

Dear Colleagues,

Please find below a link which details the latest announcement by the DCSF with regards to the launch of a consultation for ContactPoint. The consultation will last 12 weeks and proposes the following;

Changes proposed include:

- \* Updating the law so that children whose parents live overseas but who go to school in England will be included on ContactPoint. Following a recommendation by Sir Roger Singleton this aims to make it easier for schools to implement ContactPoint, as well as better ensure that it is universal so that no child slips through the net.
- \* Replacing the definition of 'parental responsibility' with the more commonly used term 'parent.' This does not change the scope of ContactPoint but ensures that the same legal terminology is used across different laws;
- \* Changing the term 'targeted and specialist services' to additional services. Again, this will not change the scope of the information held;
- \* When a decision is taken to shield a child's record, the name of their parent or carer will also be hidden. In this case, the law is being updated to reflect what is existing practice: parent or carer information is already hidden on shielded records;
- \* Making it clear, to conform to existing practice, that where relevant more than one address for an individual child can be held on the system.

Shortcut to: [http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/pns/DisplayPN.cgi?pn\\_id=2009\\_0174](http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/pns/DisplayPN.cgi?pn_id=2009_0174)

ContactPoint - See the whole picture

Schools, Children and Families

Essex County Council | tel: 0845 603 7627 | email: [contactpoint@essex.gov.uk](mailto:contactpoint@essex.gov.uk)

ContactPoint is a key element amongst a range of initiatives supporting the Every Child Matters programme to improve outcomes for children. By providing a basic online directory available to authorised staff who need it to do their jobs, it will enable staff to find out who else is working with the same child or young person, thereby making it easier to deliver more coordinated support. For further information, please visit the Every Child Matters website:

<http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/deliveringservices/contactpoint/>