

**SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN
INFORMATION & NEWS UPDATE - 126
6th July 2009**

**Multi-agency practice guidelines:
Handling cases of Forced Marriage
(02/07/09)**

Figures released by the Forced Marriage Unit show a welcome increase in the number of people willing to come forward to seek protection from forced marriage. The specialist unit has already received 770 calls or emails to its helpline about suspected forced marriages so far this year – an increase of 16% in the same period last year.

Cases dealt with by the FMU have almost trebled since 2005, from 152 cases to 420 last year. However the true scale of the problem remains unclear. The very nature of forced marriage means that it is likely that a number of cases go unreported.

The FMU is preparing for its busiest time of year as young people raise concerns with teachers before the school summer holidays.

These new figures coincide with the publication of new guidelines to front line professionals to help them work more closely together to better identify and protect children and adults at risk of forced marriage. The new guidelines for police, teachers, social and health professionals and housing officers aim to ensure that victims are identified and protected against the people intent on abusing them.

Latest 2009 figures show that the majority of reportings to the FMU involve families of Pakistani (70%), and Bangladeshi (11%) origin, with smaller percentages of those of Indian, Middle Eastern, European and African origin. Victims in 14% of cases are

male, 33% of all assistance cases are under 18 and 14% are under 16 years of age.
http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/pns/DisplayPN.cgi?pn_id=2009_0123
<http://www.fco.gov.uk/resources/en/pdf/3849543/forced-marriage-guidelines09.pdf>
<http://www.fco.gov.uk/forcedmarriage>
<http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/fco-in-action/nationals/forced-marriage-unit/>

Forced marriage - Prevalence and service response (02/07/09)

This research aims to improve understanding of the prevalence of forced marriage and examine the way services are responding to such cases. It shows that local agencies need to get better at working together to identify and prevent forced marriage.

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/research/programmeofresearch/projectinformation.cfm?projectId=15565&type=5&resultspage=1>

Support for care leavers (01/07/09)

Flexible individual support, high aspirations and committed social care staff are helping those leaving care. This report highlights that leaving care is a period of transition for each young person and not a single event.

Acknowledging that care leavers will make mistakes and change their minds about their future, ensures continual support and guidance, helping young people progress and become successful young adults. Best practice examples are identified with good case studies to highlight the support provided to young people leaving care.

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Publications-and-research/Browse-all-by/Documents-by-type/Thematic-reports/Support-for-care-leavers>

Special Educational Needs in England: January 2009 (30/06/09)

This updated SFR brings together the information available on SEN and special schools in England. The key points are:

- Some 221,670 (2.7%) pupils across all schools in England had statements of SEN, slightly lower than last year.
- There were some 1,433,940 pupils with SEN without statements representing 17.8% of pupils across all schools; an increase of 0.6% from 2008.
- Figures for all children with statements of SEN (not just those in schools) show that the number of statements maintained by an authority has decreased to 228,900.
 - 55.6% of children with statements of SEN were placed in early years settings, mainstream schools, resourced provision in maintained mainstream schools or SEN units in maintained mainstream schools, a decrease from last year.
- Around 17 in every 1,000 pupils of White ethnic origin had statements of SEN in mainstream primary schools. The figure is similar for mixed pupils but for Black pupils the figure is around 20 in every 1,000.
- In secondary schools 20 in every 1,000 pupils of White ethnic origin had statements of SEN, a similar figure to those for both Black and Mixed pupils.
- The most prevalent type of primary need amongst pupils with statements of SEN in primary schools was speech, language and communication needs (24%); in secondary schools it was moderate learning difficulty (21.7%) and in special schools, severe learning difficulty (23.6%).
- The within-school PTR in maintained special schools has decreased from 6.3 in 2005 to 6.1 in January 2009

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000852/index.shtml>

New Special Educational Needs Initial Teacher Training Resources for Secondary Schools: Speech by Diana Johnson (23/06/09)

We all know the difference a good teacher can make. Whether it is the student working to turn their B into an A star, or the severely disabled child developing their ability to communicate, the best teachers are unlocking potential in all their pupils, wherever they fall on the spectrum of need. It is our job – Government, working with training providers – to make sure that teachers have the right skills, support and training to get the best out of the pupils they teach.

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/speeches/search_detail.cfm?ID=929

Social Care for Deafblind Children and Adults (23/06/09)

This guidance, issued under Section 7 of the Local Authority Social Services Act 1970, is relevant to all local social services staff and requires specific actions to be taken such as identifying and keeping records on deafblind people in catchment areas

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Lettersandcirculars/LocalAuthorityCirculars/DH_101114

Record Keeping: A letter to doctors (01/07/09)

The CMO Sir Liam Donaldson has written to doctors in England about maintaining separate clinical and research records. The letter also includes information about acting as an expert witness.

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Lettersandcirculars/Professionalletters/Chiefmedicalofficerletters/DH_101736

The exclusion from school of children aged four to seven (24/06/09)

Very few schools exclude children under 7, but some do. This report reveals that teaching young children how to behave well and how to get on with each other, coupled with effective management of minor disruptive behaviour were key to reducing or avoiding the use of such exclusions.

Inspectors visited 69 schools, nearly all of which served communities with high levels of deprivation. All had children whose families had had high levels of involvement from LAs' children's services regarding child protection, domestic violence and family breakdown. All of them had some young children with complex behaviours that could stop them from taking part in learning. In the best scenarios, these children's behaviour was managed well, they were given the support they needed and exclusion was avoided. Whether the schools did or did not exclude depended upon whether they believed exclusion was appropriate for young children, their ability to cope with challenging behaviour and sometimes the support received from their LA.

27 schools that had not excluded any young children shared common characteristics, also evident in the schools that had managed to significantly reduce their previously high levels of exclusion. The schools were welcoming and children were made to feel valued, there were high expectations of the children and staff went out of their way to provide a model of appropriate behaviour. Exclusion was viewed only as a last resort.

The survey found that relationships with parents were pivotal in preventing or reducing exclusions. Almost all the schools visited worked hard to build positive

relationships, particularly with parents whose children were the most challenging to manage.

Instability in leadership and staffing was a factor in 5 schools with relatively high levels of exclusions under 7. However, once more permanent staff were in place, the number of exclusions decreased considerably.

In 3 schools, exclusions had risen on the appointment of a new headteacher. This was either a short-term strategy to stabilise poor behaviour or, in schools that had previously sent children home unofficially, because the headteacher insisted that the law on exclusion be followed by ensuring that all incidents, regardless of duration, were recorded as formal exclusions.

Key recommendations include:

- Schools should minimise the exclusion of young children by developing a range of strategies to manage behaviour, from low-level disruption to challenging behaviour
- DCSF should analyse exclusions data annually on a school by school basis and use the information obtained to question LAs about the challenge and support they provide for primary schools with high numbers of exclusions.

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/News/Press-and-media/2009/June/The-school-s-approach-is-key-to-avoiding-exclusion-of-young-children>
<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Publications-and-research/Browse-all-by/Documents-by-type/Thematic-reports/The-exclusion-from-school-of-children-aged-four-to-seven>

Pupil Absence in Autumn Term 2008
(16/06/09)

This release reports absence in maintained primary, secondary schools, city technology colleges and academies in England. It provides local level information on the rates of absence (authorised, unauthorised and overall) by type of school; number of persistent absentees and the number on track to becoming persistent absentees; and the proportion of absence by reason.

These official statistics are presented as emerging findings and have been released to help planning, to study trends and to monitor outcomes of initiatives and interventions on pupil attendance.

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/STR/d000853/index.shtml>

School Minister's response to new pupil absence data

Vernon Coaker said:

Missing school for no good reason is totally unacceptable. While these figures are a concern, it's important to remember that the trend over the last decade has been positive, and there are now on average 70,000 more pupils in school each day than would be the case if absence rates were still at the level of 1996-97. By far the biggest factor in the increases in absence this autumn compared with last year is absence through illness, which is a factor outside schools' control.

Our comprehensive intervention programme is seeing absence specialists working with schools with high levels of absence looking at ways of clamping down on pupils and their parents.

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/news/content.cfm?landing=vernon_coaker_responds_to_new_pupil_absence_data&type=1

DCSF: NEET Statistics Quarterly Brief
(23/06/09)

This note sets out the definitive available statistics on young people Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEET) and young people Not in Education and Training (NET).

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/STR/d000751/index.shtml>

LAC 'Me and My School' Evaluation grant: 2009-10 (24/06/09)

This circular sets out the grant allocations, conditions of grant and payment arrangements for the 30 authorities that will take part in the 'Me and My School' evaluation from 2009, but start to implement the Targetting Mental Health in Schools programme from 2010

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/news-and-communications/local-authority-circulars-2008-2011/lac2406090001/>
<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/download/?id=6177>

DCSF Departmental Report 2009 (June 2009)

This report outlines progress towards the Govt's Public Service Agreements and 6 new Departmental Strategic Objectives, which cover the totality of DCSF business, set strategic direction and inform resourcing decisions. It also provides information about the Department itself and the children and young people's workforce. It analyses departmental expenditure in resource terms and capital investment.

<http://publications.dcsf.gov.uk/default.aspx?PageFunction=productdetails&PageMode=publications&ProductId=CM+7595&http://publications.dcsf.gov.uk/eOrderingDownload/DCSF-Annual%20Report%202009-BKMK.PDF>

**Your child, Your schools, our future:
building a 21st century schools system**

(30/06/09)

Key proposals in this White Paper include:

- New Pupil Guarantee and Parent Guarantee, setting out specific entitlements for young people during their school careers. A clear complaints procedure is set out for parents and pupils not getting their entitlements without having to have recourse to courts.
- Strengthened Home-School Agreements so all pupils/families clearly understand school rules and their responsibilities.
- Licence to Teach to boost the status of the profession – giving every teacher an entitlement to ongoing training throughout their careers and parents an explicit indicator of high-quality teaching.
- New Year 7 'progress check' for children starting secondary school below expectations in English and/or maths, to ensure all children get up to speed quickly.
- New School Report Cards, which will not only include the information on school attainment which league tables are currently based on, but go well beyond it. Ofsted will have a higher bar for school inspection grades, more focus on achievement and more focus on higher risk schools. A pilot will begin in September.
- Parents empowered to influence the choice of secondary schools available in their local area – with LAs having to plan for change if a significant number of parents are unhappy with local schools.
- New Accredited School Groups - chains of state-schools, directly run by the best education providers, with a new scheme to accredit the best.
- Large centrally-driven school improvement support replaced by locally tailored support services; specialist school status decided locally; and a stronger role for School Improvement Partners

- Governing bodies strengthened to hold heads and management to account.
 - New legislation to require Children's Trusts to intervene early where children have health, social or education issues – with legislation to ensure that early years' services work with schools or co-locate to give families the support they need, when they need it; and
 - Freer and fairer funding system.
- http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/pns/DisplayPN.cgi?pn_id=2009_0116
<http://publications.dcsf.gov.uk/default.aspx?PageFunction=productdetails&PageMode=publications&ProductId=Cm+7588>
<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/21stcenturyschoolssystem/?CID>
- White Paper**
http://publications.dcsf.gov.uk/eOrderingDownload/21st_Century_Schools.pdf
- White Paper Summary**
http://publications.dcsf.gov.uk/eOrderingDownload/21st_Century_Schools_Summary.pdf
- Pupil Guarantee**
<http://publications.dcsf.gov.uk/eOrderingDownload/8356-DCSF-Pupil%20Guarantee.pdf>
- Guide for children and young people**
<http://publications.dcsf.gov.uk/eOrderingDownload/DCSF-21st-Century-Schools-YP.pdf>
- Guide for parents and carers**
http://publications.dcsf.gov.uk/eOrderingDownload/21st_Century_Schools_P&C.pdf
- The parent guarantee**
<http://publications.dcsf.gov.uk/eOrderingDownload/8357-DCSF-Parent%20Guarantee.pdf>
- A School Report Card: Prospectus**
<http://publications.teachernet.gov.uk/default.aspx?PageFunction=productdetails&PageMode=publications&ProductId=DCSF-00664-2009&>

Inspection of Progress Made in the Provision of Safeguarding Services in the London Borough of Haringey (03/07/09)

Ofsted, the CQC and HMCI were asked to provide a judgement on the progress made in relation to specific areas of weakness identified in the special joint area review of safeguarding carried out in November 2008 and which judged safeguarding services to be inadequate. In particular, the inspection team was asked to evaluate the evidence and judge progress made in the following areas:

- managing the backlog of cases from pre-1 December 2008 where insufficient action or poor assessments had been made previously
- recording and tracking cases through the system, including looking at a sample of recent cases
- providing support for front-line social workers, and the impact this has had on delivering a better quality service to children and young people
- developing effective performance management systems; and
- establishing the 'capacity to improve' within the authority, and the extent of effective working together amongst partners in the Haringey area

<http://inspectorates.justice.gov.uk/hmic/inspections/joint-area/joint-area-inspections/haringey-inspection-of-progress>

Ofsted Inspection of Progress in Haringey Safeguarding Services (03/07/09)

Letter from HMCI Christine Gilbert to Children's Secretary Ed Balls and another from Ed Balls to the Leader of Haringey Council, Cllr Claire Kober, in response to Ofsted's Inspection of Progress of Haringey's Safeguarding Services.

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/pns/DisplayPN.cgi?pn_id=2009_0124

Statement on health and safety in schools (19/06/09)

The HSE has called for a common sense approach to health and safety in Great Britain's schools. Responding to a poll published by Teachers TV, HSE Chair Judith Hackitt said:

"Hardly a week goes by without another health and safety myth appearing," she said. "Health and safety is blamed for a lot of things not going ahead, but they're often about something else – high costs, an event that requires a lot of organising or fear of getting sued.

"Children cannot be wrapped in cotton wool – risk is part of growing up and our children need to learn how to manage risks in the real world.

"The examples cited in the Teachers TV article are quite frankly ridiculous.

"Stop worrying about the "conkers stories" and help children learn how to handle risk by doing things and going on visits. Concentrate on the real risks – not the trivia – by putting measures in place to manage them as far as is reasonable, but don't try to eliminate all risk and don't stop the activity."

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/press/2009/e09048.htm>

Public Protection and Safeguarding: An inspectorate perspective

This paper aims to provide an Inspectorate perspective on Public Protection and Safeguarding. The theme throughout the paper is not about criticising practitioners and managers for *failing to do the impossible*, instead it is about encouraging a belief in *Achieving the Possible*, and illustrating what that looks like.

http://inspectorates.justice.gov.uk/hmiprobation/docs/Public_Protection_Safegual.pdf
http://inspectorates.homeoffice.gov.uk/hmiprobation/docs/Public_Protection_Safegual.pdf?view=Binary

Youth Taskforce: Progress (June 2009)

The YT Action Plan set out a programme to ensure every area has a joined-up and systematic approach to early identification, prevention and support for teenagers at risk. The reforms are focused on delivering services that are accessible, relevant, and responsive to feedback, ensuring that young people are supported at the earliest possible opportunity to resolve difficulties and make successful transitions to adulthood.

This report documents how the Taskforce is helping to turn round some of our most difficult and vulnerable young people, with more than 30,000 benefiting directly from its work over the last year.

<http://publications.everychildmatters.gov.uk/default.aspx?PageFunction=productdetails&PageMode=publications&ProductId=DCSF-00640-2009&>

http://publications.dcsf.gov.uk/eOrderingDownload/Youth-Taskforce_Progress.pdf

Targeted Youth Support: Next steps (June 2009)

Targeted reforms have contributed to the Children's Plan commitment and also play an important part in delivering national priorities, including improving attendance and behaviour, narrowing attainment gaps, reducing teenage pregnancy, and raising the participation age. This document sets out how the DCSF intends to help local areas improve and develop their Targeted Youth Support arrangements over the coming months and years.

<http://publications.everychildmatters.gov.uk/default.aspx?PageFunction=productdetails&PageMode=publications&ProductId=DCSF-00639-2009&>

http://publications.dcsf.gov.uk/eOrderingDownload/Targeted-Youth-Support_NextSteps.pdf

Funding Central (17/06/09)

The NCVO & Office for the Third Sector have launched Funding Central, the new free website for comprehensive information about national, local and regional government funding, national, local or regional charitable funding, and EU funding.

Funding Central for the whole voluntary and community sector will have relevant up to date information on all funding opportunities aimed at helping voluntary and community organisations easily identify relevant funding streams at the touch of a button.

The site goes beyond merely providing information which will continue to grow, Funding Central aims to build the capacity of organisations to successfully identify and apply for funding – whether in the form of a grant, grant in aid, contract or other financial opportunity.

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/third_sector/news/news_stories/090617_funding.aspx
<http://www.fundingcentral.org.uk/>

The quality of welfare and duty of care for recruits and trainees in the Armed Forces (18/06/09)

Most Armed Forces' recruits and trainees feel safe and well-supported in training but some areas for improvement remain in the overall quality of welfare and duty of care. This Ofsted report recognises progress over the past 5 years and acknowledges the integral part which welfare and duty of care now play within training. However, the Armed Forces need to address a number of issues relating to the recruitment of, and the training done by, new recruits.

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/News/Further-action-needed-to-improve-welfare-and-care-for-armed-forces-recruits-and-trainees>

Identifying and Teaching Children and Young People with Dyslexia and Literacy Difficulties (22/06/09)

The govt has accepted recommendations made by Sir Jim Rose who was asked to examine how schools can best identify and provide for children with dyslexia. The govt has committed £10m to fund specialist teaching and support for schools and parents. 4,000 teachers will be funded to train in specialist dyslexia teaching over the next 2 years - one for every local group of schools.


The Children's Plan included a commitment to do more to improve outcomes for children with SEN - this extra investment will allow schools to deliver the high quality support children with dyslexia need.

Sir Jim says all schools need access to 3 levels of expertise:

- 1) Up to date, accessible information about literacy difficulties available for all teachers so they can adjust their teaching for children with dyslexia
- 2) Courses that enable schools to develop expertise in improving outcomes for children with literacy difficulties;
- 3) Access to a specialist teacher for children who need intensive support.

Ed Balls has also commissioned further guidance and training for all schools on responding to children with literacy difficulties. Teachers will be encouraged to access an online course providing them with advanced skills to give extra support to those children who need it.

The report makes 19 recommendations on: assessing and advancing children's progress, improving support and guidance to schools and parents, and strengthening teaching expertise and intervention programmes.



Key recommendations are:

- The Department should
 - fund teachers to undertake specialist training in teaching children with dyslexia, to substantially improve access to specialist expertise in all schools;
 - commission online courses for teachers on selecting and using techniques for giving extra help with literacy;
 - commission clear guidance for parents and schools on the use and availability of literacy help;
 - continue funding a helpline that provides advice to parents and people working in schools on dyslexia and literacy difficulties.
- Schools should evaluate their methods of delivering extra help with literacy and make sure they have the expertise required to deliver these;

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/pns/DisplayPN.cgi?pn_id=2009_0114

<http://publications.dcsf.gov.uk/default.aspx?PageFunction=productdetails&PageMode=publications&ProductId=DCSF-00659-2009>

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/jimroseanddyslexia/>
<http://publications.dcsf.gov.uk/eOrderingDownload/00659-2009DOM-EN.pdf>

Youth of Today programme (03/07/09)

The Government has launched a major youth leadership programme for young people aged 13 to 19 aiming to increase the opportunities for them to lead change in their communities.

<http://www.number10.gov.uk/Page19918>
<http://www.theyouthoftoday.org/>

Youth Crime Action Plan (25/06/09)

The government has published a summary of the responses to its consultation on the YCAP issued on 16 July 2008.

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/news/announcement250609a.htm>

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/documents/youth-crime-action-plan/>

Young Runaways (01/07/09)

Every year in the UK an estimated 100,000 children and young people run away from home or care, with 1 in 6 ending up on the streets. A young person might run away from home or care for various reasons, but when they do so it usually means that something in their life isn't going right. These young people face the particular range of risks that come from having to find alternative places to stay and the means to survive.

The Govt's Young Runaways Action Plan sets out what local agencies need to do to give these vulnerable young people the help they need. It will make sure that, wherever possible, young people get the help they need to sort out issues in their lives before they run, and, in recognition that some young people will still run away, will ensure that there are services which can go into action quickly to support these young people and keep them safe.

In January 2008, Ed Balls announced there would be a national indicator relating to young runaways. NI 71 asks local areas to assess whether appropriate systems, procedures and protocols are in place to identify the levels of running in their area, and whether the response to instances of running is appropriate to the needs of young people who run away. Local areas will need to assess and score their performance on a scale of 0 to 3 against 5 key elements of service planning and provision.

Statutory Guidance on Children Who Run Away and Go Missing from Home or Care has been developed to help LAs put better systems in place to support young runaways from both home and care. This replaces *Children Missing from Care and from Home (2002)*.



LAs are being asked to take the following statutory actions:

- Develop clear roles and responsibilities between local services and the police for safeguarding runaway children, including a named person in each LA who is responsible for runaways;
- Make sure good out-of-hours services and effective emergency accommodation are in place for runaways;
- Hold 'return interviews' between a young person and someone independent that they trust, to explore the reasons they ran away;
- Work with the young person's family to prevent them running away again and refer them to social services if necessary;
- Gather information and intelligence about running away in their local authority area;
- Consider using the voluntary sector to provide independent services for young runaways.

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/safeguardingandsocialcare/safeguardingchildren/youngrunaways/youngrunaways/>

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/safeguardingandsocialcare/safeguardingchildren/youngrunaways/yri/youngrunawaysindicator/>

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/download/?id=6178>

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/pns/DisplayPN.cgi?pn_id=2009_0121

New CRB Website (17/06/09)

The CRB Website has been re-designed following feedback from its customers and regular monitoring of website activity. The new design has been constructed to help users navigate quickly and easily through the pages of the site. All of the guidance and information about the CRB services is now more accessible and user friendly.

<http://www.crb.gov.uk/>

Conducting the inspection: guidance for inspectors of schools from September 2009 (16/06/09)

This guidance is designed to assist inspectors of schools in their work. It indicates the main activities that need to be undertaken from the time the inspection is called until the publication of the report. Schools can use the guidance to see how inspections will be conducted and may find it helpful when carrying out their self-evaluation.

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Forms-and-guidance/Browse-all-by/Other/General/Conducting-the-inspection-guidance-for-inspectors-of-schools-from-September-2009>

Evaluation schedule of judgements for schools inspected under section 5 Education Act 2005 (16/06/09)

The evaluation schedule shown sets out the judgements that inspectors will make and report on from September 2009.

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Forms-and-guidance/Browse-all-by/Other/General/Evaluation-schedule-of-judgements-for-schools-inspected-under-section-five-of-the-Education-Act-2005-from-September-2009>

C4EO theme: Disability (16/06/09)

Disability is the 2nd theme in C4EO's 3 year work programme. It will run from September 08 to July 2010 and provide the knowledge, data and tailored support that DCSs and their Children's Trust partners may need to help improve outcomes for disabled children and their families.

As part of the theme, 3 key priorities are being addressed:

- Improving the wellbeing of disabled children (up to the age of eight) and their families through increasing the quality and range of early interventions. ↗

- Improving wellbeing of disabled children and young people through improving access to positive activities: extended services, youth work, inclusive play/leisure opportunities, sports and the arts.
- Ensuring all disabled children and young people and their families receive services which are sufficiently differentiated to meet their diverse needs.

<http://www.c4eo.org.uk/themes/disabledchildren/default.aspx?themeid=2&accesstypeid=1>

ICS Next Steps (22/06/09)

The Social Work Taskforce were asked to look at the effectiveness of the Integrated Children's System. In response to its recommendations, the Children's Minister has written to LAs in England setting out practical steps the DCSF will take to help LAs improve their local systems, including:

- making it clear that LAs will no longer have to adhere to all national specifications backed up by additional £6.4m funding to help improve local systems;
- simplifying national specifications, so it is easier for LAs to introduce flexibilities, while helping social workers to comply with statutory requirement;
- working with LAs to help them commission systems that meet their needs;
- conducting a 'usability review' of local systems, so that LAs can identify and respond to problems in their systems;
- establishing an expert panel to advise on how best to make changes to ICS; and
- asking LAs to identify a senior 'champion' to ensure that improvements are taken forward that best support social workers.

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/pns/DisplayPN.cgi?pn_id=2009_0122

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/safeguardingandsocialcare/integratedchildrenssystem/ics/>

Crackdown on teenage summer binge drinking (17/06/09)

Ed Balls has launched a nationwide crackdown on teenage binge drinking during the summer holidays. Children's services and police are being asked to work together to stop and prevent alcohol influenced anti-social behaviour.

Local areas are being asked to submit a 3 point plan to show how they will take forward a range of prevention and enforcement activity, using £1.4m of new cash for 69 youth crime priority areas. The plan must include:

- Tough enforcement - confiscating alcohol, using dispersal powers to break up groups of young people getting drunk and causing trouble and behaviour contracts to hold them to account;
- Early intervention and support – giving young people one-to-one support, and youth services working with families to address underlying reasons for young people's behaviour, using parenting contracts and orders to support parents;
- Communicating to the local community – making it clear to the public what is being done to tackle drunk and disorderly behaviour by young people.

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/pns/DisplayPN.cgi?pn_id=2009_0112

Child development grant pilots - 2009-10

This LA Circular setting out the grant allocations, conditions of grant and payment arrangements for those authorities delivering the Child Development Grant Pilot.

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/news-and-communications/local-authority-circulars-2008-2011/lac0906090007/>
<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/download/?id=6175>

House of Lords landmark ruling (09/06/09)

On 20 May 2009, in the case of R (G) v Southwark, the House of Lords ruled that young people such as G, a 17-year-old who was excluded from his mother's home and was effectively homeless following unsuccessful mediation with his mother, should be referred in future to children's services authorities as they are much better placed to meet the young person's needs. There was clarification that children's services authorities can ask other authorities (i.e. housing authorities) to use their powers to discharge their own, but responsibilities cannot be passed to other authorities.

The judgement referred to a previous case and stated:

"the clear intention of the legislation is that these children need more than a roof over their heads and that local children's services authorities cannot avoid their responsibilities towards this challenging age group by passing them over to the local housing authorities."

This ruling goes a long way to clarifying the situation in which YOT accommodation officers often found themselves having to navigate between housing departments and children's services authorities in order to ascertain responsibilities for housing and supporting homeless children and young people under their supervision.

<http://www.yjb.gov.uk/en-gb/bulletins/yots/YOTs20090609>
<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld/200809/ldjudgmt/jd090520/appg-1.htm>

Dept of Health Departmental Board Annual Report 2008-09

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_101100

HSE Myth of the Month: Health and safety is a threat to village fetes (July 2009)

If you believe everything you read, health and safety is to blame for lots of fun events being cancelled. Plastic duck races, village fetes and even morris dancing have all allegedly fallen victim to excessive health and safety regulations.

People often assume that the rules are so complex they make it too much effort to organise an event. But when managed sensibly, health and safety shouldn't (and doesn't) stop things happening.

As part of a well-run event, good planning and practical actions help to make sure that things go smoothly. The important thing is to make sure that health and safety is fit for purpose and acted upon. It certainly isn't about cancelling events – we're here to save lives, not stop them.

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/myth/jul09.htm>

Snap away on sports day, says ICO (22/06/09)

The Information Commissioner's Office is reminding parents that the Data Protection Act does not prevent them taking photographs of their children and friends participating in school events.

Deputy Commissioner, David Smith, said: "We recognise that parents want to capture significant moments on camera and we want to reassure them and other family members that whatever they might be told data protection does not prevent them taking photographs of their children and friends at school events. Photographs taken for the family photo album are exempt from the Act and citing the DPA to stop people taking photos or filming their children at school is wrong."



The ICO has produced guidance for LAs and those working within schools, colleges and universities explaining that the DPA is unlikely to apply in many situations where photographs are taken in schools. The DPA does apply to photographs taken for official use by schools and colleges and stored with personal details, such as names. In cases such as these, a common sense approach would suggest that if the photographer gains permission to take a picture, this will usually be enough to ensure compliance.

http://www.ico.gov.uk/upload/documents/pressreleases/2009/photography_schools_sports_day220609.pdf

http://www.ico.gov.uk/upload/documents/library/data_protection/practical_application/taking_photos_v3.0_final.pdf

Comprehensive Area Assessment (June 2009)

CAA Now – edition 14 contains an announcement on the oneplace website; new report on local strategic partnerships; Ofsted launches CAA publications; question time with Gareth Davies; people and views; CAA in the news and events.

<http://www.audit-commission.gov.uk/localgov/keepmeuptodate/caanewsletter/Pages/Default.aspx>

More help to tackle knife crime (29/06/09)

As part of the government's one-year extension of the Tackling Knives Action Programme, over 150 organisations will receive £2.3m to tackle knife crime and support victims. The funding will go to help groups that work with young people to prevent them becoming involved in gun, gang and knife crime. The money will also be given to organisations that support the families and friends of homicide victims.

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/about-us/news/more-help-knife-crime>

**Independent Safeguarding Authority
Roadshow Media (24/06/09)**

The Home Office has release for download

- The Presentation (a separate presentation for NI will be available shortly)
- Frequently Asked Questions

<http://www.isa.gov.org.uk/default.aspx?page=395>

**Child death review processes -
amended procedures, notification
form and information for families**

The London Child Death Overview Panel Procedure (February 2009), Rapid Response Procedure (May 2009) and Initial Notification Form (May 2009) have been amended following extensive consultation and overview by an expert editorial group of CDOP Chairs, CDOP Managers and Designated Doctors for Child Death, and have been signed off by the London CDOP Chairs Network. These documents replace those originally published in March 2008.

The CDOP Chairs group have also issued amended versions of the model leaflet and letter for families. These documents are not compulsory, but are available for any CDOP which wishes to use them.

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

**Early process evaluation of the Public
Law Outline in family courts (01/07/09)**

The PLO is a tool for the judicial case management of care proceedings cases. This report considers its early implementation in three areas. The report presents an early stage process evaluation, involving a review of 53 case bundles, interviews with 72 key practitioners and observations of 16 hearings.

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/evaluation-public-law-outline.htm>

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/docs/public-law-family-courts-process-evaluation.pdf>



**On the spot family mediation trial
(03/07/09)**

Legal Aid Minister Willy Bach has launched a pioneering project to provide family mediation and help prevent distressing court disputes across the West Midlands.

The in-court family mediation pilot is designed to offer an alternative to family court hearings and so reduce the time, cost and stress involved in resolving disputes by helping families reach safe, long-lasting agreements in the best interests of all involved, particularly children, before any dispute reaches court.

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/news/newsrelease030709a.htm>

**Assembly committee backs new law in bid
to meet child poverty targets (22/06/09)**

The National Assembly for Wales' Legislation Committee No.2 has backed the Welsh Government's proposed Children and Families(Wales) Measure. This will provide greater support to families where children may be at risk, and strengthen regulatory enforcement in children settings.

Under the proposals, 'Welsh authorities', including LAs and Welsh Ministers will be required to prepare and publish strategies to tackle child poverty. Welsh Ministers will have to report every three years on their progress.

The proposed Measure also makes provision for child minding and day care, opportunities for play and participation by children in LA decision making and the setting up of new integrated family support teams.

The proposed Measure will be debated by the Assembly on 30 June.

<http://www.assemblywales.org/newhome/new-news-third-assembly.htm?act=dis&id=134080&ds=7/20>

Evaluation Schedule of Judgements for Schools Inspected Under Section Five of the Education Act 2005 from September 2009 (16/06/09)

The evaluation schedule shown sets out the judgements that inspectors will make and report on from September 2009.

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Forms-and-guidance/Browse-all-by/Other/General/Evaluation-schedule-of-judgements-for-schools-inspected-under-section-five-of-the-Education-Act-2005-from-September-2009>

Conducting the Inspection: Guidance for inspectors of schools from September 2009 (16/06/09)

This guidance is designed to assist inspectors of schools in their work. It indicates the main activities that need to be undertaken from the time the inspection is called until the publication of the report.

Schools can use the guidance to see how inspections will be conducted and may find it helpful when carrying out their self-evaluation.

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Forms-and-guidance/Browse-all-by/Other/General/Conducting-the-inspection-guidance-for-inspectors-of-schools-from-September-2009>

Engaging Schools in Sustainable ECM and Extended Services

This resource pack is designed to help LAs and school leaders develop extended services and meet the goals of ECM for children and young people. It brings together the learning for a two-year partnership project involving 13 LAs, 176 schools, the NCSL and the TDA.

<http://www.tda.gov.uk/about/publicationslisting/tda0672.aspx>

Safeguarding: DCSF letters and documents (15/06/09)

This page has the following safeguarding children letters and documents from the DCSF

- ISA Vetting and Barring Helpline
 - List 99 checks and ISA from April 2009
 - List 99 checking service FAQs
 - Children Missing Education
 - Independent Safeguarding Authority
 - Working Together to Safeguard Children
- <http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Forms-and-guidance/Browse-all-by/Other/General/Safeguarding-DCSF-letters-and-documents>

New system of video games classification will help protect children: PEGI system adopted for all UK games (16/06/09)

An overhaul of video games classification rules will make selling a video game rated 12 or over to an underage person illegal for the first time has been announced.

The PEGI (Pan European Game Information) system, currently used in most European countries, will become the sole method of classifying video games in the UK.

The Government will now work with PEGI and the Video Standards Council on the development of a single, clear set of age-rating symbols to give parents the information they need to ensure that children are protected from unsuitable content, and help retailers to avoid breaking the law by selling games to people below the appropriate age.

The new system will consist of 5 age categories and a series of pictorial boxes, describing content such as bad language or violence.

http://www.culture.gov.uk/reference_library/media_releases/6215.aspx

Effectiveness of the New LSCBs in England: Interim report (25/06/09)

LSCBs were established under the Children Act 2004 and have the responsibility for co-ordinating and ensuring the effectiveness of the work of partner bodies to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

This research looked at how LSCBs manage their safeguarding role and if the new systems and arrangements are 'fit for purpose' and are influencing and improving frontline practice.

The types of partnership working arrangements and their effectiveness and how they transfer knowledge and information across the Safeguarding network also formed part of the study.

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/research/programmeofresearch/projectinformation.cfm?projectId=15744&type=5&resultspage=11>

Understanding serious case reviews and their impact - A biennial analysis of serious case reviews 2005-07 (25/06/07)

Serious case reviews are undertaken when a child dies or is seriously injured, and abuse or neglect are known or suspected to be factors in the death. They are carried out under the auspices of LSCBs so that lessons can be learnt locally.

This is the fourth biennial overview of serious case reviews across England and was commissioned to draw out themes and trends so that lessons learnt from these cases can inform both policy and practice.

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/research/programmeofresearch/projectinformation.cfm?projectId=15743&type=5&resultspage=11>

Systematic Reviews of Interventions Following Physical Abuse: Helping practitioners and expert witnesses improve the outcomes of child abuse (25/06/09)

The aims of this study were to conduct three reviews to synthesise both the published and grey literature for interventions for children who have experienced physical abuse, in order to present a complete picture of all of the available evidence and to draw out the implications of this for policy, practice and future research.

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/research/programmeofresearch/projectinformation.cfm?projectId=14992&type=5&resultspage=1>

Treating Emotional Maltreatment: What works? (25/06/09)

The objective of the review was to identify studies that evaluate the effectiveness of interventions in the secondary prevention and treatment of child emotional abuse involving the parents or primary carers of children aged 0-19 years.

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/research/programmeofresearch/projectinformation.cfm?projectId=14958&type=5&resultspage=1>

Disproportionality in Child Welfare: Prevalence of black and ethnic minority children within looked after and children in need populations and on child protection registers in England (25/06/09)

It has long been known that children from certain ethnic backgrounds are over and under-represented among those who are looked after, 'in need' or subject of child protection plans. This study aimed to provide further insight into differences between ethnic groups in their contact with child welfare services in England, and to examine possible reasons for this.

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/research/programmeofresearch/projectinformation.cfm?projectId=15746&type=5&resultspage=1>

Promoting the Health of Looked After Children: A study to inform revision of the 2002 guidance (25/06/09)

The research was to assist the DCSF and DH in revising the guidance on improving the health of LAC.

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/research/programmeofresearch/projectinformation.cfm?projectId=15742&type=5&resultspage=1>

Working at the Edges of Care: European models of support for young people and families (25/06/09)

This study examined policy, professional skills and practice, as well as service use relating to support for young people (aged 10-15 years) and their families, where levels of need indicate that placement or accommodation outside the family home may be necessary. The aim was to learn from experience elsewhere in Europe and to identify best practice and inform the development of policy and practice in England.

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/research/programmeofresearch/projectinformation.cfm?projectId=15740&type=5&resultspage=11>

Impact of Family Breakdown on Children's Well-being: Evidence review (25/06/09)

This review sought to highlight key evidence on the impact of parental separation and divorce on children's well-being and development. The review addressed the process of family breakdown and its impact on children's well-being and how different factors operate to increase or limit the risk of adverse outcomes. The factors which appear to optimise positive outcomes for parents and children were also covered.

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/research/programmeofresearch/projectinformation.cfm?projectId=15741&type=5&resultspage=11>

Outreach to Children and Families: A scoping study (25/06/09)

The aim of the study was to gather information on identifying and documenting best practice in outreach in the Children's Centres.

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/research/programmeofresearch/projectinformation.cfm?projectId=15439&type=5&resultspage=11>

Perinatal Mortality Report

CEMACH has launched its first UK-wide perinatal mortality surveillance report. Main findings for 2007 include an improvement in UK rates for stillbirths and neonatal deaths and a higher proportion of post mortem examinations being offered for stillbirths and neonatal deaths. Risk factors for stillbirths and neonatal deaths are also examined in detail.

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Bulletins/theweek/DH_101833

<http://www.cmace.org.uk/Publications/CEMACH-Publications/Maternal-and-Perinatal-Health.aspx>

Review of patient safety for children and young people

Between April 07 and March 08 there were approximately 1.9 million hospital admissions of children under 14 in England and Wales and approximately 46m contacts by children with general practice services. Most children are treated safely. However, some are exposed to preventable adverse events.

This review highlights some of the patient safety issues for children, young people and their families, outlines current National Patient Safety Agency partnership work streams, and identifies key actions for stakeholders.

<http://www.npsa.nhs.uk/nrls/improvingpatientsafety/children-and-young-people/>

Consultations

Review of the Children, Young People and Families Grant Programme: Consultation (29/06/09)

The CYPF grant programme provides funding to third sector organisations for activities which support delivery of the ECM agenda and the Department's Children's Plan. This consultation seeks the views of the third sector and any other interested parties on the future approach and shape of the grant programme.

Closing Date: Monday 5 October 2009

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations/index.cfm?action=consultationDetails&consultationId=1612&external=no&menu=1>

Consultation on Legislation to Address Illicit Peer-to-peer File Sharing (16/06/09)

This consultation sets out the Government's legislative approach for addressing the problem of illicit use of Peer-to-Peer (P2P) file-sharing technology to exchange unlawful copies of copyright material.

Closing Date 15th September 2009

<http://www.berr.gov.uk/consultations/page51696.html>

Government Response to a Consultation on Options for a Strengthened Video Games Classification System

Following the consultation into options for a strengthened video games classification system, held the Government Response summarises the responses and sets out the rationale for the decision.

http://www.culture.gov.uk/reference_library/publications/6210.aspx

Preventing unintentional road injuries among under 15s: road design - evidence consultation

NICE was asked by the DH to 'Produce guidance on public health interventions to reduce accidental injuries to persons under the age of 15 on the road'.

All registered stakeholders are now invited to comment on the evidence that has been assembled to inform the development of this guidance. This evidence will be used by the Public Health Interventions Advisory Committee (PHIAC) to develop draft recommendations. The evidence comprises a review of effectiveness and cost effectiveness, a review of qualitative evidence and an economic analysis.

The aim of this consultation is to enable stakeholders to consider the evidence gathered and to provide the opportunity to comment, in particular on:

- major gaps in the evidence gathered, including papers in the published literature that we have not been able to identify
- queries around the interpretation of the evidence, both of single studies and the reviewed material as a whole
- the applicability of the evidence and its usefulness for the development of guidance
- issues relating to equality
- issues relating to cost-effectiveness

Closing Date 28th July 2009

<http://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/index.jsp?action=folder&o=44733>

<http://www.nice.org.uk/nicemedia/pdf/UnintentionalRoadInjuriesUnder15sFinalScope.pdf>

Conferences

Safeguarding children whose parents/carers use drugs or alcohol or have mental health needs

20th July 2009 London £150 - £250 + VAT
This seminar will consider the particular safeguarding issues for the very large number of young people in this situation; the importance of whole-family working; and the benefits of the joint working protocol developed by The Children's Society and Hampshire Drug and Alcohol Action Team (DAAT) for those working with such families from children's and adults' services, including the issues involved in implementing the protocol.

It will provide an opportunity to hear from the people most closely involved in developing and implementing the innovative joint working protocol now in use in Hampshire, and the subject of increasing interest amongst other authorities.

This event will provide:

- An overview of the particular safeguarding issues for children in this situation.
- An understanding of how effective joint working between adult and children's services can bring significant benefits to families and improvements in outcomes, and the issues involved in implementation of a joint protocol.
- Knowledge of the support offered to children and young people whose parents use drugs or alcohol by the STARS project, and the new STARS National Initiative.

<https://member.lgiu.org.uk/events/Pages/CSN200709.aspx>

Learning from one another seminar 2

14th July 2009 2pm – 5pm London
Following last year's popular series of child sexual abuse seminars, the London Safeguarding Children Board agreed to host a similar series of sessions throughout 2009, this time focussing on safeguarding children across culture and faith in partnership with the Victoria Climbié Foundation.
The second of these sessions is now open for bookings. It will be led by Southall Black Sisters and focuses on what works when engaging with BME communities around safeguarding children abused through domestic violence.

If you would like to attend, please return the booking form by 9th July 2009.

Additional seminars will be held on Sept 8th 2009 (9.30 - 12.30) and Nov 12th 2009 (9.30 - 12.30), and bookings will open approximately one month in advance of each session.

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

Conferences (continued)

Safeguarding children and interagency working: How can the processes and tools for early intervention reduce the likelihood of child misery?

31st July 2009 London
£150 - £250 + VAT

The recent Protection of Children in England: Progress Report by Lord Laming explained how Inter-agency working is increasingly becoming the norm and most staff across a range of children's services is committed to it. But as he asserted, acceptance for shared responsibility for safeguarding needs to be more widespread. In the wake of Lord Laming's review of safeguarding the importance of integrated working is reaffirmed but better early intervention is vital in reducing the likelihood of child misery and ensuring children's wellbeing.

The following seminar will provide a timely opportunity to examine the principles of the processes and tools that underpin good interagency working and enable us to better deliver prevention.

This event will provide:

- An opportunity to look positively at interagency working following Lord Laming Protecting Children report
- A look at interagency working – effective coordination of services when safeguarding children including the use of CAF and ContactPoint

<https://member.lgiu.org.uk/events/Pages/310709.aspx>

Does Data Protection worry you?

24th September 2009 London
£76 - £203.57

Not understanding or complying with Data Protection can put organisations at both financial and reputational risk. This conference will set out what you need to know to ensure that your organisation does not fall foul of the law and to enable you to apply best practice throughout your organisation.

This is no 'learn by rote' event but one which challenges you to think through both the legal options available, as well as how to engage with legal advisors and colleagues on how to handle this vital issue.

The day will be led by Lesley Tadgell-Foster who runs the BSI Data Protection Programme for Non-Profits and has worked with clients including Get Kids Going!, MapAction and The Prince's Trust.

The day will include

- recent developments in legislation
- different rules which apply to email, text, telemarketing, postal campaigns and fax.
- how to ensure your organisations communications are lawful,
- how legacy databases and purchased lists can be used for marketing and whether preference services need to be consulted
- data protection and websites
- privacy statements

<http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/events/latest/?id=13092>

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