

**SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN
INFORMATION UPDATE - 293
12th March 2018**

Government outlines strengthened plans to tackle child abuse (05/03/18)

The Government has set out plans to strengthen information sharing between police, social workers and healthcare professionals to tackle child abuse and neglect, and to improve joint working and decision-making.

The HO and DfE have responded to 'Reporting and acting on child abuse and neglect', which sought views on how to best protect vulnerable children from abuse and neglect in all its forms.

The consultation sought views on issues relating to the child protection system, specifically proposals to introduce additional legal duties for professionals and organisations working to protect young people. These proposed changes included mandatory reporting of any concern relating to child abuse by practitioners, and a duty to act, whereby individuals could face professional or criminal sanctions for failing to take appropriate action where child abuse was known or suspected.

The consultation received over 760 responses from social workers, police officers, local government, children's charities, educators and health professionals, victim support groups, and other members of the public.

Of these responses, the majority disagreed with introducing new statutory requirements. Nearly 70% felt mandatory

reporting could have an adverse impact on the child protection system and 85% said it would not in itself lead to appropriate action being taken to protect children. Only 25% were in favour of a duty to act, and 12% in favour of mandatory reporting.

The evidence received does not demonstrate that either of the proposals would sufficiently improve outcomes for children. Rather, feedback suggests that these additional measures could risk creating unnecessary burdens, divert attention from the most serious cases, hamper professional judgement, and potentially jeopardise the vital relationships between social workers and vulnerable families in their care. England already has a higher rate of reporting than countries where such duties are in place, and the evidence from serious case reviews, Ofsted inspections and the consultation responses does not suggest there is a systemic problem.

Instead 63% were in favour of allowing the Government's existing programme of child protection reforms time to embed before considering additional statutory measures. Respondents called for better joint working between different local agencies, further work to encourage new and innovative practice, and better training for practitioners.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-outlines-strengthened-plans-to-tackle-child-abuse>

Working Together to Safeguard Children: revisions to statutory guidance (26/02/18)

In a consultation between October and December 2017 the government invited views on changes to the statutory guidance Working Together to Safeguard Children, new child death review guidance and new regulations.

This document includes a summary of responses received, along with the government's response outlining the next steps.

The revisions reflect the legislative changes introduced through the Children and Social Work Act 2017.

The government now proposes to update and replace the current statutory guidance, Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/working-together-to-safeguard-children-revisions-to-statutory-guidance>

Minister announces improved support for care leavers (27/02/18)

Children and Families Minister Nadhim Zahawi announces three new projects to support for care leavers into education, employment or training.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/minister-announces-improved-support-for-care-leavers>

Extended powers SEND tribunal: national trial (08/03/17)

Guidance for LAs, health commissioners, parents and young people on a 2-year trial to extend powers of the SEND Tribunal. ↗

A 2-year national trial begins on 3 April 2018 to extend the power of the special educational needs and disability tribunal. As part of a special educational appeal, the SEND tribunal will be able to make non-binding recommendations on the health and social care aspects of Education, Health and Care plans.

This guidance sets out the extended powers and duties in the Special Educational Needs and Disability (First-tier Tribunal Recommendations Power) Regulations 2017.

It explains how the appeal process will work, what happens if recommendations are not followed and the support available for commissioners and families.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/extended-powers-send-tribunal-national-trial>

NEET statistics quarterly brief: October to December 2017 (01/03/18)

Statistics for young people not in education, employment or training.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/neet-statistics-quarterly-brief-october-to-december-2017>

Children's social care providers: inspection frequency and fees (27/02/18)

Summary of responses to this consultation, along with the government's response outlining the next steps.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/childrens-social-care-providers-inspection-frequency-and-fees>

Statutory guidance - Applying corporate parenting principles to looked-after children and care leavers
(26/02/18)

The role of LAs and the application of the corporate parenting principles.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/applying-corporate-parenting-principles-to-looked-after-children-and-care-leavers>

Designated teacher for looked-after and previously looked-after children
(26/02/18)

Statutory guidance for LA-maintained schools carrying out duties for looked-after and previously looked-after children.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/designated-teacher-for-looked-after-children>

Promoting the education of looked-after and previously looked-after children
(26/02/18)

Statutory guidance for LAs to support looked-after and previously looked-after children's aspirations to achieve in further and higher education.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/promoting-the-education-of-looked-after-children>

Revised guidance for virtual school heads and designated teachers
(26/02/18)

Summary of responses to this consultation, along with the government's response outlining the next steps.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/revised-guidance-for-virtual-school-heads-and-designated-teachers>



Education provision: children under 5 years of age, January 2017 (28/02/18)

Early years provision for children under 5 in the LA-maintained, private, voluntary and independent sectors in England.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/education-provision-children-under-5-years-of-age-january-2017>

Corporate parenting, the local offer and personal adviser support (26/02/18)

Summary of responses received, along with the government's response outlining the next steps.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/corporate-parenting-the-local-offer-and-personal-adviser-support>

Child death overview panels: contacts
(23/02/18)

Contact details of the people in CDOPs who are responsible for receiving child death notifications.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/child-death-overview-panels-contacts>

Early years foundation stage statutory framework (20/02/18)

The standards that school and childcare providers must meet for the learning, development and care of children from birth to 5.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/early-years-foundation-stage-framework--2>

Early education and childcare
(16/02/18)

Statutory guidance for LAs on provision of early education and childcare.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/early-education-and-childcare--2>

Children's social work workforce 2017
(15/02/18)

Information about children's social workers employed by LAs as of 30 September 2017.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/childrens-social-work-workforce-2017>

Government takes action to tackle domestic abuse (08/03/18)

The government has launched a consultation on domestic abuse, seeking new laws and stronger powers to protect and support survivors.

Domestic abuse comes in many forms, shattering the lives of victims and their families, and in recognition of this the government has put forward proposals for new laws which would transform our approach to this terrible crime.

The consultation will seek views on measures to be included in the government's draft Domestic Abuse Bill.

To ensure we get this landmark legislation right we now want to hear from all those who have been affected by abuse, from survivors, frontline professionals, charities and the public, to gather views on how, together, we can best put a stop to it once and for all.

Our tough new approach includes new Domestic Abuse Protection Orders to better shield victims against further abuse by enabling courts to impose a range of conditions on abusers. These could be compulsory alcohol treatment, attending a programme to address their underlying attitudes or addictions, and using electronic tagging to monitor them.



Under the proposals, breaching the order would become a criminal offence.

We have also proposed the creation of a statutory aggravating factor in sentencing, similar to those already in law for hate crimes, for domestic abuse to toughen sentences when it involves or affects a child, and the creation of a Domestic Abuse Commissioner to hold the government to account. Economic abuse will be recognised for the first time as a type of domestic abuse, covering controlling circumstances in which victims have finances withheld, are denied access to employment or transport, or are forced to take out loans and enter into other financial contracts.

Our recognition will improve understanding among frontline professionals, law enforcement officers and prosecutors so we can take action more quickly and effectively to better support victims.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-takes-action-to-tackle-domestic-abuse>

See Consultations

Transforming the response to domestic abuse: graphics and animations
(08/03/18)

Social media graphics and animations to encourage engagement with the Domestic Abuse Bill consultation and raise awareness of domestic abuse.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/transforming-the-response-to-domestic-abuse-graphics-and-animations>

Notices of Supervision: guidance for youth justice professionals (27/02/18)

This guidance is for those who work in youth justice settings. It explains how to identify and apply for the requirements which are applied to Notices of Supervision.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/notices-of-supervision-guidance-for-youth-justice-professionals>

HO announces new round of funding to tackle knife crime (07/03/18)

New funding has been secured to help communities work with young people and prevent them from being drawn into knife crime, Minister Victoria Atkins has announced.

As part of a new step-change to tackle the threat of violent behaviour, the Community Fund – which supports community projects to work with young people about the dangers of carrying knives – will have its funding increased to up to £1m.

Over 40 charities have already benefited by receiving grants of up to £20,000 through the first round of the Community Fund which was launched in October 2017.

In addition, further funding has been secured for Young People’s Advocates until at least the end of March 2019, to provide support for vulnerable women and girls at risk of exploitation by gangs.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/home-office-announces-new-round-of-funding-to-tackle-knife-crime>



Government outlines strengthened plans to tackle child abuse (05/03/18)

Plans to strengthen information sharing as part of government's ambition to tackle child abuse and neglect.

The Government has set out plans to strengthen information sharing between police, social workers and healthcare professionals to tackle child abuse and neglect, and to improve joint working and decision-making.

Building on the ambitious programme of reform to the children’s social care system, the HO and DfE have responded to a joint consultation, ‘Reporting and acting on child abuse and neglect’, which sought views on how to best protect vulnerable children from abuse and neglect in all its forms.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-outlines-strengthened-plans-to-tackle-child-abuse>

Cafcass’ email addresses are changing (28/02/18)

As part of Cafcass updating its IT infrastructure and moving to cloud services, we are removing ‘.gsi’ from our email addresses. Our email addresses will now take the form @cafcass.gov.uk

This change will take place from 13th March 2018. Please make sure you update your records and remove the ‘.gsi’. Please be aware that any emails sent to ‘.gsi’ addresses after this change may not be received.

<https://www.cafcass.gov.uk/2018/02/28/cafcass-email-addresses-changing/>

Inquiry publishes Child Migration Programmes report (01/03/18)

The Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse has published its report into the Child Migration Programmes case study.

The report criticises Her Majesty's Government (HMG) for the policy of child migration and recommends that all child migrants are financially compensated by HMG through a redress scheme. The report also recommends that organisations involved in implementing the migration programmes offer apologies to child migrants, where they have failed to do so.

<https://www.iicsa.org.uk/news/inquiry-publishes-child-migration-programmes-report>

Inquiry clarifies its position on core participants and provides an update on the 13 confirmed investigations (15/02/18)

A core participant is an individual or an institution that played, or may have played, a direct or significant role in an investigation.

It is not necessary to be a core participant in order to provide evidence to the Inquiry.

<https://www.iicsa.org.uk/news/inquiry-clarifies-its-position-core-participants-and-provides-update-13-confirmed>

Plans to cut excess calorie consumption (06/03/18)

Major steps to cut excessive calorie intake have been unveiled, as part of

the government's strategy to cut childhood and adult obesity. The package includes:

- new evidence highlighting overweight or obese boys and girls consume up to 500 and 290 calories too many each day respectively
- a challenge to the food industry to reduce calories in products consumed by families by 20% by 2024
- the launch of the latest One You campaign, encouraging adults to consume 400 calories at breakfast, and 600 for lunch and dinner; this comes as adults consume 200 to 300 calories in excess each day.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/plans-to-cut-excess-calorie-consumption-unveiled>

PHE urges vigilance about spotting signs of scarlet fever (09/03/18)

Parents are advised to be aware of signs and symptoms of scarlet fever following a substantial increase in reported cases across England in 2017 to 2018.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/public-health-england-urges-vigilance-about-spotting-signs-of-scarlet-fever>

Healthy child programme 0 to 19: health visitor and school nurse commissioning (09/03/18)

This service specification is for LAs commissioning health visitors and school nurses, for public health services for children aged 0 to 19.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/healthy-child-programme-0-to-19-health-visitor-and-school-nurse-commissioning>

2018 child health profiles (06/03/18)
Profiles providing an overview of child health and wellbeing for each local authority in England.
<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/2018-child-health-profiles>

Health protection in schools and other childcare facilities (22/02/18)
A practical guide for staff on managing cases of infectious diseases in schools and other childcare settings.
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-protection-in-schools-and-other-childcare-facilities>

NCMP operational guidance (14/02/18)
Guidance for local commissioners, providers and schools on running the national child measurement programme.
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-child-measurement-programme-operational-guidance>

Healthy Child Programme: rapid review on safeguarding (12/03/18)
Rapid review to update the safeguarding guidance for the Healthy Child Programme for children aged 5 to 19.
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/healthy-child-programme-rapid-review-on-safeguarding>

MMR vaccination urged as measles outbreak declared in South East Wales (07/03/18)
Public Health Wales is urging young adults and teenagers to make sure they

are protected against measles with two doses of the MMR vaccine as it investigates an outbreak of measles in South East Wales. Parents are also urged to make sure their children are fully protected.
<http://www.wales.nhs.uk/sitesplus/888/news/47763>

National action required to ensure local services work together to support children and young people's mental health needs (08/03/18)
Too many children and young people find themselves at 'crisis point' before accessing mental health services because health care, education and other public services are not working together as effectively as they could to protect and support their best interests, a report from the Care Quality Commission has found.
<http://www.cqc.org.uk/news/releases/national-action-required-ensure-local-services-work-together-support-children-young>

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Youth custody data (09/03/18)
Monthly statistics on the population in custody of children and young people within the secure estate.
<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/youth-custody-data>

Consultation outcome - Inspection visits to further education and skills providers judged to require improvement (28/02/18)

65% of respondents supported our proposal to conduct a single monitoring visit of providers that require improvement, rather than support and challenge visits.

This report provides a breakdown of responses and sets out our next steps.
<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/inspection-visits-to-further-education-and-skills-providers-judged-to-require-improvement>

Short inspections of good schools: maintained schools and academies (23/02/18)

This is a report on the outcomes of the consultation that ran from 21 September to 8 November 2017 on proposals for changes to Ofsted's approach to short inspections from January 2018.

The changes relate to short inspections of good maintained schools and academies, and outstanding and good maintained nurseries, special schools and pupil referral units.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/short-inspections-of-good-schools-maintained-schools-and-academies>



SI 2018/246 - Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills (Fees and Frequency of Inspections) (Children's Homes etc.) (Amendment) Regulations 2018 – England (28/02/18)

Regulation 2 and the Schedule increase certain fees payable under the 2015 regulations (S.I. 2015/551).

Regulation 3 removes the requirement to inspect a "closed children's home" (as defined). This exception from the inspection requirement applies whilst a children's home is subject to a condition of registration, imposed under section 13(5) of the Care Standards Act 2000 (c.14), to inform the CI at least 3 months before beginning to accommodate children again. A children's home that ceases to be subject to the condition of registration and therefore ceases to be a "closed children's home" before 1st October must be inspected in that year; a children's home that ceases to be subject to the condition on or after 1st October is not to be inspected that year.
<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2018/246/contents/made>

Consultations

Domestic Abuse Bill (08/03/18)

The consultation sets out the government's approach to dealing with domestic abuse. It seeks to address it at every stage from prevention through to rehabilitation.

Since 2010, the government has made dealing with domestic abuse an absolute priority. We have worked closely with partners to introduce measures which deal with the fundamental drivers of domestic abuse, address the needs of survivors and victims, and ensure perpetrators are brought to justice.

The consultation sets out the government's approach to dealing with domestic abuse. It seeks to address it at every stage from prevention through to rehabilitation and reinforces the government's aim to make domestic abuse everyone's business. The consultation is wide-ranging and we are seeking views on both legislative proposals for a landmark draft Domestic Abuse Bill and a package of practical action.

Our main aim through this work is to prevent domestic abuse by challenging the acceptability of abuse and addressing the underlying attitudes and norms that perpetuate it.

This consultation asks questions under four main themes with the central aim of prevention running through each:

- promote awareness – to put domestic abuse at the top of everyone's agenda, and raise public and professionals' awareness

- protect and support – to enhance the safety of victims and the support that they receive
- pursue and deter – to provide an effective response to perpetrators from initial agency response through to conviction and management of offenders, including rehabilitation
- improve performance – to drive consistency and better performance in the response to domestic abuse across all local areas, agencies and sector.

Closing date: 31st May 2018

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/domestic-abuse-bill-consultation>

Conferences

Safeguarding Children: Finding solutions for better protection

24th May 2018 Manchester

£160 - £230 + VAT

Private £495 + fee & VAT

In recent years, the issue of safeguarding children has received more and more media attention. High-profile cases have shed a greater light on protecting society's children. This has contributed to a large increase in demand on already-strained resources. Threats to children's safety include social care, domestic abuse, social and mainstream media, radicalisation, funding cuts for children's services, trafficking and concerns for migrant and refugee children. The answers to many of these issues emphasise the importance of early intervention.

Benefits of attending this conference:

- Learn more about new policies and frameworks in place to safeguard children.
- Practical insights into setting out strategic arrangements to ensure services are better coordinated across a spectrum encompassing child protection, safeguarding and wellbeing.
- Learn how services can make improvements and provide high-quality delivery.
- Gain a greater understanding of how to tackle complex issues of safeguarding such as online safety, trafficking, domestic abuse and radicalisation.



- Learn how to implement improvements to child protection procedures and how best to respond to concerns about a child.
- An agenda designed to inform practitioners how to create a safer, more consistent approach to protecting and safeguarding children and young people.
- Explore how multi-agency arrangements can be improved to identify children at risk earlier on.
- Practical advice on defining an area and its boundaries so services across police, schools, healthcare and local government can be better coordinated.
- Advice on how to create an environment where better suited practitioners can get on with practise and protecting children.
- Understand how to drive up service quality and implement effective prevention, protection and safeguarding strategies.

<https://openforumevents.co.uk/events/2018/safeguarding-children-finding-solutions-for-better-protection/>

Conferences (continued)

Next steps for safeguarding children in England - implementing the Children and Social Work Act, strengthening multi-agency working and tackling CSA

25th April 2018 London
£230 + VAT

This seminar will assess priorities for child protection services and the next steps for safeguarding children in England. Areas for discussion include:

- The Children and Social Work Act: progress in improving multi-agency collaborative partnerships and next steps for collaboration between partners;
- Establishing Social Work England: key priorities for social work;
- The Centre of expertise on CSE: challenges in tackling CSA, and possible further steps using HO funding;
- Online safety: opportunities for enhancing protection for children online - including the future responsibilities for internet service providers;
- Schools: what further support and training will be needed to support schools in meeting their responsibilities and identifying those children at risk of abuse; and
- The judicial process: priorities for improving the system to ensure victims are fully supported.

<http://www.westminsterforumprojects.co.uk/conference/child-protection-2018>

Children and Young People's Mental Health: Providing Effective Support

3rd July 2018 London

£160 - £230 + VAT

Private £495 + fee & VAT

Half of all mental health problems have been established by the age of 14, rising to 75% by age 24. While the national government has started implementing its Five-Year Forward View for Mental Health, with particular priority for children and young people, reports are not yet showing positive results.

A green paper (Dec 2017), on transforming mental health services for children and young people, had several proposals, including:

- senior mental health lead in schools,
- setting up a 4 week waiting time for NHS CAMHS services,
- mental health support teams in schools and
- all compulsory mental health awareness training.

As the policy and media response to this issue continuously grows, this event invites you analyse, discuss and learn about the latest developments and move the conversation forward.

<https://openforumevents.co.uk/events/2018/children-and-young-peoples-mental-health-providing-effective->

This 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