

Children, Families and Maternity e-bulletin

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Policy Update

The Health and Social Care Bill is being considered by the House of Lords.

You can follow the complete progress of the Bill on the [Parliament website](#). The Health Bill proposes measures to improve the quality of NHS care, the performance of NHS services, and to improve public health.

NHS Commissioning Board Special Health Authority goes live

The NHS Commissioning Board Authority and the shadow form of the NHS Commissioning Board (the Board) is now in operation. Subject to the successful passage of the Health and Social Care Bill 2011 through Parliament, over the next twelve months, the Board Authority will work in partnership with clinical commissioning group leaders, GPs and the Department of Health to agree the method for establishing, authorising and running clinical commissioning groups (CCGs).

The timetable for change

Further information on the pace of change can be found at:

<http://healthandcare.dh.gov.uk/timetable-for-change/>

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General News

National Programme Launched to Accelerate Learning for Health and Wellbeing Boards

A programme of Accelerated Learning Sets has recently been launched to help emerging health and wellbeing boards to work together on the biggest challenges that face them on their way to statutory running from April 2013.

More than 90 out of 152 emerging health and wellbeing boards from across England are represented in the 11 learning sets. The sets are focused on themes that early implementers have said are of most interest and importance to health and wellbeing board members, including improving services through more effective joint working and making the best of collective resources.

Each learning set will include members from local government and NHS organisations. John Wilderspin, Director of the Health and Wellbeing Board Implementation Programme, said: 'The learning sets will play a crucial role in bringing together leaders from across the NHS, local government and new clinical commissioning groups. Through collaborating, learning and sharing together, these learning sets have the potential to create a powerful movement of integrated services that deliver better outcomes for local people.'

HealthWatch Pathfinders

Seventy-five local HealthWatch pathfinders were announced early in August. The pathfinders will pioneer plans ahead of the full establishment of local HealthWatch across the country in October 2012.

They will champion patients' views and experiences, promote the integration of local services and improve choice for patients through advice and access to information.

Local HealthWatch is intended to provide a collective voice for patients and carers, and advise the new clinical commissioning groups on the shape of local services to ensure they are informed by the views of the local community.

HealthWatch England, a national body, will also be established in October 2012. It will enable the collective views of the people who use NHS and adult social care services to influence national policy, advice and guidance.

For further information, see [Summary list of HealthWatch pathfinders](#)

Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategies Explained

This document has been published today (7 December). Its purpose is to support emerging health and wellbeing boards as they engage with the refresh of Joint Strategic Needs Assessments and develop their preparatory joint health and wellbeing strategy. It also describes what support the Department of Health will provide, including what resources will be available and when, and how we will build in learning from early implementer health and wellbeing boards in this.

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_131702

Munro Review of Child Protection – Safeguarding Children in the Reformed NHS

The Department of Health and Department for Education published a work programme on 31 October to ensure that effective arrangements to safeguard children are central considerations of the health reforms. The programme has been co-produced with NHS, local government and other partners. Comments can be e-mailed to safeguardingchildren@dh.gsi.gov.uk.

Link:

<http://www.education.gov.uk/munroreview/downloads/TheMunroReviewofChildProtection-Part%20one.pdf>

Launch of Phase One of Children and Young People’s IAPT

Ministers have announced an investment of £32 million over the next four years in Children and Young People's Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT) programme, taking the successful parts of the Adult IAPT programme and adapting them for children and young people. The first phase of the project will invest in three collaboratives based around London, Salford and Reading. The focus of the development is on extending training to staff and service managers in child and adolescent mental health services and embedding evidence-based practice.

For further information, see: www.dh.gov.uk/health/2011/10/improved-mental-health-therapies-for-children/

Meeting NICE's Neonatal Standards: a Self Assessment Tool to Look at Local Progress

The Child and Maternal Health Observatory (ChiMat) has designed a *Self Assessment Tool - NICE Neonatal Standards* for clinical and managerial leads in local neonatal units and neonatal networks to use to assess progress against the NICE standard for specialist neonatal care. It will help you ensure that the physical, psychological and social needs of babies and their families are at the heart of all care given.

Self assessment tools are also available for infant mortality, CAMHS and young people's mental health transitions.

The resources are freely available from the ChiMat website - www.chimat.org.uk/selfassessmenttools

International Declaration on Youth Mental Health (2011)

The International Declaration on Youth Mental Health evolved from a Youth Mental Health Summit that took place in Killarney, Ireland on 19th May 2010. It sets out a shared vision, principles and action plan for mental health service provision for young people aged 12-25 years.

The Summit provided a forum for young people, family members, clinicians, researchers and policy makers to share practice innovation and research in the field of youth mental and to discuss and debate the content of this Declaration. Over 80 people from Ireland, the UK, Australia, Canada, the USA, the Netherlands and New Zealand took part in the process and their feedback and input provided the basis of the Declaration. The foreword of the Declaration was written by a young person and a number of young people have contributed their views on the Declaration over the writing period. The writing group was primarily made up of members of the ACAMH Special Interest Group in Youth Mental Health, Ireland.

Further Information and a copy of the Declaration can be found at *web:* www.inspireireland.ie

Maternity

Father's Guide

Anne Milton launched 'Reaching out: Involving fathers in maternity care' and 'Top tips for involving fathers in maternity care' at the Royal College of Midwives annual conference on 15 November. These guides produced in collaboration by the RCM, RCOG and the Fatherhood Institute provide useful insight to all maternity service staff as to how they might best encourage fathers incumbent throughout pregnancy and childbirth, and into fatherhood and family life.

It is envisaged that these documents will increase awareness of the importance of fathers being engaged in maternity care as well as assisting local maternity services in the development of their own local practices and guidelines. The documents can be accessed at:

<http://www.rcm.org.uk/college/policy-practice/government-policy/fathers-guide/?locale=en>

Clinical Commissioning Group Pathfinders – Maternity Commissioning Project

The Department has asked Dr Suzanne Tyler, Associate Director for Maternity and Newborn NHS South, to lead a project to identify clinical commissioning groups who would like support to understand their local demand and the capacity of maternity providers to deliver good outcomes. We then plan to work with them to help identify the skills, tools and learning that CCGs will need in order to work with providers in the delivery of high quality maternity services for their populations.

The outcomes will be shared amongst pathfinders and more widely across the system and will help to inform the NHS Commissioning Board on relevant aspects of its assurance role in relation to clinical commissioners having the right systems, capacity and capability (or access to capability) to deliver good outcomes for pregnant women, their babies and families.

Birth and Beyond Resource Pack launched for Health Visitors

A new resource for health visitors has been launched to help prepare mums and dads for parenthood. The resource pack is aimed at midwives, health visitors, children's centre staff and others in organisations that provide these services. Commissioners may also find the evidence, framework, content and approach useful when planning local pregnancy and preparation for parenthood services.

The pack outlines an approach for targeted help and support that is crucial with new parents and offers huge benefit in:

- lower obesity levels through increased rates of breast feeding
- reduced exposure to cigarette smoke; and
- encouraging better parenting

Visit the Department of Health website to access the pack:

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_130565

Information on Maternity Services on NHS Choices

Dr Foster Birth Guide used to provide NHS Choices with some of the information that is published [on NHS.uk](#) about maternity services. From September, your organisation will be able to edit your profile directly on the NHS Choices website.

To edit the profile of your maternity services, a web editor for your organisation will need to be signed in and viewing the 'maternity services' tab on your hospital's profile page. Making and saving changes here will update the information across the NHS Choices website. You can view your maternity data [here](#)

For more information about this new functionality, please contact Jo White at jo.white@dh.gsi.gov.uk or on 020 7972 5683.

Seasonal Flu Vaccination: Who Should Have it and Why

A [leaflet](#) has been produced for winter 2011/12 explaining how to get protected against flu this coming winter and why it is very important that people who are at risk, have their free seasonal flu vaccination every year.

All pregnant women, at any stage of pregnancy, should be offered the seasonal flu vaccine as there are benefits to the mother and her unborn baby. This is because pregnant women are more prone to complications from flu, which can cause very serious illness for both the mother and her baby.

The Expectant Fathers Programme

The Expectant Fathers Programme (EFP) is designed for first time Fathers of all newborns, new Fathers who express a need, guidance and support in their role, Fathers at risk and young Fathers. It has been developed in the UK and is evidence-based with input and guidance from UK Fathers with special attention given to accessing hard-to-reach fathers and carers.

The programme is the longest running fully evaluated programme for Expectant Fathers in the UK. It has been assessed for the National Academy of Parenting research commissioning toolkit and was piloted through Kings College, St Thomas', Queen Elizabeth's (Greenwich), Lewisham and Mayday (Croydon) Hospitals. The programme covers social learning, attachment, and knowledge of child development, and practical issues such as bathing and changing, understanding the importance of bonding and being a Father/ role model.

The programme has been developed, funded and piloted with support from the Parenting Fund.

Please follow the link to the entry on the Toolkit
<http://www.commissioningtoolkit.org/ProgrammeSummary.aspx>

Providing Equity of Critical and Maternity Care for the Critically Ill Pregnant or Recently Pregnant Woman

This review [document](#) is the result of a multi-disciplinary collaboration commissioned by the Joint Standing Committee of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists and the Royal College of Anaesthetists. Both Colleges recognise that Level 2 care for the sick woman may be provided in the maternity suite or, alternatively, within a general critical care facility.

The purpose of the review was to draw together best practice from both maternity and critical care areas to ensure that, wherever a new mother is cared for, her needs and that of her baby are optimised. The document is intended to be a useful tool to assess local provision of care for these women and to provide support for future development where gaps are identified.

The remit in producing this document was to summarise, in one place, existing standards and recommendations relevant to the care of the pregnant or recently pregnant critically ill woman for Maternity and Critical Care Services and Commissioners to respond to. It does not make new recommendations.

Small Wonders DVD and From Bump to Breastfeed

Best Beginnings, who produced the 'From Bump to Breastfeed' DVD, are developing the Small Wonders DVD, which will be free for parents of premature and sick babies next year. Following in-depth stakeholder input from experts and parents, the DVD will feature 12 films, covering topics to enable parents to be at the centre of their baby's care, including kangaroo-care, expressing and transition to independent feeding. They are working with Bliss to develop complimentary staff-training days.

Best Beginnings also produced a preview of the 'From bump to breastfeeding' DVD that is available free of charge to hospitals, Children's Centres, GP surgeries and other acute or community settings where 'From bump to breastfeeding' is given out for use in waiting rooms. The free preview DVD plays continuously on a loop and features the first four chapters of 'From bump to breastfeeding'. The purpose of the DVD is to give a taster to encourage parents to watch the full DVD at home both before and after they have had their baby.

For more information about the 'From Bump to Breastfeeding' DVD or the developing 'Small Wonders' DVD contact: Susi Farnworth by email at: susi@bestbeginnings.org.uk or by phone on: 020 3326 7301

Electronic Fetal Monitoring Resource

The Electronic Fetal Monitoring (EFM) is a comprehensive web-based resource developed by the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists and the Royal College of Midwives in partnership with e-Learning for Healthcare. Obstetricians and midwives are required to independently interpret cardiotocographs (CTGS) in the crucial lead up to birth. EFM educates learners using assessment driven case based

learning. The interactive learning sessions test knowledge of CTG interpretation and clinical management and provide feedback to the learner regarding their performance.

The EFM resource was officially launched on the 13th September and is available as a free learning resource to anyone who has a valid NHS email address. In order to register for the resource please use the following [link](#)

National Teenage Pregnancy Midwifery Network moves to Best Beginnings

The National Teenage Pregnancy Midwifery Network has a new home with child health charity Best Beginnings. Best Beginnings looks forward to being able to continue to support everyone working to develop and improve maternity services for young mothers and fathers.

Best Beginnings is a charity that is dedicated to ending child health inequalities in the UK by ensuring every baby has the healthiest possible start in life. It may be familiar to you as the creator of pioneering breastfeeding DVD From Bump to Breastfeeding: following real mothers' stories to find out how.

Our new webpage is at www.bestbeginnings.org.uk/ntpmn. If you have any feedback or any resources or links to add, please contact Jenny McLeish, who continues to research and write this newsletter, on tpmidwives@bestbeginnings.org.uk. Please alert colleagues who support teenage parents and ask them to email tpmidwives@bestbeginnings.org.uk if they would like to join the Network.

Maternity Action Advice Line

Maternity Action has launched a new advice line on maternity rights and benefits. We offer free, telephone advice to pregnant women, new parents, health professionals and advisors. Advice covers UK citizens and migrants. We offer advice on pregnancy at work, health and safety, pregnancy discrimination, maternity leave and pay, paternity leave and pay, return to work, flexible working, sickness, breastfeeding rights, benefits and many other questions. The advice line is supported by the Big Lottery Fund.

The advice line number is 0845 600 8533.

Opening hours are Wednesday 5-9pm, Thursday 12-4pm, and Friday 8am-12pm.

For more information, see www.maternityaction.org.uk

Tommy's Baby Charity to Address Low Awareness of Pregnancy Health Issues

A Tommy's recent survey demonstrated a number of alarming results, including

- Approximately 1 in 5 women are obese at the start of their pregnancy
- 17% of women still smoke during pregnancy – this figure rises to 29% in lower-income groups
- 10-15% suffer from depression or anxiety during pregnancy

Tommy's is therefore launching a new health campaign to raise awareness and aid antenatal services – Tommy's Five Point Pregnancy Plan - with parenting club Bounty in order to reach every mum-to-be in the UK with help and advice on five essential health areas for pregnant women:

- **nutrition**
- **weight management**
- **exercise**
- **smoking**
- **mental health**

We have a much better understanding today of the link between lifestyle and the health of our children. The survey also found that women are not always sure of the benefit of or taking their vitamins and folic acid supplements during pregnancy. In its online resource (www.bounty.com/tommysplan), Tommy's provides advice on small changes which can have a big impact.

Having a Premature Baby - Tommy's is launching a comprehensive new book for parents who are at risk of having, or have recently had, a premature baby with thanks to Asda Foundation for the grant for its development.

Having a Healthy Pregnancy - Tommy's is also re-launching its staple pregnancy health guide (previously *Your guide to a healthy pregnancy*), which focuses on evidence-based lifestyle advice.

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Healthy Child Programme (HCP) and Early Years

Hepatitis B Neonatal Immunisation Pathway.

Last year the Department of Health published "Hepatitis B antenatal screening and newborn immunisation programme: Best practice guidance"

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_126195

The Department has also worked with the National Screening Committee (NSC) to create a Map of Medicine pathway for the hepatitis B immunisation programme for babies born to hepatitis B positive mothers. This pathway describes the process for immunising babies born to hepatitis B positive mothers and is now available here:

http://eng.mapofmedicine.com/evidence/map/hepatitis_b_immunisation1.html.

This complements the management of hepatitis B in pregnancy and birth pathway, which can be found here:

http://eng.mapofmedicine.com/evidence/map/management_of_hepatitis_b_in_pregnancy1.html

Maternity staff play a key role in identifying at risk babies and ensuring they receive the necessary vaccinations so please take the time to look at this pathway and familiarise yourself with the key position you may play in protecting infants through this pathway.

New Directory for Child and Maternal Tools and Data

The Child and Maternal Health Observatory (ChiMat) has recently developed a *Tools and Data Directory* so that those working to improve child and maternal health can find the right tools and data for the job in hand from the myriad of resources available.

The *Tools and Data Directory* is an online, searchable database of data and tools. It gives easy access to a quality-assured overview of existing analytical toolkits, presented in categories to make searching effective.

Visit www.chimat.org.uk/directory

New Website for Early Years Professionals to be Launched

4Children and the Early Years Strategic Partnership have this month launched a one-stop shop for all those who work in the foundation years, bringing together a vast array of information, resources and up to the minute news into one place.

The website should be the first port of call for all those interested in the foundation years with sections dedicated for example to child development, health, quality, sustainability and children's centres. It also signposts to an array of resources to support quality provision, news of the latest developments and information on early years events and training run across the country. The website, www.foundationyears.org.uk, aims to support all early years professionals whether they are on day one of their job, or are seasoned experts in the field.

The professionals' site joins its sister site, aimed at parents www.foundationyears.org.uk/parents, which was launched in July to provide the vital information, from preparing for pregnancy through to registering children at their first school, that all parents need.

Visit the website, or drop us an email at foundations@4children.org.uk to find out more.

Portion Sizes for Toddlers

The Infant & Toddler Forum (ITF) is delighted to announce the launch of its new Factsheet ***Portion Sizes for Toddlers: 1-3 years.***

It provides evidence-based portion size ranges for toddlers that meet the UK Estimated Average Requirements for energy (EAR) and Reference Nutrient Intakes (RNIs).

The Factsheet, which has won the poster presentation best practice award at the CPHVA/Unite Annual Professional Conference this year based on its high relevance to clinical practice and clarity, can be [downloaded for free](#) from the Infant & Toddler Forum website.

The factsheet provides practice guidance for healthcare professionals in advising parents and carers about portion sizes. It helps to address anxiety about over- and under-feeding, and to reassure parents and carers that as long as toddlers are eating within the ranges they are meeting their nutritional needs.

Feeding for Life Foundation

The Feeding for Life Foundation is a new education initiative which aims to support healthcare professionals (HCPs) and early-years practitioners (EYPs) to enhance their knowledge and expertise in early nutrition through training, provision of resources, educational grants, and aiding the development and sharing of best practice. The Foundation is led by an independent panel of leading child health experts.

Feeding for Life Foundation commissioned a survey and the report was launched at the Feeding for Life Foundation seminar on Thursday 20th October. It showed that:

- **51%** of HCPs are either not sure or unaware of the UK department's supplementation recommendations
- **56%** of HCPs do not discuss the importance of vitamin supplementation with parents
- **58%** of HCPs agree that they don't have sufficient information about strategies other than vitamin supplementation to increase vitamin levels in under-5s
- **73%** agreed that HCPs don't have enough training about the benefits of supplements

If you would like further information on the Feeding for Life Foundation look at our website: www.feedingforlifefoundation.co.uk

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Child Health

Overseas Visitors and NHS Hospital Treatment

New regulations and guidance on charging overseas visitors for NHS hospital treatment came into force on 1 August. These include some new exemption from

charge categories, including for children in the care of Local Authorities, and revised guidance on when to provide treatment, including maternity treatment, to chargeable overseas visitors.

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_127393

New Report on Paediatric Nephrology Networks

The RCPCH in collaboration with NHS KidneyCare and the British Association of Paediatric Nephrology have published a report on paediatric nephrology networks setting out their view on what success looks like in the commissioning and provision of services. Built on existing good practice and evidence the review examines access to services, patient and carer involvement, quality indicators, audit and workforce planning. This document has particular relevance in the light of the current NHS reforms in England, and the acknowledgement by the government of the importance of clinical networks for specialist care. The document can be downloaded from [here](#) and hard copies can also be ordered through this site.

Supporting Parental Mental Health and Families

Families can be helped to stay together and thrive if the right support is offered at the right time. The Social Care Institute for Excellence's (SCIE) *Parental mental health* resources focus on the whole family, demonstrating how parents will always receive the best support with integrated working across children's, adults' and health services. SCIE has developed an eLearning package [Parental mental health and families](#). The resource sets out all the key relationships, linkages and systems that need to be understood and taken into account of in Parental Mental Health and Families work.

Link:

<http://www.scie.org.uk/publications/elearning/parentalmentalhealthandfamilies/index.asp>

Contact: info@scie.org.uk

Personal Child Health Record

The National Standard Personal Child Health Record (PCHR) is being reviewed. After nearly 20 years of the 'Red Book' (the current, 2009 version is available [here](#)) the PCHR Committee (hosted by the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health) which oversees the content and format of the record will be considering different ways of presenting the record to improve its accessibility and effectiveness.

You can follow updates to this project, contact the committee with queries and find out about getting involved via www.rcpch.ac.uk/PCHR .

Contact: Laura Green
0207 092 6092

Health.policy@rcpch.ac.uk

New Resource Published to Support Partnership Working for Child Injury Prevention

Accidental injury is one of the biggest childhood killers and a leading cause of hospital admission and acquired disability which impacts on individuals, families and communities. There are compelling links with health inequalities. Funded by the Department of Health, the Child Accident Prevention Trust (CAPT) has developed a networking resource to support local commissioners and all those who contribute to the safety, health and wellbeing of children and young people.

Advocating Child Safety recognises that many factors influence this public health challenge, involving an equally varied range of professionals and local champions who can work together to make a difference.

For more information, contact: Ian Evans, CAPT's Head of Education and Engagement or visit www.makingthelink.net

E-mail: ian.evans@capt.org.uk

Telephone: 020 7608 7362

<http://www.makingthelink.net/node/374>

Archiving of Children's Services Mapping

Following the closure of the Children's Services Mapping (CSM) in April 2011, all data collected has been archived to the UK Data Archives. The data can be accessed from the following link:

<http://www.esds.ac.uk/findingData/snDescription.asp?sn=6850>

Get Advice for Teenage Parents with Gingerbread's Benefits Calculator

Our new online calculator can help you give accurate advice on what benefits teenage parents will be entitled to, with just a few clicks of your mouse.

Gingerbread is the national charity providing expert advice for single parents and for professionals. In recent months we have had frequent requests for specific advice for teenage single parents, especially around what benefits they are entitled to receive.

Our new teenage parents' benefits calculator will tell you just that. Whether used by a teenage parent or a professional working with them, it's a simple way to find out what parents are entitled to.

For more information contact Head of Communications and Marketing, Lucy Abell on 020 7428 5406 or lucy.abell@gingerbread.org.uk

<http://www.gingerbread.org.uk/content/604/Interactive-advice>

Extended Hours for ERIC Telephone Helpline

ERIC, the UK's childhood continence charity, has extended the opening hours of its confidential telephone Helpline. Children, parents and professionals will now be able to access information and support 24 hours a day, seven days a week for distressing problems including childhood bedwetting, daytime wetting, constipation, soiling and toilet training.

Childhood continence problems affect 1 in 12 children and young people in the UK and ERIC is the only organisation dedicated to providing information and support to help families manage or overcome these problems. The extended support comes from a partnership with Parentline, the confidential Helpline providing support for families on all aspects of family life

ERIC can be contacted on 0845 370 8008 or visit www.eric.org.uk

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Vulnerable Children

Safeguarding Children Across Services: Messages from Research

The Safeguarding Children Research Initiative is an important element in the government response to the Inquiry following the death of Victoria Climbié. Its purpose is to provide a stronger evidence base for the development of policy and practice to improve the protection of children in England.

Eleven studies were commissioned as part of the Safeguarding Children Research Initiative. This Overview focuses on the findings from these studies, but also refers extensively to a further four important research studies that also reported during the same time period.

This research provides an overview of the key messages from 15 studies, distilled to meet the needs of those professionals who seek to utilise such research findings to shape their day-to-day work. These include strategic and operational managers and practitioners, commissioners and providers of services, and policymakers in all those agencies that are required to work together to safeguard children.

<https://www.education.gov.uk/publications/standard/publicationDetail/Page1/DFE-RB164>

Further resources can be found in the Information Section below.

Children in the Criminal Justice System: Improving Mental Health and Emotional Well-Being

The Children's Commissioners Office is undertaking a two-year programme of work gathering evidence on the experiences of children and young people in the criminal justice system and from practitioners working with them.

The aim of this research is to ensure that the issues concerning mental health and emotional well being for children and young people in the criminal justice system are explored and then represented to Government.

The work is funded by the Department of Health and linked to the National Advisory Group for the implementation of the Bradley Review. The Children's Commissioner's Office is supported by an expert group drawn from organisations with expertise in policy, research and practice in a range of areas relating to the work programme.

The initial report will be completed in the autumn of 2010 and a further consultation seminar with young people and ex offenders will be held in November.

For further information please contact: Pam Hibbert:

pamhib@childrenscommissioner.gsi.gov.uk

Consultation on Revised Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities on the Roles and Responsibilities of the Director of Children's Services (DCS) and Lead Member for Children's Services (LMCS)

The Children Act 2004 requires all upper tier local authorities to appoint a Director of Children's Services and Lead Member for Children's Services for the purposes of discharging the education and children's social services functions of the local authority. Statutory guidance on the roles and responsibilities of the DCS and LMCS was first issued in 2005 and revised in 2009. This consultation seeks views on the attached revised statutory guidance which is shorter and less prescriptive than the existing guidance. The consultation documents can be accessed via the Department for Education's website : [Department's website](#). Please make any responses online by Friday 6 January 2012.

Following consultation, we expect to issue the final guidance in March/April 2012, which will replace the version issued in 2009.

Advanced Training on Domestic Violence Related Topics for Professionals Working with Vulnerable Families

A new programme of advanced training on domestic violence related topics is being run by the national charity Coordinated Action Against Domestic Abuse (CAADA). The aim of the programme is to support professionals working with vulnerable families to improve their response to victims and their children. Each course has been

designed as a response to research findings which demonstrate the need for improved training in the subject area. Accredited by the University of Bath at Level 4, the programme covers two subjects at present:

[Safeguarding children living with domestic abuse](#) and
[Substance use and domestic violence – providing a risk-led response.](#)

More topics will be added in the near future. For more information contact Jo Morrish at jo.morrish@caada.org.uk or 07976 381459.

Ofsted Warns of Safeguarding Risks Of Parents' Drinking or Drug Habits

Ofsted has warned of "shortcomings" in the safeguarding of babies under the age of one. The watchdog, drawing on the findings of serious case reviews, warns that the risks to babies from their parents' lifestyles could be "underestimated". The report warns of the particular risk to this vulnerable age group of babies before their first birthday. It says that more than a third of serious case reviews between 2007 and 2011 related to babies below the age of one.

In particular it raises concerns about a lack of attention to the risk factors in parents which could be a danger to their babies - such as alcohol, drugs and domestic violence - or where parents had a personal background which needed to be taken into account. It says there were repeated examples of a lack of response to such risks. Where parents are very young, it says that there has too often been inadequate support and that the parents might need to have been considered as "children in need in their own right".

Ofsted's report also warned that the role of the father was often "marginalised" or they remained "invisible" in assessments and contacts with agencies.

Because of the "fragility" of young children, the report says that there is a need for a "very quick response to any concerns". For children in this young age group, the report says that it was health practitioners who were the main and sometimes the only agencies involved with families.

The report also addresses another age group which Ofsted says needs further attention - young people aged 14 and older. These teenagers were often treated as difficult adults, rather than as children, says the report. Their challenging behaviour could too often become the focus, rather than their underlying problems, says Ofsted.

Ofsted's Chief Inspector, Miriam Rosen, said: "I hope the reports will help local safeguarding children boards and practitioners alike to review their own practice and be alert to the potential gaps in protecting children of all ages."

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Ill and Disabled Children

Paediatric Continence Promotion

June Rogers MBE recently won the 2011 Nursing Standard Child Health Award for her work in promoting continence in children with complex needs involving a music based intervention called the Listening Program®. A model of care for the service was also established based on best practice and available guidelines to improve care for children and young people with continence problems, thereby reducing inappropriate use of resources and secondary care referrals. The service was based on a child centered, family focused approach and was supported by a training programme for all staff. June is currently employed as PromoCon Team Director, working under the umbrella of the charity Disabled Living.

June Rogers MBE

0161 607 8219

June.rogers@disabledliving.co.uk

www.promocon.co.uk

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Children and Young People's Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing

Time to Change - Campaign to Tackle Mental Health Stigma and Discrimination to be Extended Through Pilots to Children and Young People

The Department of Health is funding up to £16m between 2011/12 and 2014/15 to continue the long-standing Time to Change campaign, together with co-funders Comic Relief who are providing £4m. Time to Change tackles mental health stigma and discrimination and this will be the first time that the campaign has received any Government funding. As a new development it will be testing approaches to tackle mental health stigma and discrimination amongst children and young people. The first of two regional pilots extending the Time to Change campaign to children and young people will start in 2012/13.

To find out more visit www.time-to-change.org.uk

Or contact

Eleanor Keech

Senior Policy Officer - Children & Young People's Emotional Well Being and Mental Health

Eleanor.keech@dh.gsi.gov.uk

Conferences and Events

Permanence planning for children under 5

19 January 2012, London

Tel: 020 7421 2636/7 or email: conferences@baaf.org.uk

Prices from: £135 - £250 plus VAT

Website link: <http://www.baaf.org.uk/training/allevents/2012-01-19t000000-0>

Effective adoption support – preventing adoption disruption

Joint Conference with adoption uk

20 February 2012, London

Tel: 020 7421 2636/7 or email: conferences@baaf.org.uk

Prices from: £135 - £250 plus VAT

Website link: <http://www.baaf.org.uk/training/allevents/2012-02-20t000000>

How is it working for children? Developments in fostering

14 March 2012, London

Tel: 020 7421 2636/7 or email: conferences@baaf.org.uk

Prices from: £135 - £250 plus VAT

Website link: <http://www.baaf.org.uk/training/allevents/2012-03-14t000000>

Adoption – A case for radical reform?

27 March 2012, London

Tel: 020 7421 2636/7 or email: conferences@baaf.org.uk

Prices from: £135 - £250 plus VAT

Website link: <http://www.baaf.org.uk/training/allevents/2012-03-27t000000>

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Sources of Information

Unless otherwise stated, guidance referred to in the bulletin has not been commissioned or endorsed by the Department of Health - it is evidence that organisations and professionals may find helpful in improving practice. The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence is the Department's provider of accredited evidence and guidance, which can be found on the Institute's website at www.nice.org.uk

Additional resources on safeguarding are also available as follows:

1. **“Safeguarding Children Across Services”**- the overview of findings from research in the Safeguarding Children Research Initiative

<https://www.education.gov.uk/publications/RSG/AllRsgPublications/Page1/DFE-RR164>

2. **“Safeguarding Children Across Services”**—Four practitioner research briefs

<https://www.education.gov.uk/publications/RSG/AllRsgPublications/Page1/DFE-RB164>

3. **“Serious and fatal child maltreatment”**

<https://www.education.gov.uk/publications/RSG/NewRsgPublications/Page1/DFE-RR167>

4. **The protection of children online: a brief scoping review to identify vulnerable groups**

<https://www.education.gov.uk/publications/RSG/NewRsgPublications/Page1/CWRC-00085-2011>

5. **A study of recommendations arising from serious case reviews 2009-2010**

<https://www.education.gov.uk/publications/RSG/NewRsgPublications/Page2/DFE-RR157>

6. **Safeguarding children statistics: the availability and comparability of data in the UK**

<https://www.education.gov.uk/publications/RSG/NewRsgPublications/Page2/DFE-RB153>

7. **Allegations of abuse against teachers and non-teaching staff**

<https://www.education.gov.uk/publications/RSG/NewRsgPublications/Page2/DFE-RB163>

You may also be interested in the following book published by TSO:

**Children's Needs - Parenting Capacity - Child Abuse: Parental Mental Illness, Learning Disability, Substance Misuse and Domestic Violence
2nd Edition**

<http://www.tsoshop.co.uk/bookstore.asp?FO=40152&ProductID=9780117063655&Action=Book&CLICKID=003569>

Department of Health Publications

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