

Safeguarding Children Information Update
Live Consultations
Updated 20th August 2019

Assessing risk of harm to children and parents in private law children cases
(19/07/19)

A public call for evidence on how the family courts protect children and parents in private law children cases concerning domestic abuse and other serious offences.

The call for evidence will specifically focus on the application of Practice Direction 12J, Practice Direction 3AA, The Family Procedure Rules Part 3A, and s.91(14) orders, and will build a more detailed understanding of any harm caused to parents and/or children during or following private law children proceedings. The overarching aim of the call for evidence is to better understand how effectively the family courts respond to allegations of domestic abuse and other serious offences in private law children cases, having regard to both the process and outcomes for the parties and the children.

The panel would like to hear from people who have direct experience as parties in private law children cases, as well as from those who provide support services to parents involved in such cases, and from professionals who practise such cases.

The panel are particularly keen to receive evidence of any harm caused to children and/or parents during or following private law children proceedings, where there are allegations and/or evidence of domestic abuse or of other crimes creating a risk of harm to children or parents (such as child abuse, rape, sexual assault or murder).

Closing date: 26th August 2019

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/assessing-risk-of-harm-to-children-and-parents-in-private-law-children-cases>
<https://consult.justice.gov.uk/digital-communications/assessing-harm-private-family-law-proceedings/>
<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/domestic-abuse-survivors-invited-to-shape-future-of-family-court>

Children's homes workforce: a call for evidence (06/06/19)

The DfE is seeking your views on professional registration, and existing approaches to regulating the children's homes workforce.

This call for evidence welcomes views on establishing professional registration for people in care roles in children's homes, and existing approaches to regulating the children's homes workforce.

Responses will be used to inform the Department's thinking on where improvements could be made to ensure children in children's homes receive high quality care in a safe environment.

Independent report

Closing Date: 27th August 2019

<https://consult.education.gov.uk/children-in-care-and-permanence/childrens-homes-workforce-call-for-evidence/>

Knife Crime Prevention Orders (KCPOs): guidance (15/08/19)

We would like you to share your thoughts with us on the draft guidance we've produced in relation to the operation of, and application for, new Knife Crime Prevention Orders (KCPOs).

The Offensive Weapons Act 2019 introduces Knife Crime Prevention Orders (KCPOs). These new preventative civil Orders will be an additional tool that the police will be able to use to work with young people and adults to encourage them to help steer them away from knife crime and serious violence.

KCPOs will help to divert those who may be carrying knives, or who are at greatest risk of being drawn into serious violence, away from being involved in knife crime. They will also help to prevent those who have been involved in knife crime from further offending when used following a conviction.

The guidance is primarily intended to be used by the police and Crown Prosecution Service but will also be of interest to the judiciary and groups that represent young people and adults within the criminal justice system.

Closing date: 25th September 2019

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/knife-crime-prevention-orders-kcpos-guidance>

Safeguarding children from child sexual exploitation (15/07/19)

We want your views on guidance to safeguard children under 18 from child sexual exploitation.

This guidance assists those planning for and working with children to:

- identify and prevent abuse
- protect children
- meet the needs of children at risk or abuse.

Closing date: 7th October 2019

<https://gov.wales/safeguarding-children-child-sexual-exploitation>

Offensive Weapons Act 2019: draft statutory guidance (15/08/19)

The statutory guidance sets out how the legislation should be implemented and applied, the obligations imposed under the act, and what factors should be taken into account when making decisions on how to proceed with individual cases of the possession, sale and delivery of knives, corrosives and offensive weapons, and the use of these to threaten others.

The guidance is primarily for the police, retailers and trading standards. However, it will also be of interest to the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS), Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunal Service, manufacturers and suppliers of bladed articles, bladed products and corrosives, and members of the public.

The Offensive Weapons Act, which received Royal Assent on 16 May 2019, requires the Secretary of State to produce statutory guidance which covers the implementation of certain measures within the act in England and Wales. It also covers the implementation of sections 1 to 4 of the act, in respect of the sale and delivery of corrosive products, in Scotland.

Closing date: 9th October 2019

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/offensive-weapons-act-2019-draft-statutory-guidance>

Home education: statutory guidance for local authorities and handbook for home educators (29/07/19)

We are seeking your views on draft statutory guidance to help local authorities identify children not at school and to ensure they are receiving a suitable education.

We are consulting on:

1. Draft statutory guidance to support local authorities to assess the suitability of education provided to children who are;
 - not on any school roll,
 - not in education other than at school (EOTAS), and
 - not receiving a suitable education.
2. A handbook of advice and information for home educating families or those thinking of home educating.

Closing date: 21st October 2019

<https://gov.wales/home-education-statutory-guidance-local-authorities-and-handbook-home-educators>

<https://gov.wales/written-statement-consultation-statutory-guidance-local-authorities-home-education-and-handbook>

Home to school travel and transport: statutory guidance (19/07/19)

The Department for Education is consulting on revised statutory guidance for local authorities on home to school travel and transport for children of compulsory school age (5-16). The guidance was last updated in 2014. There have been no changes to the law.

The revised guidance seeks to clarify local authorities' statutory duties in relation to home to school travel and transport policy, in response to feedback from local authorities and other interested parties.

The policy for transport to post-16 education and training is different from that of children of compulsory school age, and as such is not included within this consultation.

Closing date: 31st October 2019

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/home-to-school-travel-and-transport-statutory-guidance>

<https://consult.education.gov.uk/home-to-school-transport-and-admissions-team/home-to-school-travel-and-transport-statutory-guid/>