

**SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN
INFORMATION UPDATE - 165
26th July 2010**

**Written Ministerial Statement –
Independent Review of the Children's
Commissioner for England (12/07/10)**

Michael Gove has announced that the Government has commissioned Dr John Dunford OBE, General Secretary of the ASCL, to carry out an independent and consultative review of the office, role and functions of the Children's Commissioner for England.

The Minister said that the role of Children's Commissioner was created by the Children Act 2004 with a remit to promote awareness of the views and interests of children in England. It is now over 5 years since the first Commissioner took up office but the role and remit have not yet been reviewed. There is continued debate about the remit of the post: as compared to its counterparts in other countries and the devolved administrations; its public profile; and the impact it has had.

The Minister said that the review will take a wide-ranging and independent look at the office, role and function of the Children's Commissioner. Dr Dunford will determine how the review will be conducted but I have asked him to ensure maximum opportunities to consult are taken and to consider the broad spectrum of opinions on this issue including the views of children and young people. With this in mind, I understand that, Dr Dunford will be launching a call for evidence and I am sure he will be keen to secure the opinion of parliamentarians.

In particular he has asked for the review to cover:

- the powers, remit and functions of the Children's Commissioner



- the relationship with other related functions supported by Government
- value for money.

<http://www.education.gov.uk/news/news/review-childrens-commissioner>

See Consultations

**Home Secretary commits to ending
violence against women (16/07/10)**

Theresa May told an audience at the annual Women's Aid conference, in her first speech on this issue, that violence against women would be a priority for the government and committed to:

- continuing, to the end of this financial year, the pilot scheme which helps victims of domestic violence who have no recourse to public funds because of their immigration status – and committed to finding a long-term solution to ensure victims are protected after that. The scheme provides support to victims in the UK on a spouse or partner visa who have been forced to flee the family home because of domestic violence
- reversing the decline in rape crisis centres by considering how to use the proceeds from the victim surcharge to deliver up to 15 new rape crisis centres, and give existing rape crisis centres stable, long-term funding
- responding in full to Baroness Stern's independent review into the handling of rape complaints as part of the government's work to tackle rape.

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/media-centre/press-releases/ending-violence-against-women>

PM launches National Citizen Service pilots for young people (22/07/10)

Government-backed NCS pilots will start next summer and will provide around 10,000 places. Aimed at school leavers aged 16, the pilots will take place, following the end of the exam period, and last for 7-8 weeks.

The aim is to give every 16 year old the chance to learn new skills that will help them to make a positive contribution to their community.

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/newsroom/news_releases/2010/100722-citizenservice.aspx
<http://www.number10.gov.uk/news/topstory/news/2010/07/pm-launches-national-citizen-service-pilots-53775>

Reform of children's trusts (22/07/10)

Strong local partnerships are crucial to meeting the needs of children, but a one-size-fits-all approach will not work. The Government intends to remove bureaucracy surrounding children's trusts and allow schools to choose how best they may engage.

The Secretary of State has indicated that he proposes to:

- remove the duty on schools to co-operate through Children's Trusts via the Education Bill
- remove the requirement on LAs to set up Children's Trust Boards and the requirement on those Boards to prepare and publish a joint Children and Young People's Plan, at the first available legislative opportunity
- revoke the regulations underpinning the Children and Young People's Plan and withdraw the statutory guidance on Children's Trusts, in the autumn.

<http://www.education.gov.uk/news/news/childrenstrusts>

Decommissioning ContactPoint (22/07/10)

Tim Loughton MP, Parliamentary under Secretary of State for Children and Families, has laid a written ministerial statement informing Parliament that ContactPoint will be shut down on 6th August 2010.

The DfE has written to DCSs and chief executives of ContactPoint national partners, setting out the timetable for shut down and decommissioning, and providing guidance on the activities needed, and confirms funding and other support available during this period.

The Government continues to consider the feasibility of a new signposting service for professionals to help them to support and protect our most vulnerable children, particularly when these children move areas or access services in more than one area.

<http://www.education.gov.uk/news/news/ctptclose>

Sex and violence: improving your care. Taskforce on the health aspects of violence against women and children - young people's version (15/07/10)

A document has been produced that explains the work of the Taskforce and the violence agenda to young people – particularly to those who have been affected by violence. It combines the findings from the consultation with young people, Taskforce recommendations that concern this audience, as well as relevant parts of the interim government response.

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_117565

http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/@dh/@en/@ps/documents/digitalasset/dh_117564.pdf

<http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/PublicHealth/ViolenceagainstWomenandChildren/index.htm>

National Day Nurseries Association 3 year strategic plan (22/07/10)

This publication details how NDNA will be working to represent the early years sector to enable nurseries to continue to deliver high-quality services for children and families. It also shares how NDNA will support members to provide an even better level of care including through its services and equipping LAs and providers to work together to meet local priorities.

<http://www.ndna.org.uk/news/press+releases/strategic-plan>

Smoking, drinking and drug use among young people in England in 2009 (22/07/10)

This report shows:

- The percentage of 11 to 15-year-olds who had ever taken drugs stood at 22% in 2009, compared to 29% in 2001 (the first year in which the current method of measuring drug use was used).
- The percentage who had tried smoking at least once was 29% – the lowest figure since the survey began in 1982 when it was 53%, and
- The percentage who had ever drunk alcohol was 51% in 2009 compared to 61% in 2003 from when the current downward trend in alcohol use began.

But while, overall, smoking, drinking and drug use has been declining among the age group, the report shows usage becomes more common as children get older.

<http://www.ic.nhs.uk/news-and-events/press-office/newsreleases/smoking-drinking-and-drug-use-among-school-children-on-the-decline-says-new-report>

<http://www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/sdd09fullreport>

Review of child protection guidance (15/07/10)

The GMC has announced that Rt. Hon. Lord Justice Thorpe will chair a working group to produce new guidance that will help doctors involved in the complex and challenging area of child protection practice and interpret and apply the standards expected by the GMC.

The Working Group will:

- Review the content of relevant GMC guidance against significant developments regarding doctors' roles in child protection (such as *Good Medical Practice; 0-18 years: guidance for all doctors, Confidentiality, and Acting as an expert witness*)
- Identify and consider any guidelines other organisations have published on issues related to doctors in child protection work and how this might inform or complement GMC guidance.
- Engage with a range of experts on the challenges and practical difficulties doctors face undertaking child protection work, and to seek the views of key interests.
- Decide the scope and structure of new guidance, taking account of other GMC guidance.
- Recommend a draft of the guidance to the GMC
- Oversee and analyse the outcome of a formal consultation exercise.
- Consider, and advise on, ways in which the new guidance could be disseminated, promoted, and used, and its impact evaluated

<http://www.gmc-uk.org/news/7358.asp>

Child-safety button on Facebook

(12/07/10)

For the first time all UK Facebook users – especially those 13 to 18 – can have direct access to ClickCEOP, from their homepage, giving them the very latest help on online safety as well as a dedicated facility for reporting instances of suspected grooming or inappropriate sexual behaviour.

Access to the ClickCEOP button will be provided via an application that users can add or bookmark so that it appears on their homepage as not only a constant source of help and reassurance for them but also as a strong visual signal to their friends, family and others that they are in control online.

The application will be backed by a new CEOP page that, when ‘liked’, will look to engage with young people to help raise the profile of online safety. The move is also being supported by wide spread advertising on Facebook, including an automatic message on every homepage of those aged 13-18 inviting them to add the application.
<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/media-centre/news/child-safety-facebook>
http://www.ceop.police.uk/mediacentre/press-releases/2010/ceop_12072010fb.asp

'Cards for little lives' (15/07/10)

'Cards for little lives' is a free online resource for teachers to use with their KS2 primary school children as part of PSHE.

The cards can be used to discuss familiar dilemmas and well-being issues in a safe and creative way and are presented as power point slides to facilitate interactive use in classrooms.

http://www.ncb.org.uk/campaigning/media-news/2010/jul_to_dec/ncb_launches_cards_for_little.aspx
<http://www.cardsforlittlives.org/>

Report on the findings of the forced marriage IDVA support pilot (12/07/10)

The pilot reviewed the role Independent Domestic Violence Adviser's play in supporting victims before, during and after an application for a Forced Marriage Protection Order. It also assessed whether or not IDVAs should be designated as a Relevant Third Party.

The pilot established the value of the IDVA role and feedback from the services shows that victims rely heavily on this kind of support to access a range of services beyond legal remedies. However based on the limited findings of this pilot exercise, there is no evidence to merit expanding Relevant Third Party status to the voluntary sector at this time.

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/forced-marriage-support-pilot.htm>

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/forced-marriage-pilot-a.pdf>

The Schools System Draft Structural Reform Plan (13/07/10)

Ministers today published the DfE key policy commitments and invited the public to hold them to account on delivery.

The draft SRP sets out clearly what the Department's key priorities are. It signals a reduction in restrictive and bureaucratic targets which meant little to the public. Instead, ministers are inviting the public to view and challenge all our key priorities over the coming years, including dates for completion.

<http://www.education.gov.uk/news/news/mg-invites-public>

<http://www.education.gov.uk/news/news/~media/Files/lacuna/news/SchoolsSystemStructuralReformPlanpdf.ashx>

Cafcass publishes 2010- 11 Quarter 1 care demand statistics (16/07/10)

Figures released by Cafcass show that care application demand has remained at a very high level. Between April and June 2010, Cafcass received 2,132 new applications. This figure is 1.7% higher than the same quarter last year. The April and May application numbers were the highest ever recorded by Cafcass for these individual months.

http://www.cafcass.gov.uk/news/2010/q1_care_statistics_2010_-_11.aspx

http://www.cafcass.gov.uk/pdf/1011%20Q1%20care%20demand%202010%2007%2020_FINAL.pdf

http://www.cafcass.gov.uk/publications/care_demand_statistics.aspx

Updated children and young people competence publications now available (21/07/10)

The Royal College of Nursing has published 3 updated children and young people competence publications.

The updated frameworks identify the competences, learning outcomes and the indicative content necessary for education and training programmes to meet the needs of children and young people. It is recommended that they should be used to develop new programmes and review and revise existing ones.

The updated frameworks are:

- Competences: an education and training competence framework for peripheral venous cannulation in children and young people
- Competences: an education and training competence framework for capillary blood sampling and venepuncture in children and young people



- Competences: an education and training competence framework for administering medicines intravenously to children and young people.

http://www.rcn.org.uk/newsevents/news/article/uk/updated_children_and_young_people_competence_publications_now_available

<http://www.rcn.org.uk/development/publications>

Personal, social, health and economic education in schools (23/07/10)

This report shows that most schools are equipping children and young people with the knowledge, understanding, attitudes and skills to live healthily, safely, productively and responsibly. Provision for PSHE was good or outstanding in more than ¾ of 165 maintained schools visited across England.

However, in just under 1 in 4 of the schools visited, the quality of teaching was variable and teachers' subject knowledge and expertise were not good enough. The report found that the teaching of PSHE education is most effective when there are discrete, regularly taught lessons supplemented by activities across other subjects.

[http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/News/News-](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/News/News-Archive/2010/July/Improvements-being-made-in-the-teaching-of-personal-social-health-and-economic-education)

[Archive/2010/July/Improvements-being-made-in-the-teaching-of-personal-social-health-and-economic-education](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/News/News-Archive/2010/July/Improvements-being-made-in-the-teaching-of-personal-social-health-and-economic-education)

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Publications-and-research/Browse-all-by/Documents-by-type/Thematic-reports/Personal-social-health-and-economic-education-in-schools>

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/content/download/11336/133647/file/Personal,%20social,%20health%20and%20economic%20education%20in%20schools.pdf>

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/content/download/11338/133657/file/Summary%20-%20PSHE%20in%20schools.pdf>

Serious case review evaluations: April 2007 onwards (15/07/10)

SCRs are local enquiries, carried out by LSCBs, into the death or serious injury of a child where abuse or neglect is known or suspected to be a factor.

Ofsted is responsible for evaluating SCRs in line with the requirements of Working Together. This is not an evaluation of the quality of professional practice, or quality of service delivery, in relation to the incident under review. Nor is it about allocating blame. It is an evaluation of the degree to which the review has succeeded in identifying lessons to be learned, and the action that needs to be taken to improve the protection of children in the future.

The list shows the SCRs carried out by LSCBs that Ofsted has evaluated.
<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Publications-and-research/Browse-all-by/Documents-by-type/Statistics/Other-statistics/Serious-case-review-evaluations-April-2007-onwards>
<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/content/download/11314/133468/file/Serious%20case%20review%20evaluations%201%20April%202007%20-%2030%20June%202010.pdf>

Supporting young people: an evaluation of recent reforms to youth support services in 11 local areas (20/07/10)

The report examines progress made by LAs and youth support services, including YOTs, youth services, Connexions, voluntary and community sectors, education welfare officers and substance misuse teams to work together for young people.

The report finds that targeted support from LAs and their partners is helping to meet the needs of vulnerable young people, but LAs have made limited progress in involving

voluntary, community and private groups in providing youth services, and that the focus on providing services for 'at risk' young people risked undermining the youth activities available to all young people.

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/News/News-Archive/2010/July/Targeted-support-from-local-authorities-and-their-partners-helps-vulnerable-young-people>
<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Publications-and-research/Browse-all-by/Documents-by-type/Thematic-reports/Supporting-young-people-an-evaluation-of-recent-reforms-to-youth-support-services-in-11-local-areas>
<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/content/download/11322/133536/file/Supporting%20young%20people.pdf>
<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/content/download/11329/133599/file/Summary%20-%20Supporting%20young%20people.pdf>

Childcare registration form - Application form for the Early Years Register: childminder (20/07/10)

This form is part of the suite of childcare registration forms. The forms that you need to complete will depend on the childcare that you wish to provide and if you are applying to register on the Early Years Register and/or the Childcare Register.

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Forms-and-guidance/Browse-all-by/Other/General/Childcare-registration-form-Application-form-for-the-Early-Years-Register-childminder-EYC>
<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/content/download/11118/131694/file/form%20EYC%20onscreen.doc>
<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Forms-and-guidance/Browse-all-by/Care-and-local-services/Childcare/Registration/How-to-apply>

Raising concerns and making complaints about Ofsted (14/07/10)

This summary outlines the procedure for complaints about Ofsted's inspection and regulation activity and the work of its staff. It replaces the procedures previously outlined in HMI ref no 070080 dated 27 August 2009.

Ofsted anticipates that the great majority of its work will be carried out smoothly and without incident. However, we recognise that on occasion there may be a need to raise concerns about some aspect of our work or the conduct of our staff.

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Forms-and-guidance/Browse-all-by/Other/General/Complaints-procedure-raising-concerns-and-making-complaints-about-Ofsted>

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/content/download/4590/37885/file/Raising%20concerns%20and%20making%20complaints%20about%20Ofsted.doc>

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/content/download/4589/37880/file/Raising%20concerns%20and%20making%20complaints%20about%20Ofsted.pdf>

Complaints about Ofsted form

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Forms-and-guidance/Browse-all-by/Other/General/Complaints-about-Ofsted-form>

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/content/download/11307/133433/file/Complaints%20about%20Ofsted%20form.doc>

Twelve outstanding providers of work-based learning (14/07/10)

This report showcases 12 outstanding work-based learning providers that excel at providing apprenticeships, NVQs and other vocational qualifications for young people and adults.



The report presents some of the common factors that have led to high performance in the work of the providers.

It outlines the key challenges they faced on the journey to becoming outstanding and explains the ways in which they are seeking to sustain excellence.

It includes profiles of the providers and leaders' and managers' views of the reasons for their success.

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/News/Press-and-media/2010/July/Equipping-people-with-the-skills-for-work-Ofsted-highlights-the-ingredients-of-work-based-learning-success>

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Publications-and-research/Browse-all-by/Documents-by-type/Thematic-reports/Twelve-outstanding-providers-of-work-based-learning>

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/content/download/11306/133428/file/Twelve%20outstanding%20providers%20of%20work-based%20learning.pdf>

'Legal high' Naphyrone to be a Class B drug (22/07/10)

Naphyrone (often called 'NRG1') and its related compounds will become Class B drugs from 23 July 2010. The drug, which has no known legitimate use, will be banned under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971.

The legislation includes a generic definition to prevent unscrupulous drug manufacturers tweaking the chemical structure in an attempt to get around the law.

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/media-centre/press-releases/legal-high-naphyrone-classb>

Single equality scheme 2010–13 (14/07/10)

This scheme sets out 4 key objectives, and what Ofsted will do to help achieve them:

- ensure that best practice in equality and human rights is rooted in all aspects of Ofsted's inspection and regulation functions and is based on and supported by a strong evidence base
- ensure that Ofsted's inspection and regulatory work is informed by effective and inclusive consultation, engagement and communication with users
- ensure that the promotion of equality and human rights and elimination of discrimination and harassment is embedded in all Ofsted practice through leadership and organisational commitment
- ensure the development of an effective and diverse workforce.

In particular Ofsted will:

- regularly review inspecting grade trends and the impact of inspection on providers' approaches to equality and human rights
- identify and disseminate good practice in promoting equality and human rights by providers' across all inspection and regulatory remits
- consult and involve diverse networks of users to help inform future inspection and regulatory activities
- provide managers with support and training to enable them to lead the promotion of equality and human rights
- improve the diversity of the workforce at middle and senior levels.

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Forms-and-guidance/Browse-all-by/Other/General/Single-equality-scheme-2010-13>
<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/content/download/11310/133448/file/Single%20equality%20scheme%202010-13.pdf>
<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/content/download/11309/133443/file/Single%20equality%20sc>

Single equality scheme: a report on the responses to consultation (14/07/10)

This report summarises findings of the 2nd stage of consultation on the Scheme.

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Publications-and-research/Browse-all-by/Documents-by-type/Consultations/Single-equality-scheme-a-report-on-the-responses-to-consultation>
<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/content/download/11312/133458/file/Single%20equality%20scheme%20consultation%20report.pdf>
<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/content/download/11311/133453/file/Single%20equality%20scheme%20consultation%20report.doc>

Deferral of inspections: learning and skills providers and colleges (21/07/10)

A new common inspection framework for FE and skills was published in July 09. It is based on the common evaluation schedule which informs all of Ofsted's inspections.

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Forms-and-guidance/Browse-all-by/Other/General/Deferral-of-inspections-learning-and-skills-providers-and-colleges>
<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/content/download/11333/133619/file/Deferral%20of%20inspection%20learning%20and%20skills%20external%20policy.pdf>
<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/content/download/11332/133614/file/Deferral%20of%20inspection%20learning%20and%20skills%20external%20policy.doc>

Guide to Ofsted's house style (22/07/10)

This guidance is to help those writing and editing Ofsted documents to present information in a clear and consistent form that makes it accessible to readers.

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Publications-and-research/Browse-all-by/Documents-by-type/Miscellaneous/Guide-to-Ofsted-s-house-style>

Safeguarding Young People: Responding to young people aged 11 to 17 who are maltreated (21/07/10)

This study found that

- the needs of 11-17 year olds were not always met by child protection processes which are more geared to protecting younger children.
- a lack of resources in Children's Social Care Services can negatively affect older children, whereas younger children in similar circumstances may be prioritised.

Policymakers should consider a review of current alternative approaches to determine what works best for young people and attempt to bring more consistency to service provision.

The study also highlighted a problem with some professionals' perceptions of the abilities of older children. It found that 11-17 year olds were often seen as more competent to deal with maltreatment than younger children, including being able to escape abusive situations and seek help, as well as being perceived by some professionals as more 'resilient' – i.e. more able to cope with experiences of maltreatment.

The research made a number of other recommendations including:

- More service provision for young people, particularly in the 14–17 age group that can engage them and meet their needs.
- Peers and schools are an important source of support to young people. Models such as safeguarding forums in schools, or the use of safeguarding mentors in secondary schools, may help young people to identify who to speak to and support them to disclose abuse. These could work alongside the CP leads in schools and feed their views into LSCBs.



- A young person's guide on "what to do if a friend is being abused" should be developed to support young people in advising their friends and to provide information about how young people can access help.
- Most of the young people interviewed were confused about what had happened to them at different stages of the safeguarding process and why and what different professionals' roles are. Simple and clear information about the process needs to be made available to young people who come into contact with CSC Services.

http://www.childrenssociety.org.uk/whats_happening/media_office/latest_news/21483_pr.html

http://www.childrenssociety.org.uk/resources/documents/Research/21487_full.pdf

http://www.childrenssociety.org.uk/resources/documents/Research/21485_full.pdf

New CRB Application Forms (20/07/10)

From 20/07/10 the CRB will only be accepting applications made on the new (purple) application form. Any applications on the old (white) form will be rejected.

The CRB has been accepting applications on the new forms since 28th June 2010. These are being held until 26/07/10 when they will be processed in date received order. From 26/07/10 you can order more new (purple) application forms by phoning the Customer Services Call Centre on 0870 90 90 811

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

'No going back! Parents' expectations of short breaks' (20/07/10)

EDCM has launched the second of 3 reports charting parent's experiences of short breaks which shows that, following investment under the Aiming High for Disabled Children programme, parents are experiencing improved levels and quality of short breaks.

However, much more needs to be done to ensure that regular, reliable and appropriate short breaks services are available to families with disabled children, particularly those with the most complex needs. 'No Going Back!' reveals that too many parents are told they are not eligible for short breaks, are offered inappropriate provision or have to provide training to short break workers before feeling confident that they can care for their child.

EDCM is calling on the Government to make a commitment to a national vision on the ongoing transformation of short break services for disabled children and their families. The campaign is also urging the Secretary of State for Education to provide guidance for families and for local areas to address the ongoing misuse of eligibility criteria to restrict access to short breaks.

http://www.ncb.org.uk/edcm/news/news_archive/2010_news_archive/july_10/20_jul_10_no_going_back.aspx
<http://www.ncb.org.uk/edcm/nogoingback.pdf>

UK stillbirth rate is improving (21/07/10)

The Centre for Maternal and Child Enquiries publishes its *Perinatal Mortality 2008* report today. The key findings are:

- The perinatal mortality rate in the UK continues to fall from 8.3 per 1,000 total births in 2000 to 7.5 per 1,000 in 2008



- For the second consecutive year, the trend in the stillbirth rate since 2000 has shown a significant decrease, from 5.4 (2000) to 5.1 (2008) per 1,000 total births
- The stillbirth and neonatal mortality rates for twin births have also fallen
- There is wide variation in the stillbirth and neonatal mortality rates across the regions
- There is also variation in stillbirths and neonatal mortality rates from congenital anomalies, linked to region.

It is unclear why some regions have a higher perinatal mortality rate over others. Possible reasons include reporting differences and variations in the risk profiles of women and babies cared for.

<http://www.cmace.org.uk/>

<http://www.cmace.org.uk/getdoc/d6a8d8f9-cbb4-41f8-8917-5dbd5b74bd9f/Press-release---Perinatal-Mortality-Report-2008.aspx>

<http://www.cmace.org.uk/getdoc/cb3c9d5a-c140-4a59-97fa-1b2914b2881b/Perinatal-Mortality-2008.aspx>

Network of Networks goes live (July 2010)

The ODI, in collaboration with Equality 2025 and civil society disabled people's organisations, has established a Network of Networks to enable 2 way communications between disabled people and government.

The network is currently consulting on independent living and implementation of the UN Convention. The responses will help inform the Independent Living Strategy Group's annual report, and the government's response in UN Convention's 2011 report.

At the end of the pilot period in March 2011, the Network of Networks will provide an independent consultation service.

http://www.officefordisability.gov.uk/workin_g/news/index.php#NoN

**Preventable Child Deaths in England:
Year Ending 31 March 2010 (22/07/10)**

This Release presents data collected from LSCBs in England. The data collection is designed to collect information on the number of child deaths which have been reviewed by Child Death Overview Panels, and the number of these cases which were assessed as being preventable child deaths.

Key figures

- 3,450 child death reviews were completed by CDOPs in year ending 31/03/10
- Of the child death reviews completed, 150 were assessed as preventable.
- Each year there are approximately 5,000 child deaths registered in England, so approximately 10,000 children have died since the statutory responsibility to review child deaths was introduced on 01/04/08. Approximately 57% of these child deaths had their child death review completed by 31/03/10.
- Voluntary data indicates that 54% of deaths assessed as preventable were due to trauma and other external factors. And the most common event which resulted in the death being assessed as preventable was a road traffic accident (over a quarter of all preventable child deaths).

CDOPs assess if a child's death was preventable, potentially preventable or not preventable and voluntary data indicates that 15% of child deaths were assessed as potentially preventable (i.e. there were modifiable factors extrinsic to the child). And the most common cause of death assessed as potentially preventable was sudden unexplained death in infancy (27%).
<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/STR/d000943/index.shtml>
http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/STR/d000943/OSR17_2010_v4.pdf

**Special Educational Needs in England:
January 2010 (21/07/10)**

The key points from the latest release are:

- 220,890 (2.7%) pupils across all schools in England had statements of SEN, the same percentage as last year.
- The percentage of pupils with statements of SEN placed in mainstream schools was 54.9% (55.6% in 09). The corresponding figures for the proportion of pupils placed in maintained special schools was 38.1% - 4.3% in independent schools - 2% in non-maintained special schools - 0.8% in PRUs
- There were 1,470,900 pupils with SEN without statements (18.2% of pupils across all schools, an increase of 0.4% from 09)
- The incidence of pupils with SEN both with and without statements is greater in state-funded secondary schools (2% and 19.7% respectively) than in maintained primary schools (1.4 and 18.5%)

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000939/index.shtml>

Youth Cohort Study and Longitudinal Study of Young People in England: The Activities and Experiences of 18 year olds: England 2009 (22/07/10)

This publication brings together information on family environment, attitudes and behaviours, further and higher education, employment and post-16 participation with administrative data on academic attainment.

Data from previous waves of LSYPE and YCS, in some cases going back to when the young people were in compulsory education, are used to inform outcomes from the 2009 survey when the young people were of academic age 18

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SBU/b000937/index.shtml>

New Legislation

The Integrated Family Support Teams (Composition of Teams and Board Functions) (Wales) Regulations 2010 - SI 1690 (W.159) (22/07/10)

[SI 2010/1690 - Web Version \(HTML\)](#)

[SI 2010/1690 - Print Version Mixed Language \(PDF - 51 kb\)](#)

(C.87)The Children and Families (Wales) Measure 2010 (Commencement) Order 2010 - SI 1699 (W.160) (22/07/10)

[SI 2010/1699 - Web Version \(HTML\)](#)

[SI 2010/1699 - Print Version Mixed Language \(PDF - 48 kb\)](#)

The Integrated Family Support Teams (Review of Cases) (Wales) Regulations 2010 – SI 1700 (W.161) (22/07/10)

[SI 2010/1700 - Web Version \(HTML\)](#)

[SI 2010/1700 - Print Version Mixed Language \(PDF - 64 kb\)](#)

The Integrated Family Support Teams (Family Support Functions) (Wales) Regulations 2010 – SI 1701 (W.162) (22/07/10)

[SI 2010/1701 - Web Version \(HTML\)](#)

[SI 2010/1701 - Print Version Mixed Language \(PDF - 59 kb\)](#)

The Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 (Prescribed Period and Appropriate Officer) (Wales) (Revocation) Regulations 2010 – SI 1724 (W.165) (22/07/10)

[SI 2010/1724 - Web Version \(HTML\)](#)

[SI 2010/1724 - Print Version Mixed Language \(PDF - 44 kb\)](#)

(C.93)The Children, Schools and Families Act 2010 (Commencement No. 1) Order 2010 – SI 1817 (21/07/10)

[SI 2010/1817 - Web Version \(HTML\)](#)

[SI 2010/1817 - Print Version \(PDF - 42 kb\)](#)

Fireworks safety: be media wise!

(20/07/10)

This guidance on organising a fireworks safety campaign includes information to raise awareness and promote the issue of firework safety.

<http://www.bis.gov.uk/assets/biscore/consumer-issues/docs/f/10-1038-fireworks-safety-media-toolkit>

Safe and successful firework displays

(20/07/10)

These tips for organisers who are mounting firework displays for the general public include important information about responsibilities to the public and staff.

<http://www.bis.gov.uk/assets/biscore/consumer-issues/docs/f/10-1039-fireworks-safety-displays>

Firework Safety: Schools pack - key stage 1: firework safety (20/07/10)

This guidance about teaching fireworks safety at KS1 in the literacy/citizenship elements of the National Curriculum includes teachers' planning notes and other resources.

<http://www.bis.gov.uk/assets/biscore/consumer-issues/docs/f/10-1040-fireworks-safety-key-stage-one>

Retailer's guide: selling fireworks

(20/07/10)

This guidance on storing and selling fireworks safely covers retailers' obligations to the public and to their staff.

<http://www.bis.gov.uk/assets/biscore/consumer-issues/docs/f/10-1043-fireworks-retailers-guide>

Young people to get their voices heard by Children's Commissioner (21/07/10)

The Office of the Children's Commissioner and the Diana Award are to collaborate to set up a Children and Young People Advisory Group. The group will advise Maggie Atkinson, Children's Commissioner and her office, on C&YP's views regarding all aspects of their work.

Any enthusiastic advocates eager to represent the voice of young people can apply for a position. Applications are open to all young people aged 8-18.

Eighteen people from across England will be selected to sit on the board. The group will meet with Maggie Atkinson four times a year to represent the voice of young people across the country.

http://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/content/press_release/content_383

<http://www.diana-award.org.uk/>

Children's participation in decision-making - A Summary Report on progress made up to 2010 (12/07/10)

http://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/force_download.php?fp=%2Fclient_assets%2Fcp%2Fpublication%2F412%2FChildrens_participation_in_decision-making_-_a_summary_report.pdf

Children's participation in decision-making - A Children's Views Report (12/07/10)

http://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/force_download.php?fp=%2Fclient_assets%2Fcp%2Fpublication%2F411%2FChildrens_participation_in_decision-making_-_A_childrens_views_report.pdf

Mencap Direct (14/07/10)

Mencap, has launched a new national telephone service - **Mencap Direct** 0300 333 11 11, to make it easy for people with a learning disability, and those who support them, to find and buy the services they need from Mencap.

Increasing numbers of people choose to use an individual budget to purchase their support and, for some, finding the right service can be a complex process. Mencap Direct is designed to provide people with a learning disability and those who support them, a single, personal point of contact to provide guidance and support for people wishing to find out more about the Mencap services in their local area.

<http://www.mencap.org.uk/news.asp?id=15502&pageno=&year=&menuId=91>

<http://www.mencap.org.uk/page.asp?id=14912>

Families First Pioneers announced (20/07/10)

The Deputy Minister for Children has announced "Families First Pioneer areas" as part of the Welsh Assembly Government's commitment to support families and tackle child poverty. These areas have been selected to lead the way in demonstrating innovative ways of working and best practice models in their efforts to support families.

The aim of the Pioneers is to lead the way in improving the delivery of services to families across Wales, especially those living in poverty, as set out in the Assembly Government's draft Child Poverty Strategy. <http://wales.gov.uk/newsroom/childrenandyoungpeople/2010/100720familiesfirst/?lang=en>
<http://www.childreninwales.org.uk/policy/news/13718.html>

New Quality Framework Launched for Integrated Services for Young People

(22/07/10)

The ISfYP Framework and Quality Mark is the only externally validated process available, tailored to assess all aspects of integrated youth support, from universal through to targeted and specialist services.

The ISfYP Framework is a self-assessment tool with 15 distinct standards, covering 3 operational strands – policy and strategy, people, partnerships and resources.

Integrated Services can achieve one of three levels, depending on the quality of their provision – Emerging, Aspiring and Established – helping them to identify areas for improvement and celebration.

Once the Established level has been achieved, services can attain the national ISfYP Quality Mark to demonstrate the strength of their services for young people. This is externally validated by an independent assessor and will be awarded based on the strength of the application and evidence provided.

<http://www.nya.org.uk/news/new-quality-framework-launched-for-integrated-services-for-young-people>

Pickles outlines plans to abolish regional government (22/07/10)

Communities and Local Government Secretary Eric Pickles has announced the Government's intention in principle to abolish the remaining 8 Government Offices for the Regions across England, subject to using the Spending Review to resolve consequential issues. The final decisions will be made at the end of the Spending Review in the autumn.

Reducing bureaucracy and rolling back regional government is central to the Government's wider aims of transferring power from central government to councils and communities.

The Government has already announced the abolition of the Government Office for London, the Regional Spatial Strategies, the Regional Assemblies/Regional Leaders' Boards and the Regional Development Agencies.

The Coalition Agreement committed Government to a review of the remaining eight Government Offices as part of its wider localism and decentralisation agenda, and Ministers have decided in principle to close the Government Offices for the Regions.

Over the coming weeks the Department for Communities and Local Government will continue to work with other Government Departments, trade unions and others to lead a process to agree arrangements for the transfer of a small number of on-going functions and redeployment of staff.

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/news/newsroom/1646836>

Consultations

Independent Review of the Office of the Children's Commissioner: Call for evidence (12/07/10)

The Secretary of State for Education, Michael Gove, has invited John Dunford to conduct an independent review of the office, role and functions of the Children's Commissioner for England. The review is looking particularly at the powers, remit and functions of the Children's Commissioner, how this role relates to other functions supported by Government and value for money. The review is being supported by a secretariat of DfE officials.

Closing Date 4th October 2010

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations/index.cfm?action=consultationDetails&consultationId=1726&external=no&menu=1>

Is there enough support for vulnerable young people undertaking work based learning? Have your say (23/07/10)

The National Assembly for Wales's Petitions Committee has launched an inquiry into the experiences of vulnerable young people in work-based learning and is calling for evidence from interested parties.

Specific issues of interest include:

- availability and quality of work based placements
- disparities between different training allowances and grants
- impact on benefits
- availability of funding for travel
- availability of pastoral support
- progression between training programmes
- quality of training opportunities

<http://www.assemblywales.org/newhome/new-news-third-assembly.htm?act=dis&id=192569&ds=7/2010>

Consultation on the Health Social Care and Well-being Strategy Guidance 2010 and Children And Young People's Plans Interim Guidance 2011-14 (21/07/10)

Children And Young People's Plans Interim Guidance 2011-14

This guidance has been prepared under sections 25-28 of the Children Act 2004. This requires LAs and key partners to cooperate across the range of functions to improve well-being. It also places LAs under a statutory duty to prepare and publish CYP Plans.

Health Social Care and Well-being Strategy Guidance 2010

This guidance has been prepared to help LAs and Local Health Boards meet their statutory duty under Section 40 of the National Health Service Wales Act 2006 to prepare a health, social care and well-being strategy for each local authority area.

The Children and Young People's Plans Interim Guidance should be read in conjunction with the Health Social Care and Well-being Strategy Guidance. Both documents should be considered when responding to the consultation.

Closing Date: 14th September 2010

<http://www.childreninwales.org.uk/policy/consultations/consultations/13717.html>
<http://wales.gov.uk/consultations/childrenandyoungpeople/cypinterimguidance/?lang=en&status=open>
<http://wales.gov.uk/consultations/healthsocialcare/hscandwbstrategyandcypplan/?lang=en&status=open>

Conferences

Protecting Unaccompanied Child Asylum Seekers – Improving Local Provision Through Multi-Agency Working

9th September 2010 Westminster £225
The Government has announced that it will end the detention of child asylum seekers as soon as possible and carry out an immediate review into alternative measures.

This follows acknowledgment that more needs to be done to ensure the protection and safety of unaccompanied asylum seeking children entering the UK. Increased statutory duties to protect children placed on the UK Border Agency, and reports critical of local provision, reinforce the need for LAs, UKBA and partners on LSCBs to improve multi-agency working, from entry in to the UK through to the conclusion of the asylum process and beyond.

Issues to be investigated include:

- Investigating the implications of the imminent end of child detention and considering alternative options
- What are the key barriers regarding access to local public services for asylum seeking children, and how can these be most effectively tackled?
- How to ensure UASC are treated as children first and foremost?
- What changes can be made to the decision making process to ensure less distress and build greater stability for children?
- How to improve partnership working and referral procedures between UKBA and local stakeholder organisations?
- Building clear lines of accountability in terms of provision and care for UASC.
- Considering the implication of new duties placed on UKBA to keep all child asylum seekers safe from harm

- How can we begin to eradicate the illegal trafficking of children into the UK?
- How to improve the collection and application of records in relation to child asylum seekers in the UK?

<http://www.westminster-briefing.com/?p=13056>

Child Mortality: Learning the Lessons

15th September 2010 West Bromwich
£95 - £110

The purpose of the day is to explore the impact of the Study "Why Children Die" which produced recommendations for children, carers and the institutions which exist to help them be healthy and stay safe.

[http://www.cmace.org.uk/Events/Cemach-Events/Guideline-for-the-Management-of-Obesity-in-Pre-\(1\).aspx](http://www.cmace.org.uk/Events/Cemach-Events/Guideline-for-the-Management-of-Obesity-in-Pre-(1).aspx)

Learning from investigations and confidential enquiries

29th September 2010 Basingstoke
£80 - £190 + VAT

Are audits just a paper filling exercise or does it make a real difference? Although audit, supervision and risk management are an integral part of midwifery practice today, do you see the value of it?

This conference will explore the lessons we have learned from conducting confidential enquiries, audits and investigations that really do make a difference to the way you practice. This is an opportunity to explore different topics including perinatal mortality, maternal mortality, H1N1 and VBAC.

<http://www.cmace.org.uk/Events/Cemach-Events/Learning-from-investigations-and-confidential-enqu.aspx>

Conferences (continued)

Are they safe?

8th September 2010 Bristol Free

This workshop on safeguarding children and young people is based on the Are they Safe? Pack, a toolkit of easy to use materials to help managers, staff and volunteers who provide activities to children and young people feel confident about what they need to do to safeguard children effectively.

To promote this resource the Safe Network will be running a number of regional workshops across the UK for representatives from community and voluntary sector organisations and from support and umbrella groups.

The aim is to familiarise participants with the resource and to explore how they can use it to improve safeguarding practice in their own group or organisation. Participants are expected to be prepared to run similar workshops for others in their local areas.

Who should apply?

Staff and volunteers within or working with community groups and third sector organisations who have-

- some knowledge and experience of training or facilitating learning or group work
- some knowledge of safeguarding issues

http://www.safenetwork.org.uk/news_and_events/news_articles/Pages/are_they_safe_workshop_8_september_2010.aspx

Tackling Child Abuse

27th September 2010 London
£225 - £545 + VAT

The police and partner agencies are under heightened pressure and scrutiny to effectively crack down on child abuse following a series of damaging high profile cases. This conference is tailored to address the needs of those working in, and with, criminal justice agencies to ensure the safety and protection of all children.

This event takes a holistic view of the pressing issue of child abuse, from prevention to investigation, prosecution and multi agency learning. Issues to be covered include:

- Joined up working to identify and manage risk
- Engaging local communities to raise awareness and prevent harm
- Detailed guidance on investigating child homicide
- Insight into the forthcoming changes affecting the prosecution of child abuse
- Embedding learning to improve processes and enhance partnerships

<http://www.capitaconferences.co.uk/public-sector-conferences/childrens-services/full-conference/article/tackling-child-abuse-conference.html?code=MKRG>

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