Committee has identified several key areas which demand urgent attention before the next chapter of the plan is finalised. The Committee is calling for an effective childhood obesity plan which focuses on tackling the widening health inequality due to childhood obesity between the richest and poorest areas.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/health-and-social-care-committee/news/childhood-obesity-report-published-17-19/>

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/health-and-social-care-committee/news/childhood-obesity-report-note-17-19-/>

Cancer of the upper aerodigestive tract: assessment and management in people aged 16 and over (June 2018)

This guideline covers assessing and managing cancers of the upper aerodigestive tract in people aged 16 and over. These are cancers of the airways of the head and neck, including the mouth, throat, larynx (voicebox) and sinuses. It aims to reduce variation in practice and improve survival.

<https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng36>

Child abuse image database (07/06/18)

This database has been developed to help investigate online child sexual abuse offenders and protect the victims of abuse.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/child-abuse-image-database>

Modern slavery victims: referral and assessment forms (11/06/18)

Refer potential victims of modern slavery/human trafficking to the national referral mechanism.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/human-trafficking-victims-referral-and-assessment-forms>

Commons Select Committee Report - Modernising the DBS (25/05/18)

The DBS modernisation programme is another example of a HO project marred by poor planning and contracting, delays, spiralling costs, and a failure to understand what service users want. The modernisation programme is over 4 years late and costs are expected to be £229m more than initially planned, while the new update service has seen a fraction of the demand expected by the HO in 2012. ↗

DBS re-evaluated the programme in 2014 but has not done enough to turn the programme around.

DBS is now negotiating with its contractor to deliver the programme, including agreeing a date for when modernisation will be complete. There is a strong risk that they may run out of time before the contract ends in March 2019.

In addition, the update service has not delivered the promise of a cheaper, better safeguarding service for customers.

Instead of providing savings, DBS is charging customers £13 a year for the update service instead of the £10 expected in 2012 and is holding onto cash generated from the rest of the services it provides, building up a surplus at the expense of its customers.

The HO needs to keep a close watch over negotiations and ensure that taxpayers, who have already seen too much money wasted on the programme, do not continue to see money going down the drain.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/public-accounts-committee/news-parliament-2017/disclosure-barring-service-report-published-17-19/>

Consultations

Children in need of help and protection: call for evidence (21/05/18)

We want to understand what it is that makes the difference to the educational outcomes of Children in Need in practice, how some Children in Need can achieve better educational outcomes than others, and what works in enabling Children in Need to achieve their potential.

We need to develop a stronger evidence base, going beyond the data to look at what is happening in practice. At different stages in a child's life, or when requiring different levels of statutory social care support, children's needs will require a different response. At each of these stages, a child may work with a variety of professionals who offer support to a child and to their family, to improve a child's circumstances.

Through the call for evidence, we want to understand how the work of professionals supporting Children in Need can make a difference to educational outcomes.

Specifically, we are interested in:

- how support is delivered or commissioned to help children
- how this support is measured and evaluated
- how this support influences educational outcomes

Children in Need are a legally defined group of children, assessed as needing help and protection as a result of risks to their development or health. This group includes children subject to Child in Need Plans, Child Protection plans, Looked After

Children, young carers; and disabled children.

Closing date: 1st July 2018

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/children-in-need-of-help-and-protection-call-for-evidence>
<https://consult.education.gov.uk/child-protection-safeguarding-and-family-law/children-in-need-of-help-and-protection-call-for-e/>

Home Education – Call for Evidence and revised DfE guidance (10/04/18)

Call for evidence on greater oversight of children whose parents elect to educate them at home, and consultation on revised DfE guidance documents.

This consultation has two parts. It is a call for evidence on issues connected with elective home education, in particular:

- registration of children educated at home;
 - monitoring of home education provision; and
 - support for home-educating families
- It seeks also comment on draft versions of two DfE guidance documents about elective home education, one designed for LAs and one for parents.

Closing date: 2nd July 2018

<https://consult.education.gov.uk/school-frameworks/home-education-call-for-evidence-and-revised-dfe-a/>
<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/home-education-call-for-evidence->

Consultations (continued)

Family and Friends Care Statutory Guidance revision (10/05/18)

We are seeking views on revisions made to include asylum seeking children being brought to the UK under the Dublin III Regulation to join family or relatives.

Asylum seeking children coming to live in the UK can be some of the most vulnerable in the country. The revisions are intended to provide clarity and support to local authorities in fulfilling their role where children are being brought to the UK under the Dublin III Regulation to live with family or relatives. This consultation seeks views on whether the revised guidance provides sufficient advice to LAs in England engaging in these cases.

We would like to know:

- Is there anything in the revised guidance that should be amended?
- Is there anything further that should be added to the revised guidance?
- Do you have any suggestions for further links or resources that could be included?

Closing date: 4th July 2018

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/family-and-friends-care-revising-guidance>
<https://consult.education.gov.uk/children-in-care/revised-family-and-friends-care-statutory-guidance/>

Fostering services regulations (4/05/18)

This consultation seeks your views on a new set of fostering regulations to replace The Fostering Services (Wales) Regulations 2003.

The proposed regulations include:

- requirements upon local authority fostering services
- requirements upon independent fostering agencies
- a revised process for approving foster parents.

We are also seeking your views on draft statutory guidance and a code of practice to accompany the regulations.

We are holding information events:

Wrexham 20th June 2018

Cardiff 19th July 2018

Closing date: 16th August 2018

<https://beta.gov.wales/fostering-services-regulations>

Consultation outcome - Social Work England: secondary legislative framework (04/06/18)

Summary of responses, along with the government's response outlining the next steps.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/social-work-england-secondary-legislative-framework>

Consultations (continued)

Consultation outcome - Staffing and employment advice for schools

(24/05/18)

Summary of responses, along with the government's response outlining the next steps.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/staffing-and-employment-advice-for-schools>

Ofsted point-in-time surveys (14/05/18)

Surveys for residential special schools and further education colleges with residential provision are now open for children, learners, parents and residential staff.

Ofsted has issued its annual point-in-time online surveys for residential special schools and further education colleges with residential provision.

The surveys are for children and learners, their parents and residential staff.

Ofsted inspectors want to hear what they have to say about the school or college. Their responses will help inform future inspections.

Ofsted is asking for responses by 22 June 2018.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ofsted-launches-point-in-time-questionnaires>



Conferences

Looked After Children: Improving Life Chances

5th December 2018 Manchester
£170 - £525 + VAT

Latest government figures show that there are 72,000 children in care in England.

A recently published report surveyed 2,263 people that had been taken into LA care. The responses revealed that for 83%, being in care was a positive experience and had enhanced their wellbeing and improved their lives. However, the findings also highlighted areas that required improvements, such as communicating why the person has been taken into care, frequent changes in social workers and the feeling of not being listened to and decisions being made without consultation.

This conference will offer delegates the opportunity to be fully briefed on the current situation within the care system and gain an update on the latest developments in terms of policy and funding.

<https://openforumevents.co.uk/events/2018/looked-after-children-improving-life-chances/>

Child Safeguarding Conference 2018

6th December 2018 Salford
£325 + VAT (Early Bird Discount)

There are 650,000 children living in “high risk” environments in the UK while 800,000 young people are suffering with some form of mental health problem.



In response, the Government has announced £17m of additional funding to improve children’s services and unveiled plans to increase information sharing across safeguarding organisations.

In January 2018 the Children’s Commissioner published the “Life in Likes” report, highlighting how new technology presents a new safeguarding challenge. Experts believe the anxiety and stress caused by social media use is a contributing factor to a growing mental health crisis among school children.

Attend this Conference where expert speakers will explain how your organisation can keep the most vulnerable children safe from harm. Understand the implications of recent developments including the Children and Social Work Act 2017 and the “Keeping Children Safe in Education” statutory guidance, learn how to overcome the challenges posed by new technology and discuss how public sector bodies can do more to protect children at a time when budgets are under pressure.

<http://www.salford.ac.uk/onecpd/conferences/child-safeguarding-conference>

Conferences (continued)

Next steps for alternative provision in England: quality, delivery and progression

19th October 2018 London
£230 + VAT

This seminar will examine the next steps for alternative provision (AP) in England.

Delegates will discuss the Government's recently-published plan for reforming AP, which focuses on improving quality and meeting individual needs, developing best practice and partnerships, and expanding the number of AP free schools - and would introduce a dedicated AP Innovation Fund.

Sessions will also consider next steps for improving outcomes for children and young people when leaving AP and transition to other education settings, training, higher education and employment - looking at guidance and relationships with employers and post 16 providers.

The agenda also includes a session looking at standards, and the quality and oversight of AP in unregistered settings.

The seminar will be an opportunity to consider the findings of the Education Select Committee's AP inquiry, looking at routes in AP, the standards of teaching and outcomes for students - and follows the announcement of an independent review

into school exclusions, which is due to report by the end of the year.

Planned sessions will also examine the impact of AP free schools, including the lessons learnt and priorities for the next wave.

<http://www.westminsterforumprojects.co.uk/conference/alternative-provision-18>

Safeguarding: from pre-birth to adolescence

21st June 2018 London £115 - £175

The programme will be based on cases and discussions illustrating scenarios from the antenatal period, through school-age up to young adulthood.

Presentations will illustrate some of the most challenging aspects and processes involved in safeguarding children.

The course is for all professionals working within the safeguarding arena. It promises to be an interactive day with plenty of discussion which should enable delegates to develop a skill base which will enhance their understanding of the complexities of safeguarding throughout a child's life.

<https://www.baspcan.org.uk/event/safeguarding-pre-birth-adolescence/>
<https://www.symposia.org.uk/main/main.asp>

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