

**SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN
INFORMATION UPDATE - 179
15th December 2010**

Review of the Children's Commissioner for England (06/12/10)

This review concluded that there is a need for a CC but with a stronger role to promote children's rights, in order for the Govt to meet its commitment to implement the UNCRC. Ministers have accepted Dr Dunford's recommendations in principle and will consult on legislative changes.

The report finds that the current model is flawed and the overall impact disappointing. He recommends changes to the role:

- a strengthened remit – a new rights-based CC for England;
- greater independence – the CC should report direct to Parliament, not just DfE, and should not have to consult the Sec of State before undertaking an inquiry;
- the CC should be in post for 7 years;
- increased powers – advising Govt on new policies and undertaking an assessment of the impact of new policies on children's rights, and a duty on Govt and local services to issue a formal response to concerns raised by the CC;
- a merger between the Office of the CC and the Office of the Children's Rights Director in Ofsted to create a new Office of the Children's Commissioner for England.

<http://www.education.gov.uk/inthenews/pressnotices/a0069882/review-of-the-childrens-commissioner-for-england>
<http://publications.education.gov.uk/default.aspx?PageFunction=productdetails&PageMode=publications&ProductId=CM+7981>
<http://publications.education.gov.uk/default.aspx?PageFunction=productdetails&PageMode=publications&ProductId=CM+7981>

Future of the ECM website (09/12/10)

As part of the Govt's commitment to reduce the number of websites it manages and owns, the DfE is undertaking work to move relevant content from the ECM website to the 'children and young people' section of the DfE site. Completion is aimed at the end of Dec 2010 when the ECM website will be decommissioned and closed.

A copy of the ECM site will be saved on the National Archives which can be used for reference and research purposes.

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/news-and-communications/news/091210niecmwebsite/>
<http://www.education.gov.uk/childrenandyoungpeople>
http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/*/http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters

Pupil Premium (13/12/10)

The Sec of State for Education has confirmed that the total funding available for the pupil premium will be £625m in 2011-12, rising each year until 2014-15 to £2.5bn. The pupil premium will target extra money at pupils from deprived backgrounds in order to support them in reaching their potential.

In 2011-12, the pupil premium will be allocated to those pupils eligible for free school meals as the link between FSM eligibility and low attainment is strong. The aim from 2012-13, is to extend the reach of the premium to those previously on FSM.
<http://www.education.gov.uk/inthenews/inthenews/a0070359/written-ministerial-statement-by-the-secretary-of-state-for-education-on-schools-financial-settlement-pupil-premium>

Safer Recruitment Training (06/12/10)

The CWDC is calling for recruiters in all organisations that work with children and young people to complete free Safer Recruitment Online Training to help safeguard children.

Every organisation that works with children and young people, or is involved in providing services for them, has a duty to safeguard and promote their welfare and ensure they are recruiting their workforce safely.

Safer Recruitment Training helps managers and those who are responsible for recruiting into organisations to put robust safer recruitment processes in place and to make the right decisions during the recruitment process.

The online training package covers what constitutes abuse, recruitment processes that should be followed, the current arrangements for vetting and checking and how to manage allegations.

CWDC has also launched face-to-face Safer Recruitment Training, available nationally across England through a consortium led by Action for Children. There are a limited number of free places for small organisations.

http://www.cwdcouncil.org.uk/news/4392_workforce-urged-to-safeguard-children-through-safer-recruitment

<http://www.cwdcouncil.org.uk/safeguarding/safer-recruitment>

<http://www.cwdcouncil.org.uk/safeguarding/safer-recruitment/face-to-face>

CWDC - Ticket to Progress (06/12/10)

This online portal that will support the learning and development needs of staff and volunteers working with young people. ↗

The Ticket is the latest phase of the Progress project, our voluntary sector-led partnership that is delivering 25,000 accredited training places to the young people's workforce.

Hundreds of learners are now receiving training through the Progress project each week, and launch of this portal will enable them to keep an online record of their skills, training, work experience and volunteering. This can be shared easily with employers, training providers and other agencies, enhancing their employment and volunteering potential.

The Ticket is available to everybody working in the young people's voluntary and community sector. It can be used to complete a quick online self-assessment questionnaire that shows the training options available through the Progress project.

The Ticket not only helps us to identify and work with learners accessing training, it encourages input from employers to support the development of their paid and/or volunteer workforce.

http://www.cwdcouncil.org.uk/news/4393_young-peoples-workforce-offered-their-ticket-to-progress

<http://www.ncvys.org.uk/progress.html>

Update on products free of colours associated with hyperactivity

1st December 2010

The Agency has updated its list of product ranges that do not contain the six food colours associated with possible hyperactivity in young children. The list includes companies that have product ranges which have never contained the six colours and companies that have reformulated their product ranges to remove the colours

<http://www.food.gov.uk/news/newsarchive/2010/dec/colours>

Review of commercialisation and sexualisation of children (06/12/10)

Children's Minister Sarah Teather has asked Mr Reg Bailey, Chief Executive of the Mothers' Union, to carry out an independent review into the commercialisation and sexualisation of childhood, and report back with recommendations in May 2011.

The Government made a commitment to take action to protect children from excessive commercialisation and premature sexualisation to address parents' concerns that children are being pressured into growing up too quickly.

Taking in views of consumers, particularly parents and the business community, Mr Bailey has been asked to put forward recommendations, which are informed by evidence, that are challenging and will respond to the high levels of public concern.

The review will look at the following themes:

- risks of harm and barriers to parenting
- principles – what is acceptable in this area and what is not
- consumer voice
- corporate social responsibility.

<http://www.education.gov.uk/inthenews/pressnotices/a0069862/review-of-commercialisation-and-sexualisation-of-children>

HSE myth of the month: Health and safety has gone mad! (December 2010)

During the last 4 years we've debunked some ridiculous misrepresentations of H&S, including the banning of conkers, firemen's poles and park benches. We've scotched scare stories about excessive safety signs, rebutted rumours about onerous risk assessments and kicked back at claims that kids need to be wrapped in cotton wool. ↗

This trivialisation concerns us. It confuses businesses about their responsibilities and workers about their rights. HSE publishes advice setting out the sensible and proportionate steps we can all take to deal with workplace risks properly.

As we retire the myth of the month series, let us leave you with one thought – H&S is about saving lives, not stopping them.

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/myth/dec10.htm>

Survey of Maternity Services 2010 (02/12/10)

This survey shows concerns over labour, birth and postnatal care: too many women still felt that they were left alone at a time when it worried them and are leaving hospital without the information and support they need. The survey shows some encouraging improvements since the survey in 2007. However, information and support still needs to improve to enable all women and their partners to be confident in caring for their babies.

Overall, whilst women reported improvements in their care, there is still more to be done for all women to feel supported, particularly during the postnatal period as they settle into family life

http://www.cqc.org.uk/newsandevents/pressreleases.cfm?cit_id=37057&FAArea1=customWidgets.content_view_1&usecache=false
<http://www.cqc.org.uk/aboutcqc/howwedoit/involvingpeoplewhouseservices/patientsurveys/maternityservices.cfm>

Learning from Serious Case Reviews: Messages for practice (07/12/10)

Research in Practice has made available the presentations from its conference on SCRs, held on 30/11/10.

<http://www.rip.org.uk/component/content/article/72/292>

Children's Services Statistical Neighbour Benchmarking Tool (01/12/10)

This updated model follows the formation of 4 new LAs replacing Bedfordshire and Cheshire. LAs that previously had Bedfordshire or Cheshire as neighbours should expect changes, some others may also see a slight change to their neighbour list.

<http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/STA/t000712/index.shtml>

Parental opinion survey 2010 (Nov 2010)

This survey provides information about the opinions of parents on issues focusing on their role as parents, in particular their confidence as parents and their views about the services that they or their children use.

<http://publications.education.gov.uk/default.aspx?PageFunction=productdetails&PageMode=publications&ProductId=DFE-RR061&http://publications.education.gov.uk/default.aspx?PageFunction=productdetails&PageMode=publications&ProductId=DFE-RB061&>

Towards universal early years provision: analysis of take-up by disadvantaged families from recent annual childcare surveys (Nov 2010)

A lot of evidence shows that good early years education is associated with improved outcomes for children's development, and is particularly beneficial for children from disadvantaged backgrounds. This study aims to analyse how the take-up of early years provision varies by different dimensions of disadvantage and the main barriers experienced by disadvantaged families.

<http://publications.education.gov.uk/default.aspx?PageFunction=productdetails&PageMode=publications&ProductId=DFE-RR066&http://publications.education.gov.uk/default.aspx?PageFunction=productdetails&PageMode=publications&ProductId=DFE-RB066&>

SEN - Statements issued within 26 weeks in 2009-10 (09/12/10)

This presents national and LA figures from the previous academic year for the LA on SEN statements. The indicator has two parts;

- The percentage of final statements of SEN issued within 26 weeks excluding exception cases as a proportion of all such statements issued in the year.

- The percentage of final statements of SEN issued within 26 weeks as a proportion of all such statements issued in the year.

<http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/STR/d000973/index.shtml>

<http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/STR/d000973/osr30-2010.pdf>

KS 2 Attainment by Pupil Characteristics, in England 09/10 (provisional) (09/12/10)

- 73.5% attained the expected level in English and maths combined (72% in 09).
- Girls continue to outperform boys in English (85% girls - 75.8% boys).
- Pupils of Chinese origin remain the highest achieving ethnic group (84.8% in E&M).
- 69.1% for whom English is not their first language achieved in both E&M (74.3% for whom it is).
- 55.8% known to be eligible for FSM achieved in both E&M (77.1% of those not known to be eligible).
- The proportion with SEN without a statement who achieved in both E&M rose from 33.9% in 09 to 36.6%. The proportion with a statement has changed little.

Pupils resident in the least deprived areas, as defined by the Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index, continue to outperform pupils resident in the most deprived areas.

<http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000972/index.shtml>

<http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000972/sfr35-2010.pdf>

Short breaks Pathfinder evaluation (Dec 2010)

The report aims to inform LA and PCT practice in the future; the development of Short Break policy and direction of the AHDC short break programme; and future Government spending proposals.

The evaluation was conducted in two phases using an approach based upon 'Realistic Evaluation'. Rather than just report on what had happened, this methodology seeks to understand how things have or have not worked, in what situations, with the particular groups of people and why those outcomes were achieved.

<http://publications.education.gov.uk/default.aspx?PageFunction=productdetails&PageMode=publications&ProductId=DFE-RR062&http://publications.education.gov.uk/eOrderingDownload/DFE-RR062.pdf>

Funding for tighter security to protect Jewish schools from anti-semitism (08/12/10)

Michael Gove has confirmed up to £2m to fund tighter security measures in Jewish faith schools.

The charity Community Security Trust, will receive revenue funding for security guards at 39 Jewish voluntary-aided faith schools across England.

Schools are responsible for funding general security measures such as fencing, gates and CCTV out of their main school budget. However, following assessments obtained by the CST, the extra security provided by guards in place at Jewish faith schools helps ensure pupils and staff remain safe.

<http://www.education.gov.uk/inthenews/pressnotices/a0070126/funding-for-tighter-security-to-protect-jewish-schools-from-anti-semitism>

Government confirms capital funding for youth projects (07/12/10)

Children's Minister Tim has confirmed that the DfE has secured capital funding (£134m over 2011-13) to enable all 57 remaining projects planned under the myplace programme to continue.

<http://www.education.gov.uk/inthenews/pressnotices/a0070060/government-confirms-capital-funding-for-youth-projects>

Progress Made on Services for People with Learning Difficulties (08/12/10)

Speaking at the Learning Disability Today Conference, Care Services Minister Paul Burstow will outline progress that has been made over the past 18 months as he launches the Valuing People Now Summary Report.

Valuing People Now is a 3 year cross-govt strategy developed to help improve the lives of people with learning disabilities. It aims to tackle the challenges that people with learning disabilities tend to face and covers all aspects of life, including health, housing, getting a paid job, personalisation, transition, advocacy, hate crime and relationships.

Key improvements outlined in the progress report include:

- a continuing increase in people having an annual health check;
- increasingly more people moving into their own homes from residential campuses; and
- real successes in people finding jobs through Project Search, Getting a Life and Jobs First.

All 152 Learning Disability Partnership Boards submitted reports on the progress they had made over the year to March 2010. <http://nds.coi.gov.uk/content/detail.aspx?NewsAreaId=2&ReleaseID=416960&SubjectId=2>

End of Ofsted's children's services annual rating process (09/12/10)

In a letter to Ofsted, the ADCS, LGA, and Solace, Children's Minister Tim Loughton today outlined the decision to end the annual rating process as soon as a suitable legislative opportunity can be identified.

There has been a common concern that in its current form the annual ratings adds little understanding of children's services in an area over and above the individual inspections that underlie it, and are not particularly helpful in aiding improvement.

The decision is also in line with wider changes to LA accountability arrangements across Government and the termination of the CAA. The DfE will work with Ofsted in the meantime to ensure the rating process is as simple and transparent as possible and does not create unnecessary burdens for local areas.

<http://www.education.gov.uk/inthenews/inthenews/a0070217/end-of-ofsteds-childrens-services-annual-rating-process>

2010 children's services assessments (09/12/10)

The outcomes of the annual children's services assessments of LAs in England for 2010 have been published by Ofsted.

This year's performance assessments show that 20 councils are providing excellent services, double the number for the previous year. In addition, 77 councils are performing well, with 37 councils rated as providing adequate services. Twelve councils are performing poorly overall. The outcomes for 6 LAs are not being published today as further inspections are due to take place.

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/News/Ofsted-publishes-2010-childrens-services-assessments>

London Challenge (10/12/10)

According to this report, London Challenge has continued to improve outcomes for pupils in London's primary and secondary schools at a faster rate than nationally.

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Publications-and-research/Browse-all-by/Documents-by-type/Thematic-reports/London-Challenge>
<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/content/download/11889/138336/file/London%20Challenge.pdf>
<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/content/download/11891/138346/file/Summary%20-%20London%20Challenge.pdf>

Pre-registration briefing for those wishing to become childcare providers (07/12/10)

Powerpoint presentation

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Forms-and-guidance/Browse-all-by/Other/General/Pre-registration-briefing-for-those-wishing-to-become-childcare-providers>
<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/content/download/5116/40526/file/Pre-registration%20briefing%20for%20those%20wishing%20to%20become%20childcare%20providers.zip>

What we do when a registered childminder or childcare provider is incapacitated or dies (09/12/10)

This guidance provides Ofsted's NBU and CIE Team with advice on what to do if a registered provider cannot run their provision any more because they are ill or die.

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Forms-and-guidance/Browse-all-by/Other/General/What-we-do-when-a-registered-childminder-or-childcare-provider-is-incapacitated-or-dies>
<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/content/download/11898/138429/file/What%20we%20do%20when%20a%20registered%20childminder%20>

Development of an inspection framework for LA private fostering arrangements

(10/12/10)

Equality impact assessments like these provide a tool to help inspection teams think carefully about the likely equality impact of their work and will take action to improve strategies, policies and projects, where appropriate.

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Publications-and-research/Browse-all-by/Documents-by-type/Equality-Impact-Assessments/Inspection-Development-Directorate/Development-of-an-inspection-framework-for-local-authority-private-fostering-arrangements>

Development of inspection documents to support the inspection of children's homes inspection arrangements

(10/12/10)

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Publications-and-research/Browse-all-by/Documents-by-type/Equality-Impact-Assessments/Inspection-Development-Directorate/Development-of-inspection-documents-to-support-the-inspection-of-children-s-homes-inspection-arrangements>

Guidance on writing complaint and compliance action summaries

(13/12/10)

This updated guidance is to help inspectors to write outcome summaries which are published on our website following information that a provider is not complying with the requirements for registration. This guidance relates to those providers on either or both the Early Years and Childcare Registers.

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Forms-and-guidance/Browse-all-by/Other/General/Guidance-on-writing-complaint-and-compliance-action-summaries>
<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/content/download/11438/134598/file/Guidance%20on%20writing%20complaint%20and%20complaint%20action%20summaries.pdf>

Responses to Ofsted's consultation on the inspection of local authority private fostering services

(13/12/10)

This evaluation report summarises the responses to Ofsted's consultation on the proposals for LA private fostering inspections from November 2010.

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Publications-and-research/Browse-all-by/Documents-by-type/Consultations/Responses-to-Ofsted-s-consultation-on-the-inspection-of-local-authority-private-fostering-services>
<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/content/download/11910/138545/file/Responses%20to%20consultation%20on%20the%20inspection%20of%20local%20authority%20private%20fostering%20services.pdf>

Children's Experts gather to Discuss Keeping Children on the Agenda

Amid the current budget cuts, children's experts are meeting on 15/12/10 to discuss how best to keep children on the agenda. Delegates at Children in Wales' Annual Conference in Newport will look at how cuts are impacting on services for C&YP and will discuss what can be done in the current situation to ensure that C&YP and families do not lose out as a result of the cuts.

<http://www.childreninwales.org.uk/news/pressrelease/15036.html>

YJB Business Plan 2010/11

(Dec 2010)
This sets out the YJB's strategic objectives and actions it will take in 2010/11.

<http://www.yjb.gov.uk/publications/Scripts/prodView.asp?idproduct=489&eP=>
<http://www.yjb.gov.uk/publications/Scripts/fileDownload.asp?file=YJB+Business+Plan+2010%2D11%2Epdf>

New tactics for tackling online predators
(07/12/10)

The Virtual Global Taskforce was established in 2003 to combat the increasingly prevalent crime of online CSA. Its conference, held this week, highlighted that international law enforcement agencies need to work with global industry partners, including non-government organisations, to keep children across the world safe from online exploitation.

VGT senior board members from the 8 international partner agencies reiterated the importance of a multi-faceted approach to the fight against online CSA and removing children from harm.

The VGT approach into the future will not only involve law enforcement, but industry, key international NGOs, academia and continue working with today's youth. This will build on the need to constantly involve children and their parents, teachers and carers to raise awareness on how to remain safe online.

<http://www.ceop.police.uk/Media-Centre/Press-releases/2010/New-tactics-for-tackling-online-sexual-predators/>

Young people and alcohol: influences on how they drink (08/12/10)

This report from the Joseph Rowntree Foundation identifies the influence of both existing cultural attitudes around alcohol, and new and emergent attitudes that separate younger drinkers' consumption from that of other age groups.

The report highlights that:

- excessive alcohol consumption is the norm in young adulthood;
- today's young adults find it difficult to imagine alternatives to the excessive drinking that supports group socialising; ↗

- the ways in which alcohol is sold to young people contributes to the narrowing of their options; and
 - pricing is more of an influence on decision-making than perceptions of health or risk.
- http://www.jrf.org.uk/publications/young-people-alcohol-influences-drinking?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=New+JRF+publications++8+December+2010&utm_content=New+JRF+publications++8+December+2010+CID_402a86fa93638e9860264bf56b941e1d&utm_source=Email+marketing+software&utm_term=Young+people+and+alcohol+influences+on+how+they+drink

Cafcass Care statistics - November 2010
(08/12/10)

Between April and November 2010, Cafcass received 6,046 new applications. This figure is 3.8 % higher when compared to the same period last year. Care application demand for all months in the current year have been the highest ever recorded by Cafcass for the individual months except June and October.

http://www.cafcass.gov.uk/news/2010/care_statistics_nov_2010.aspx

Routine Childhood Immunisation from November 2010 (08/12/10)

The routine childhood immunisation schedule, showing the immunisations previously given at 2 separate visits at 12 and 13 months of age, now combined into 1 visit between 12 and 13 months.

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_122404

http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/documents/digitalasset/dh_122401.pdf

'Reducing demand, restricting supply, building recovery: supporting people to live a drug-free life' (08/12/10)

A new drug strategy with a drive to crack down on those involved in the drugs trade, at the same time as revolutionising treatment services to offer recovery as a route out of dependency, was unveiled today by minister for crime prevention James Brokenshire.

The strategy puts drug free recovery at the heart of the Government's response and puts more responsibility on individuals to seek help and overcome their dependency.

The new x-government approach will also see a renewed focus on reducing demand and restricting supply through:

- taking more action to seize the assets of those involved in the drugs trade, both at home and abroad
- giving teachers greater powers to search and confiscate drugs and alcohol in schools
- encouraging people who have been successful in conquering their own addiction to build a nationwide network of 'recovery champions' who can inspire others in their neighbourhoods to join them on the road to recovery

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/media-centre/press-releases/recovery-revolution>

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/drugs/drug-strategy-2010/>

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/drugs/drug-strategy/drug-strategy-2010?view=Binary>

Focus on families - new drive to help troubled families (10/12/10)

The Government is today setting out its ambition to help all troubled families get back on their feet and create a better future for their children.

This new drive will set out to ensure that



the 120,000 families who are struggling in the face of multiple problems are helped to address their problems in ways that really work. They need extra help because they may have health problems, they may be addicted to drugs or alcohol, they cannot control their children's behaviour or have never worked in their lives. Most of these families want to get back on their feet, they just don't know how.

As a first stage of this new drive to help troubled families turn their lives around, the Government:

- will give LAs new freedoms to pool budgets to help provide more joined up solutions for troubled families
- will provide new money to a number of local authorities through the Early Intervention Grant for trialling innovative new approaches to help families with problems
- welcomes the announcement that Emma Harrison, an entrepreneur who specialises in getting jobseekers into work, will help up to 500 families in an initial 6 - 10 areas of the country to develop and deliver these trials.

<http://www.education.gov.uk/inthenews/pressnotices/a0070284/focus-on-families-new-drive-to-help-troubled-families>

<http://www.number10.gov.uk/news/speeches-and-transcripts/2010/12/speech-on-families-and-relationships-58035>

Safe sleep for your baby (07/12/10)

The FSID has launched a new infant care leaflet, funded by the Gro Company, which will give parents across the country the latest advice on Reducing the Risk of cot death.

Free copies of the guide can be ordered from: <http://www.gro.co.uk/200912242/aboutus.html>

<http://fsid.org.uk/Page.aspx?pid=862>

'Breaking the cycle: effective punishment, rehabilitation and sentencing of offenders'
(07/12/10)

The green paper on sentencing and rehabilitation sets out plans to break the destructive cycle of crime and prison by ensuring that:

- jails become places of hard work,
- rehabilitation programmes are opened up to innovation from the private and charitable sectors, paid by results
- the priority will be to reduce reoffending by people after they have been punished.

The safety and security of the law-abiding citizen is the priority of the programme of reforms. Prison will continue to be the right place for serious offenders, with a renewed focus on rehabilitation after criminals have served their punishments, in order to stop the reoffending that blights the lives of individuals and communities.

Despite a 50% increase in the budget for prisons and managing offenders in the last 10 years, around half of adult offenders reoffend within a year of being released.

There will also be new measures to force criminals to make amends to victims and communities for the harm they have caused.

The proposals in the green paper include:

- making offenders work hard through the discipline of regular working hours in prison, more demanding tasks in the community, and greater use of tough curfew requirements
- increasing reparation to victims through greater use of restorative justice, implementing the Prisoners' Earnings Act and other reforms to make offenders directly compensate victims of crime



- rehabilitating offenders by getting them off drugs and benefits and into honest work
- introducing payment-by-results so that independent providers will be rewarded for reducing reoffending – this will be paid for by the savings that this will generate within the criminal justice system
- simplifying the sentencing framework to make it more comprehensible to the public, enhancing judicial discretion and reforming the indeterminate sentence of Imprisonment for Public Protection (IPP)
- improving youth justice to prevent and tackle offending by young people and stop them becoming the career criminals of tomorrow
- working with communities to reduce crime, with local people playing a more central role in criminal justice – moving the focus from the centre to local areas; creating more opportunities for other providers to deliver services and increasing transparency so that local communities are better able to hold services to account.

http://www.justice.gov.uk/news/newsrelease/071210c.htm?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+gov%2FWfFX+%28Ministry+of+Justice+latest+news+alerts%29

See consultations

Children can't judge speeds above 20mph

A study by researchers at Royal Holloway, University London showed that whilst adults were able to judge speeds up to 50mph, children of primary school age weren't able to judge speeds of vehicles above 20mph.

CAPT recommends that people take extra care near roads when with young children, and keep an eye on their speed when driving through residential areas.

<http://www.capt.org.uk/who-we-are/news/study-says-children-cant-judge-speeds-above-20mph>

The youth justice system in England and Wales: Reducing offending by young people (10/12/10)

Recent improvements to the YJS have contributed to reductions in recorded youth crime. However, young offenders who receive more serious community or custodial sentences remain as likely to reoffend as they were ten years ago when the youth justice system was brought in.

This report looks at:

- the extent of offending by young people, and its cost;
- whether the assessments of young offenders drive resource allocation to reduce future offending;
- the extent to which work carried out with young offenders is effective in reducing the risk of offending; and
- the performance of the Board in improving outcomes in the YJS.

http://www.nao.org.uk/publications/1011/reoffending_by_young_people.aspx

Work-based learning provision for vulnerable young people (09/12/10)

This report found that, while provision is broadly sufficient in Wales, pockets of poorly delivered services need to be eliminated for vulnerable young people to benefit from it as a route into employment.

The report outlines concern at the lack of effective personal support for some work-based learners and recommends the Welsh Government allocates a personal adviser to those who live independently.

It also highlights discrepancies in income between those in work-based learning and those who pursue further education, which it says acts as a disincentive for young learners who live independently and can't afford to carry out work-based learning. ↗

The National Assembly for Wales Petitions Committee recommends the Welsh Government re-considers financial support arrangements for work-based learners, including providing up-front travel payments, so that cost does not act as a barrier to participation.

It also suggests the Welsh Government identifies a lead agency to facilitate collaboration between agencies and encourage effective partnership working to support vulnerable young people.

<http://www.assemblywales.org/newhome/new-news-third-assembly.htm?act=dis&id=205211&ds=12/2010>

http://www.assemblywales.org/petitions_committee_-_work_based_learning_report_9_december_e_pdf

London Child Protection Procedures (Dec 2010)

The 4th edition of the London CP Procedures is now available, along with a document highlighting the key changes and a training powerpoint for LSCBs. This edition has been fully updated in line with recent changes to statutory guidance, and will be followed by a fuller revision once the Munro Review of CP has reported in April 2011.

<http://www.londonscb.gov.uk/procedures/>

Medical Device Alert: Umbilical cord clamps – all makes and models (14/12/10)

This MDA has been issued as incorrect placement of the clamp on the umbilical cord has led to an inadequate seal and blood loss in a small number of cases. Such blood loss could prove fatal for some babies.

<http://www.mhra.gov.uk/index.htm>

**New Legislation (1st – 13th Dec 2010)
The Education (Independent Educational
Provision in England) (Unsuitable
Persons) (Amendment) Regulations 2010
SI 2920**

http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2010/2920/pdfs/uksiem_20102920_en.pdf

http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2010/pdf/uksi_20102920_en.pdf

**The Education (Independent Educational
Provision in England) (Provision of
Information) Regulations 2010 SI 2919**

http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2010/2919/pdfs/uksiem_20102919_en.pdf

http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2010/pdf/uksi_20102919_en.pdf

**The Child Minding and Day Care
Exceptions (Wales) Order 2010 – SI 2839
(W.233) (07/12/10)**

http://www.opsi.gov.uk/legislation/wales/wsi2010/wsi_20102839_en_1

**The Child Minding and Day Care (Wales)
Regulations 2010 – SI 2574 (W.214)**

http://www.opsi.gov.uk/legislation/wales/wsi2010/wsi_20102574_en_1

**HMCI of Education, Children's Services
and Skills (Fees and Frequency of
Inspections) (Children's Homes etc)
(Amendment) Regulations 2009 – SI 2724**

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2009/2724/contents/made>

http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2009/2724/pdfs/uksics_20092724_en.pdf

**The Education (School Attendance
Targets) (England) (Amendment)
Regulations 2010 – SI 2838 (02/12/10)**

http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2010/2838/pdfs/uksi_20102838_en.pdf

http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2010/2838/pdfs/uksiem_20102838_en.pdf

**The Magistrates' Courts (Violent
Offender Orders) Rules 2009 SI 2197
(L.26) (01/12/10)**

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2009/2197/contents/made>

http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2009/2197/pdfs/uksics_20092197_en.pdf

**The Education (Supply of Information
about the School Workforce) (No. 2)
(England) (Amendment) Regulations 2009
– SI 2266 (01/12/10)**

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2009/2266/contents/made>

http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2009/2266/pdfs/uksics_20092266_en.pdf

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Parents can snap away (07/12/10)

The Data Protection Act does not prevent family and friends from taking photographs at school concerts or plays this Christmas, the Information Commissioner said today.

The ICO has produced guidance to dispel any confusion and explain parents' rights. It also gives advice to LEAs and those working within schools, explaining that the DPA is unlikely to apply in most situations where photographs are taken by parents in schools.

The DPA does apply when photographs of children are taken for official use by a school or college such as for issuing identification passes. In the other small number of instances where the DPA does apply, if the photographer obtains permission from the parent or individual, then this will usually be enough to ensure compliance.

http://www.ico.gov.uk/~media/documents/pressreleases/2010/christmas_duck_outs_press-release_07122010.ashx

http://www.ico.gov.uk/upload/documents/library/data_protection/practical_application/taking_photos.pdf

Government announces £800m to support families (11/12/10)

LAs and the voluntary and community sector provide a range of short breaks services giving families much-needed help and respite support so they are not forced to rely on often costly emergency intervention when the pressure gets too much.

An evaluation of the short breaks programme shows the positive impact that short breaks can have on families with disabled children – with 88% of families surveyed currently using some form of short breaks service. But there is more work to be done to better target services and make sure all families have access to a wide range of support.

To help improve the way short breaks are provided, the Govt is also announcing £40m of capital investment in 2011-12m to help support innovative local services.

The extra cash comes ahead of a complete overhaul of the SEN system over the next few years. The key areas of concern from parents, teachers, LAs, SENCOs and others are published today and show that

- the SEN system is overly complex, bureaucratic and adversarial
- parents want to get better information on the services available and the choice of schools
- better training is needed for school staff to recognise SEN and work better with children and their parents
- education, health and social care services need to work better together to identify and deliver on children's needs.

Ministers are keen to ensure the green paper takes account of everyone's concerns, delivers real changes to the SEN system, and has lasting benefits for children with SEN and disabilities and their families. ↗

The call for views gathered will inform the work on the green paper, which will be published in February 2011.

The Government has also recognised the important work of the Family Fund Trust in supporting low-income families with disabled children, and today confirmed at least £27m of funding for every year of the spending review for grants to families to help them meet the additional costs of caring.

The funding for short breaks has been protected in the Comprehensive Spending Review and will be included in the new Early Intervention Grant for LAs. The Government will be providing £198m/£202m/£206m/£210m for short breaks over the next 4 years. This figure includes the previously announced recycled Child Trust Fund money of at least £20m each year.

<http://www.education.gov.uk/childrenandyoungpeople/sen/a0070302/government-announces-800-million-to-support-families>

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Domestic violence support at Christmas (10/12/10)

Equalities minister Lynne Featherstone visited a Women's Aid refuge to raise awareness of the support available for victims of DV over Christmas.

The HO is working with Women's Aid and the charity Refuge to encourage victims to seek help and support over the Christmas and New Year period and encourage people to look out for signs of abuse in family, friends, colleagues and neighbours.

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/media-centre/news/dv-support>

RCPCH - New child protection training launched (14/12/10)

A new course to give paediatricians more skills in managing suspected cases of child abuse has been launched.

Safeguarding Children and Young People: Maintaining and Updating Competences will provide consultant paediatricians with the skills and competences required for their on-going child protection practice.

http://www.rcpch.ac.uk/doc.aspx?id_Resource=8117

<http://www.e-lfh.org.uk/projects/safeguarding/index.html>

Building a Safe and Confident Future: One Year On (14/12/10)

The Social Work Reform Board has set out the standards of supervision and support social workers should expect from their employers, including:

- ensuring the right number of SWs with the right level of skills and experience are available to meet demand
- managing workloads and caseloads
- giving SWs the practical resources they need to do their jobs
- creating development opportunities to give SWs greater experience and skills.

The Board is also setting out a national set of professional standards outlining what SWs are expected to do at every point in their career and what level of service the public can expect from them.

The Board also recommends that the design of SW courses should involve people who have experienced social services, so that the training reflects real-life.

<http://www.education.gov.uk/inthenews/pressnotices/a0070474/social-workers-to-be-placed-on-a-more-professional-footing>
<http://www.education.gov.uk/swrb/>

Teenage pregnancy - You can make a real difference to teenage pregnancy (13/12/10)

This briefing is for nurses, health visitors and midwives to provide background information on teenage pregnancy and practical tips on tackling the problem and supporting young parents.

<http://www.saphna-professionals.org/node/577>

The Stop it Now! Helpline report (June 05 – Dec 09) (02/12/10)

This report shows that the Helpline received 11,975 calls from 5,634 callers who were looking for information, advice and support in connection with child sexual abuse issues.

Over 50% of calls were made by adults concerned about their own thoughts or behaviour towards children, 25% were made by adults concerned about another adult and 4% were made by adults concerned about the sexual behaviour of a child or young person. Other calls were from professionals (8%) and survivors of CSA (4%).

http://www.stopitnow.org.uk/media/30806/child_sex_offenders_get_help_to_stop_abuse.pdf

Minister launches fire safety strategy (09/12/10)

Wales' Social Justice Minister Carl Sargeant has launched a new strategy to educate children and young people on fire safety and prevention.

The strategy sets out how Welsh fire and rescue services will educate youngsters on the dangers of fire and fire-related incidents.

It also aims to discourage fire-related anti-social behaviour and crime carried out by children and young people, such as hoax calls or arson.

<http://new.wales.gov.uk/newsroom/socialjustice/2010/101209fire/?lang=en>

Maternal obesity in the UK (07/12/10)

This study, which collected information from every maternity unit in the UK, revealed the prevalence of severe maternal obesity in the UK. The report also details the complications and consequences of obesity during pregnancy, and outlines the implications for the care of obese pregnant women.

The study found that:

- around 5% of the UK maternity population were severely obese
- Wales had the highest rate (6.5%)
- The East had the highest rate in England (6.2%)
- London had the lowest rate (3.5%)

The study also found that:

- the stillbirth rate in women with a BMI 35+ was twice the overall national rate
- the risk of stillbirth increases with increasing obesity.
- in women with a BMI 35+, stillbirths occurring during labour and birth were 3 times higher than the overall national rate

<http://www.cemach.org.uk/Publications-Press-Releases/Press-Releases/CMACE-release--National-enquiry-into--maternal-obes.aspx>

Consultations

Breaking the cycle: effective punishment, rehabilitation and sentencing of offenders (07/12/10)

The Ministry of Justice Structural Reform Plan published in July 2010 set out a commitment to introduce a 'rehabilitation revolution' and conduct a review of sentencing policy. This consultation sets out the resulting proposals which aim to punish offenders, break the cycle of crime and protect the public.

Ch 5 describes how the MoJ proposes to:

- prevent more young people from offending and divert them from entering into a life of crime, including by simplifying out-of-court disposals;
- protect the public and ensure that more is done to make young offenders pay back to their victims and communities;
- ensure the effective use of sentencing for young offenders;
- incentivise local partners to reduce youth offending and re-offending using payment by results models; and
- develop more effective governance by abolishing the YJB and increasing freedoms and flexibilities for local areas.

Closing date: 4th March 2011

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/consultations/breaking-cycle-071210.htm>

Conferences

Facing up to Facebook: The impact of social networking on foster care

2nd February 2011 London

£100 - £205 + VAT

This conference will:

- explore the impact of social networking on children and young people in foster care
- provide the latest information about technological developments in relation to social networking.
- provide an opportunity to discuss and debate the dilemmas and issues for practice, whilst providing practical guidance.
- position the issue of social networking and fostering within the broader issue of child safety and the internet.
- will launch new BAAF guides for foster carers and children and young people in foster care.

<http://www.baaf.org.uk/node/3009>

Facing up to Facebook

9th February 2011 North Wales

£110 - £150 + VAT

This conference will:

- explore the impact of social networking websites on adopted children and young people, and on those in care.
- provide the latest information about technological developments while reminding delegates of research evidence on openness and contact.
- provide an opportunity to discuss the practice issues, while providing practical guidance about managing social networking services.
- position social networking sites and adoption and children in care within the broader issue of child safety and the Internet.

<http://www.baaf.org.uk/training/110209>

Special Educational Needs & Disability: Improving Parental Confidence and Outcomes for Children and Young People

8th March 2011 London £225 + VAT

- Delegates at this Briefing will have the opportunity to consider the government's response to the provision of SEN, examining recent policy announcements, including the Ofsted Review, and likely future direction and implications for Children's Trusts, LAs, PCTs and schools.

<http://www.westminster-briefing.com/?p=18473>

Short breaks for disabled children

23rd March 2011 London £195 - £295 + VAT

As part of the EDCM initiative, the Government provided new policy advice and additional funding to improve short breaks for disabled children and their families.

This conference will help those involved in commissioning and providing these services by sharing the results of the Government's own evaluation of the short breaks programme including:

- research into the impact of short breaks on disabled children and their families the evaluation of the 21 Pathfinder sites, reviewing what worked in terms of local change strategies, and
- examples of best practice from around the country.

<http://www.pavpub.com/p-328-short-breaks-for-disabled-children.aspx?s=1>

Conferences (continued)

Special Guardianship Orders - Navigating LA duties and best practice

23rd February 2011 London

£199 - £399 + VAT

5 years after the implementation of SGOs very little is known about how they work in practice. LAs have struggled to interpret guidance and there are wide-ranging approaches to practice nationally.

Commonly professionals who work with SGOs have concerns that:

- their authority may not be legally compliant with funding allowances provided to special guardians
- SGOs are increasingly awarded to children much younger than original guidance had intended with no indication of what long-term outcomes and implications might be
- preparation time for court reports leaves little time for preparing the special guardian for what could be a long-term caring commitment
- support provisions for special guardians may be inadequate to mitigate against contentious contact issues with birth parents

This conference will provide an opportunity to explore your authority's legal duties and will share best practice approaches to effectively support special guardians.

Key themes to be covered will include:

- How do LAs determine reasonable levels of financial allowances for special guardians and what role do universal benefits play in establishing these?

- LA legal responsibilities and court processes explained
- A research overview of special guardianship since its implementation
- A review of new practice guidance
- Providing successful assessment and support of family and friends carers
- Managing safeguarding and parental contact issues

<http://www.communitycareconferences.co.uk/guardianship2011>

'Hot topics' in Adoption and Fostering

18th March 2011 Cardiff

£95 - £110 + VAT

The aim of this conference is:

- to look in depth at current health topics of interest in Adoption and Fostering and
- consider the impact on children in the care system, those who care for them and the role of the Medical Adviser.

Its objectives are to:

- increase awareness of the impact of domestic violence and the long term effects of early neglect
- consider the interface between genetics and adoption/fostering relating to birth family and adopters
- review the changing picture of Inter-country adoption.

<http://www.baaf.org.uk/node/3003>

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