New Mental Health Act code of practice
(16/01/15)
The code shows professionals how to carry out their roles and responsibilities under the Mental Health Act 1983, to ensure that all patients receive high quality and safe care.

There have been significant changes in legislation, case law, policy and professional practice since the last code was published in 2008.

The revised code aims to provide stronger protection for patients and clarify roles, rights and responsibilities. This includes:
• involving the patient and, if appropriate, their families and carers in discussions about the patient’s care at every stage
• providing personalised care
• minimising the use of inappropriate blanket restrictions, restrictive interventions and the use of police cells as places of safety

The main changes to the code include:
• 5 new guiding principles
• new chapters on care planning, human rights, equality and health inequalities
• consideration of when to use the Mental Health Act and when to use the Mental Capacity Act 2005 and Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards and information to support victims
• new sections on physical health care, blanket restrictions, duties to support patients with dementia and immigration detainees
• further guidance on how to support children and young people, those with a learning disability or autism

updated chapters on the appropriate use of restrictive interventions, particularly seclusion and long-term segregation, police powers and places of safety

The new code will come into force on 01/04/15, subject to Parliamentary approval.

UK launches new initiative to protect children in Kenya (16/01/15)
The NCA, in conjunction with the British High Commission, is launching a new weapon to combat CSE in Kenya by travelling British offenders.

The International Child Protection Certificate has been developed to target British nationals and residents who may be seeking to travel and work overseas in order to sexually abuse children. An ICPC can only be issued following checks made against police information and intelligence databases. It aims to provide reassurance that staff employed in schools and voluntary organisations do not have a UK criminal record that makes them unsuitable to work with children.

The certificate is already being used in 73 countries worldwide and has been officially launched in Thailand, Vietnam, the Philippines, Cambodia, Ukraine, Spain and Poland.
Regulation of health and social care professionals: response (29/01/15)
Government’s response on behalf of the 4 countries of the UK to the Law Commissions’ report on regulating health care professionals in the UK and social care professionals in England.

The response covers:
• the structure of reform
• the make-up of a regulatory body
• registers and registration
• education, standards and practice
• fitness to practise
• the role of the Professional Standards Authority

The response sets out the government’s approach to public protection and how this can be supported by professional regulation. https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/regulation-of-health-and-social-care-professionals-response

No Secrets: guidance on protecting vulnerable adults in care (22/01/15)
Sets out how commissioners and providers of care services should protect vulnerable adults.

‘No Secrets’ will be repealed by the Care Act 2014 on 1 April 2015. The act contains replacement and mandatory requirements around adult safeguarding. See chapter 14 of ‘Care and Support Statutory Guidance’.

‘No Secrets’ sets out a code of practice for the protection of vulnerable adults. It explains how commissioners and providers of health and social care services should work together to produce and implement local policies and procedures. They should collaborate with the public, voluntary and private sectors and they should also consult service users, their carers and representative groups. LA social services departments should co-ordinate the development of policies and procedures. https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/no-secrets-guidance-on-protecting-vulnerable-adults-in-care

Measuring child development at age 2 to 2.5 years (06/01/15)
This factsheet explains how the ASQ-3 tool will be used to collect data for a public health outcome measure of child development at age 2. https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/measuring-child-development-at-age-2-to-25-years

Children, Families and Maternity e-bulletin (02/01/15)

Care applications in December 2014 (12/01/15)
In December 2014, Cafcass received a total of 918 care applications. This figure represents a 13% increase compared to those received in December 2013. http://www.cafcass.gov.uk/news/2015/january/december-2014-care-demand-statistics.aspx

Private law demand in December 2014 (12/01/15)
In December 2014, Cafcass received a total of 2,735 new private law cases. This is a 4% decrease on December 2013 levels. http://www.cafcass.gov.uk/news/2015/january/december-2014-private-law-demand-statistics.aspx
More young people continuing in education, employment or training (27/01/15)
Thousands more students are staying in education or going on to employment or training, according to latest figures. The data shows that between October 2012 and March 2013, 91% of pupils continued down 1 of these 3 routes after KS 4 (normally 16 years old), rising from 89% the previous year - a total of 6,500 pupils.

The proportion of young people NEET is at its lowest since consistent records began in 1994.

Review into possible warnings about extremism in Birmingham schools (16/01/15)
Permanent Secretary for the DfE Chris Wormald has reviewed whether or not DfE or its predecessors received warnings about extremism in Birmingham schools. The review covers how DfE handled any warnings and what follow-up actions the department has taken and will take.

Disadvantaged children to benefit from ‘life-changing’ money (08/01/15)
New government funding to help the most disadvantaged children receive high-quality early education has been implemented in 7 LAs from this week.

Over £1m will be distributed between local authorities in Blackpool, Bristol, Cambridgeshire, North Yorkshire, Northamptonshire, Hackney and Stoke-on-Trent to implement the early years pupil premium in their areas.

The money will be distributed to early years providers delivering the funded entitlement for 3- and 4-year-olds, who will receive up to £300 extra per year for each disadvantaged child who meets the eligibility criteria.

The DfE will ask for feedback from the councils before the full £50 million EYPP is implemented throughout England in April 2015.

SEND code of practice: 0 to 25 years (29/01/15)
Guidance on the special educational needs and disability system for children and young people aged 0 to 25, from 1 September 2014.

Special educational needs survey (23/01/15)
Guide for LAs completing returns for the 2015 SEN survey, known as SEN2.

Special educational needs survey (SEN2) 2015 (02/01/15)
A guide to COLLECT, the DfE’s data collection and management system, for LAs completing the special educational needs survey.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Summary</th>
<th>URL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Schools causing concern</td>
<td>20/01/15</td>
<td>Statutory guidance that LAs must follow relating to schools causing concern.</td>
<td><a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/schools-causing-concern-2">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/schools-causing-concern-2</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Governors’ handbook</td>
<td>16/01/15</td>
<td>Departmental advice outlining school governors' roles and duties, along with contact details for GovernorLine</td>
<td><a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/governors-handbook-3">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/governors-handbook-3</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children’s safeguarding performance information framework</td>
<td>16/01/15</td>
<td>This framework sets out the nationally and locally collected data that will help LAs assess the performance of their child protection and safeguarding services.</td>
<td><a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/childrens-safeguarding-performance-information-framework">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/childrens-safeguarding-performance-information-framework</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Measuring disadvantaged pupils' attainment gaps over time</td>
<td>29/01/15</td>
<td>Statistics showing a new way of measuring the gap in attainment between disadvantaged pupils and others at key stages 2 and 4</td>
<td><a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/measuring-disadvantaged-pupils-attainment-gaps-over-time">https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/measuring-disadvantaged-pupils-attainment-gaps-over-time</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Draft guideline to improve asthma diagnosis</td>
<td>28/01/15</td>
<td>Spirometry should be used as the first-line investigation for diagnosing asthma in children over 5 and adults, says NICE.</td>
<td><a href="https://www.nice.org.uk/news/article/draft-guideline-to-improve-asthma-diagnosis">https://www.nice.org.uk/news/article/draft-guideline-to-improve-asthma-diagnosis</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Ending gang violence (21/01/15)
Young people’s advocates tackling gang-related sexual exploitation have received £400,000 HO funding to continue for an extra 12 months. The advocates will be able to continue their ground-breaking work following a £400,000 investment.

The money secures 13 young people’s advocates, working in priority areas across the country as part of the government’s Ending Gang and Youth Violence programme, for 2015/16. They provide direct support to young women who have been victims, or are at risk, of sexual violence by gangs. The advocates coordinate local safeguarding action, with hundreds of women benefiting from such support each year.

Children entering detention under Immigration Act powers (29/01/15)
These figures are based on management information and are not subject to the detailed checks that apply to National Statistics.

Delivery of the trials of specialist advocates for child victims of trafficking (05/01/15)
Information about the specialist independent advocates for victims of child trafficking, including the process of selection, terms of reference and money paid

Online tracking service launched for victims of crime (29/01/15)
Victims of crime can now find the latest information about their case at any time of the day or night thanks to an innovative online service to be launched to police forces across the country.

TrackMyCrime will allow people who report a crime to follow it through the investigation stage easily and securely, exchange messages with their investigating officer to make sure they are up to date with how the case is progressing, and have their questions answered quickly.

Serious Crime Bill: Protection of children and miscellaneous (09/01/15)
These documents form the ‘protection of children and miscellaneous’ section of the Serious Crime Bill.

Youth custody data (09/01/15)
Monthly statistics on the population in custody of children and young people within the secure estate

Youth justice annual statistics (29/01/15)
Youth justice annual statistics for 2013 to 2014 for England and Wales
Finding your way around Ofsted content on GOV.UK (27/01/15)
Now that Ofsted has moved to GOV.UK you’ll find our content is organised differently from before. One of the main ways to find content on GOV.UK is by searching for it. You can find the GOV.UK search box at the top of any page or you can search straight from Google or any other search engine.

This article should help you navigate your way around our content on GOV.UK while you’re getting used to its new format.

Inspecting residential provision in further education colleges (14/01/15)
Guidance for inspectors conducting inspections of residential provision for learners aged under 18 in FE colleges

Fostering in England 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014 (14/01/15)
Numbers and profile of foster carers and children in both LA and independent services

Additional inspections of independent schools: handbook for inspectors (09/01/15)
This document provides guidance to assist Ofsted inspectors in carrying out additional inspections of independent schools.
https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/conducting-additional-inspections-of-independent-schools

Inspecting non-association independent schools: leaflet for schools (09/01/15)
Introduction to the framework for Ofsted's inspections of non-association independent, boarding and residential special schools

CSE: Ofsted thematic report (08/01/15)
Thematic inspection to evaluate effectiveness of LAs’ current response to CSE

Being inspected: guidance for further education and skills providers (29/01/15)
This document tells further education and skills providers about the information Ofsted inspectors require for an inspection.
https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-the-provider-needs-to-prepare-for-inspection-further-education-and-skills

Inspecting early years providers: reporting requirements for inspectors (27/01/15)
Inspection report writing guidance for early years inspectors

Children's centres: inspections and outcomes (16/01/15)
Official statistics covering April 2014 to June 2014 provisional and November 2013 to March 2014 final
Inspecting non-association independent schools: leaflet for parents (09/01/15)
Leaflet for parents and carers about inspections of non-association independent schools

Deferring inspection of independent schools (09/01/15)
Ofsted’s policy for deferrals of inspections of independent day, boarding or residential schools

Inspecting independent schools: questionnaire for staff (09/01/15)
Inspection questionnaire for staff in non-association independent schools

Inspecting further education and skills: inspector's handbook (08/01/15)
Handbook for providers and Ofsted inspectors to support the implementation of the common inspection framework for further education and skills

Inspecting non-association independent schools – framework (07/01/15)
Sets out the statutory basis for Ofsted inspections of non-association independent schools

Inspecting non-association independent schools: handbook for inspectors (07/01/15)
Handbook for Ofsted inspectors conducting inspections of non-association independent schools

Safeguarding in Education – Self Assessment Tool (January 2015)
This Self-Assessment Tool, a joint initiative between the NSPCC and TES, can be used by the designated safeguarding lead in schools in England to assess how well they are meeting statutory and recommended safeguarding practices. It includes useful resources, links to relevant guidance and training and advice on what action to take. https://esat.nspcc.org.uk/Account/Login.aspx?ReturnUrl=%2fUser%2fSummary.aspx

New Children’s Commissioner for Wales (28/01/15)
Professor Sally Holland has been appointed as the new Children’s Commissioner for Wales.

The role of the Children’s Commissioner is to act as an independent champion for children and young people, advocating their interests and making sure their voices are heard at a local, national and international level.

Sally Holland is currently a Professor at the School of Social Sciences at Cardiff University, and is the Director and founder of CASCADE Children’s Social Care Research Centre.
Reduction in young people NEET in Wales (20/01/15)
Deputy Minister for Skills and Technology, Julie James, has welcomed figures showing a decline in the number of young people not in education, employment or training (NEET).

Figures show that in the 12 months ending 30 September 2014 only 8.3% of 16-18 year olds were estimated to be NEET, compared with 11.9% at the year ending 30 September 2013. This represents 9,100 young people compared with 12,900.

During the same period ending 30 September 2014, 19.7% of 19-24 year olds (49,000 people) were estimated to be NEET, against 21.4% (51,300) at the year ending 30 September 2013.

An unfair system - All babies count: spotlight on the criminal justice system (02/02/15)
This joint report finds that babies are ‘invisible’ in the criminal justice system. The report estimates that each year there are around 11,800 infants and toddlers with a parent in prison or serving a community sentence.

Barnardo’s and the NSPCC are calling on the UK Government to ensure these young children are identified as a vulnerable group and their parents get proper support.

Share Aware campaign (09/01/15)
Keeping children safe online is a great concern for parents. The NSPCC has therefore launched the Share Aware campaign, to provide straightforward, no-nonsense advice for parents of 8 to 12-year-old children. The campaign aims to help parents talk to their children about staying safe on social networks.

The performance of education in Wales is showing some signs of improvement, according to the Chief Inspector’s Annual Report 2013-2014.

Consultation outcome – SEN and disability: detained persons regulations and revised code (29/01/15)
Summary of consultation responses and the government’s response outlining the next steps to be taken.
School exclusion (02/01/15)
Statutory guidance on the exclusion of pupils from local-authority maintained schools, academies and pupil referral units.

The School Reform Minister Nick Gibb has removed the current guidance to address some issues with process and we will be issuing updated guidance in due course.
https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-exclusion

CSA Inquiry: Bidding opens for victims fund (02/02/15)
All non-statutory organisations which have seen a surge in demand from CSA survivors for their services, as a direct result of the announcement of the Inquiry, can apply for a share of a £2M fund from today.

Bids will be assessed against a range of criteria and allocated to ensure urgent needs are met.
Increased demand

A further fund of £2.85m is available to non-statutory organisations that provide support to all victims of sexual abuse, and are currently experiencing increased demand. This will be administered in parallel with the CSA Inquiry Fund.
Funding for children and young people with SEND (30/01/15)
We are inviting interested individuals and organisations to help us work out better ways to distribute SEND funding. To help with this, we have a pack of data about children and young people with SEND. We are interested in any conclusions you may draw from this data.

We are also interested in local knowledge that could inform the national debate on how best to allocate funding in the longer term. Closing Date: 27th February 2015

Consultation outcome - Changing how the GMC decides on doctors’ fitness to practice (16/01/15)
The consultation responses demonstrated strong support for strengthening the separation between the General Medical Council’s investigation and adjudication role in fitness to practise procedures. Establishing the Medical Practitioners Tribunal Service as a statutory committee of the GMC, is in our view the right means of achieving this.

Working together to safeguard children: revisions (06/01/15)
We're seeking views on revisions to ‘Working together to safeguard children’ statutory guidance, published in 2013. Closing date: 3rd February 2015

Raising the ambitions and educational attainment of children who are looked after in Wales (29/01/15)
This consultation sets out proposed arrangements to further support the educational attainment of children who are looked after, primarily of compulsory school age but also includes transition to further and higher education.

The aims of the draft strategy are to:
- raise the educational aspirations of children who are looked after and of those who care for them
- reinforce accountability and leadership across ourselves, LAs and the education system
- ensure education remains a priority even during unsettling periods in a child’s life
- make better use of data to aid practice, policy making and monitoring or educational outcomes
- promote and share good practice

Closing date: 4th May 2015

Asthma - diagnosis and monitoring: guideline consultation (28/01/15)
We are now consulting registered stakeholders on the draft guideline on Asthma: diagnosis and monitoring and would like to hear from you.

Closing date: 11th March 2015
http://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/indevelopment/gid-cgwave0640/consultation
| Conferences |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| **Children’s Centre Conference**<br>25th February 2015  London  £245 - £575 + VAT | With Ofsted announcing their intention to move towards a LA based inspection regime and plans for a new, aligned inspection framework expected, this event provides the perfect opportunity to share best practice strategies with expert colleagues on safeguarding quality services and demonstrating ‘outstanding’ practices. |
| As centres across the country undergo restructuring to combat budgetary pressures, this timely event has been designed specifically for those at the forefront of providing targeted services to children and adults through children’s centres. |
| Key topics covered include:<br>● How to demonstrate ‘outstanding’ practice to Ofsted and achieve exceptional results across your children’s centre<br>● Achieving a balance between universal and targeted services<br>● Taking advantage of opportunities offered through commissioning new services<br>● Developing successful partnerships with agencies to maximise services for vulnerable families | Our ½ day briefing is designed to equip you with the knowledge needed to track progress scrupulously and positively demonstrate improved results in children’s centres. [http://www.capitaconferences.co.uk/public-sector-conferences/detail/article/tracking-progress-and-evidencing-outcomes-half-day-briefing-2.html](http://www.capitaconferences.co.uk/public-sector-conferences/detail/article/tracking-progress-and-evidencing-outcomes-half-day-briefing-2.html) |
| **Missing and Runaway Children**<br>26th February 2015  London  £245 - £575 + VAT | As children who are reported missing continue to be identified as repeat runaways at significant risk of CSE, implementing effective safeguarding procedures remains an urgent strategic priority. This conference shines a spotlight on sharing transferable solutions and developing an overarching strategy which aids prevention and avoids repeat incidents. |
| The ability to track progress of individuals and families served by children’s centres remains a vital criterion for effectively evidencing the impact centres are having on the communities and individuals they serve. |
| Key topics covered include:<br>● Embedding robust safeguarding measures to identify children at risk of sexual exploitation<br>● Delivering effective aftercare and carrying out comprehensive independent return interviews<br>● Early intervention initiatives in education and residential care to identify dips in attendance and patterns of behaviour<br>● Maintaining effective communication between agencies to raise awareness of potential indicators and respond to concerns of under-reporting | [http://www.capitaconferences.co.uk/public-sector-conferences/detail/article/missing-and-runaway-children-conference.html](http://www.capitaconferences.co.uk/public-sector-conferences/detail/article/missing-and-runaway-children-conference.html) |
| **Tracking Progress and Evidencing Outcomes**<br>Half day briefing 26th February 2015  London  £245 - £445 + VAT | The ability to track progress of individuals and families served by children’s centres remains a vital criterion for effectively evidencing the impact centres are having on the communities and individuals they serve. |


### Not in Education, Employment or Training
24th February 2015  London
£245 - £575 + VAT
This conference offers practical insight into innovative strategies to support and re-engage young people into employment, education and training.

Hear about policies in place and changes to funding to make certain you fully understand the latest developments and opportunities.

Key topics to be covered include:
- Offering training programmes and vocational qualifications that develop important skills
- Reaching disengaged young people and adopting strategies to change their mindsets
- Developing LA led multi-agency solutions to support individuals and give them a range of opportunities
- Delivering effective careers advice and building relationships with employers


### Early Intervention for Children and Families
24th February 2015  Cardiff
£245 - £575 + VAT
The Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act provides a legal framework for transforming social services and supports a renewed focus on early intervention and prevention.

Review the continued expansion of the early intervention programme through a multi-agency approach.

### Tackling CSA: Multi-Agency Child-Centred Practice
25th March 2015  Birmingham
£249 - £459 + VAT
The conference will enable you to:
- Understand the nature and scale of CSA, and the emerging challenges
- Develop an effective response to prevent and protect children at risk
- Learn about multi-agency work
- Learn about effective return interviews for children who go missing and understand the links with CSE
- Understand and respond to the latest risks to children on the internet and social media
- Learn how to educate vulnerable young people in good sex and relationships education
- Gain insights on good practice
- Hear how leaders and practitioners are forging an effective response in the wake of CSA

Employment Law in Education 2015
6th May 2015  London
£269 - £449 + VAT

Hear updated guidance and the latest legal HR obligations. Ensure your policies and practices are up to date and compliant and be ready for any changes on the horizon.

In-depth workshops led by top employment lawyers include:
- The latest guidance around school staff and leadership pay and conditions, including managing difficult pay decisions
- Responding to tightened budgets and ensuring smooth and fair restructuring processes
- Managing short and long term absence and knowing when and how to involve Occupational Health
- Updates to vetting and barring process and ensuring you are compliant with the latest safer recruitment guidance in “Keeping Children Safe”

Plus:
- Practical guidance on handling difficult conversations with staff to achieve early conciliations
- An interactive workshop to help you health check your current HR policies with our onsite team of legal experts!
http://www.optimus-education.com/conferences/ELU15

14 - 19 Safeguarding 2015
14th May 2015  Birmingham

Meet new statutory guidance, clarify the latest legal obligations and gain practical strategies to fully safeguard pupils from the latest threats

Safeguarding your students between the ages of 14 to 19 is a constant challenge.

The sheer volume and variety of new dangers faced by these children and young people, coupled with the lack of external support and now with the release of Keeping Children Safe in Education – the pressure on you is greater than ever before.

Learning outcomes - what can I expect?
- Keeping Children Safe in Education
  Get fully up to date with the latest policy changes and how practice in your school or college will need to change
- Effective multi-agency working
  Clarify your roles and responsibilities and gain best practice to ensure no student slips through your safeguarding net
- Thresholds and Referrals
  Practical alternatives when a child or young person in your care fails to meet threshold for referral – what can you do?
http://www.optimus-education.com/conferences/14-19Safeguarding

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