



Policy & Research Briefing

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A short guide for Trust partners on what's new in policy and research

Dear Trust Colleagues

As we rapidly head into the middle of 2009, there are several important policy developments that we should all be aware of.

Firstly, you may be aware that the Government recently published its detailed response to the recommendations outlined in Lord Laming's report, '*The protection of children in England: A progress report*' (March 2009). In his introduction to the plan, Ed Balls, Minister for Children, Schools and Families stated that, whilst there is broad support for the Every Child Matters agenda across all services for children and young people, and that a great deal of progress has been made in developing a professional framework to protect children and promote their welfare, there is a need for a step-change in the arrangements to protect children from harm. This will affect all of us working with children, young people and families in Plymouth.

The action plan provides details of how central Government will work together with local Government and front line services to drive forward reform of child protection services across England. The core statutory guidance *Working Together to Safeguard Children* will be revised in response to recommendations to strengthen policy and practice, and there will be greater public scrutiny of Local Safeguarding Children Boards. Sir Roger Singleton, the first ever Chief Adviser on the Safety of Children will drive these reforms and we will be looking closely at how to drive the reform locally in support of the national plan.

Another recent development has been that of 'swine flu', which has been making its presence felt in Plymouth over the past month. At the time of publication, it remains business as usual as pandemic status has not yet been declared. Having said this, we must still remain vigilant and prepared for any new developments. Many thanks to those of you who have worked hard to ensure that the Trust is well placed to respond to a critical incident such as this. We regularly receive advice from the Health Protection Agency and will ensure that any information is issued to you as necessary.

I hope you find this month's briefing a useful and interesting read!

With Best Wishes

Richenda Broad

Commissioning, Performance & Policy Department



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FOCUS ON: Priority 1- Reducing Health Inequalities

Champion: Paul O'Sullivan, Joint Director for Children & Families Health

Good health is essential for children and young people to be able to realise their potential in all aspects of their lives, be that enjoying and achieving at school or making a positive contribution and achieving economic well being as a young person. In addition, improving the health of our children today can contribute to improving the health of our adult population in future and thereby offers the potential to address the growth in chronic health conditions, for example those associated with the rise in obesity.

Services to support improvements in children's health can be aligned to a child's key developmental stages. This will determine different approaches in service delivery and involve a different group of services:

- **Pregnancy and Early Years** – ensuring the best start to life through promoting the health of parents and their young children
- **School Age Children** – providing support and opportunities for children to learn about and engage in healthy behaviours such as healthy eating and participation in activity.
- **Young People** - enabling them to make independent choices that promote and protect their health.

Through all of these stages it will be essential to ensure that children and young people are able to access timely, high quality healthcare services when and where they need them.

The national performance indicators around health inequalities can be seen below. Within the context of improving the health of all children and young people, the key theme of this Priority is to focus on reducing the variation in health outcomes that continue to exist in Plymouth between different communities. For example there continues to be higher levels of smoking during pregnancy, lower levels of breastfeeding and higher rates of obesity in areas of greater deprivation. Poorer health outcomes are also experienced by children and young people from vulnerable groups such as children in care or young offenders when compared to the average for the population. It is also apparent that the families and children living in more deprived or vulnerable communities tend to access less planned healthcare and more unscheduled or urgent care.

Addressing this Priority requires the input of universal, targeted and specialist services from all agencies. For example Primary Care and Children's Centres working with midwifery and health visiting are able to provide information, support and services to parents and young children to tackle the health issues listed above, whilst the Family Nurse Partnership and the Malezi project are targeting services to specific vulnerable teenage parents. Similarly, Healthy Schools, Extended Schools and Voluntary & Community Services working with school health and other community health services will need to co-ordinate and target their services to improve the health of children and young people in their local communities, whilst the dedicated health services for children in care can work with the Care Matters group to improve access to healthcare and promote the health of this vulnerable group.

Key performance indicators in each of the above life / developmental stages that provide a suite of proxy measures for health outcomes. These include:

- Rates of smoking amongst women who are pregnant and rates of breastfeeding during infancy
- Levels of obesity and participation in physical activity in school age children
- The levels of substance misuse, sexually transmitted diseases and Under 18 conception rates amongst young people.

As well as being national targets the above also make up some of our Local Area Agreement targets. Alongside these indicators other measures of good health are used including levels of vaccination, dental health and healthy eating (including the uptake of school meals) across all ages.

Further information is available below. For copies of documents contact Abigail.Jago@plymouth.gov.uk

- Healthy Lives, Brighter Futures: Joint DCSF and DoH Strategy for Children & Young People's Health, February 2009.
http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_094400
- The National Service Framework for Children, Young People & Maternity Services, 2004
http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Healthcare/NationalServiceFrameworks/Children/DH_4089111
- Plymouth Children and Young People's Trust Needs Analysis
- An Atlas of child health and its determinants at neighbourhood level within Plymouth Public Health Development Unit, 2006
- The Health Visitor Caseloads Survey 2002 - 2008, Public Health Development Unit, 2009

Audit Commission - Final Comprehensive Performance Assessment Report

Ofsted have launched guidance on new annual assessment arrangements for Children's Services.

From June 2009 Ofsted will provide an annual performance profile of outcomes and services for children and young people (CYP) in each local authority area. This performance profile will draw together evidence from Ofsted's inspection and regulation and set it alongside relevant Every Child Matters indicators from the new NIS. It will be used to assist in the CAA joint inspectorate assessment and to provide an overall rating of the performance of children's services.

Ofsted have also launched a new programme of inspection for safeguarding and services for children in care, which includes:

1. Annual, unannounced inspection of local authority (LA) contact, assessment and referral centres for children's social care (our Advice and Assessment Service)
2. Full inspection of safeguarding and services for children in care in each local authority area at least once every three years.

To see the full guidance please follow the link below:

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Forms-and-guidance/Browse-all-by/Other/General/Comprehensive-Area-Assessment-assessing-children-s-services-and-adult-learning>



Aiming High for Disabled Children

A total funding package of £370 million nationally has been allocated by the DCSF for 2008-11 for short breaks for disabled children and their families. LA allocations are supported by significant additional funding for Primary Care Trusts from the NHS. The Government has also introduced measures to make the system work better for disabled children, young people and their families. Key to the system transformation is a Core Offer focused on 1) Information, 2) Assessment and service delivery, 3) Participation. The new disabled children's national indicator (NI 54) will look at parental experiences of services for disabled CYP aged 0 to 19 and the extent to which these services are delivered according to core offer standards. For more information; <http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/socialcare/ahdc/coreoffer/>)



Plymouth's Short Breaks Transformation Project Board

has recently looked at what short break transformation entails. This joint planning activity has resulted in proposals for local short-break development to meet the Full Service Offer, supported by pooled or aligned budgets and resources and reflecting the scale of the increase in funding provided. Short Breaks is a central theme with the Aiming High for Disabled Children programme and will transform the way in which short breaks are made available for families of disabled children. Choice, flexibility, positive outcomes and innovative service delivery will be at the forefront of the work to be carried out over the coming months. Contact Janet.Greaves-Stocker@plymouth.gov.uk for further information.

New Independent Chair of Plymouth Safeguarding Children Board (PSCB)



Simon White (right), **Safeguarding Business Manager, welcomes Jim Gould to Plymouth**

Jim Gould took up the position of Independent Chair of PSCB at the beginning of May 2009 and brings to the Board a wealth of experience working with children and young people in the multi-agency arena.

See the website below for more information:
<http://www.plymouth.gov.uk/homepage/socialcareandhealth/childrensocialcare/localsafeguardingchildrenboard.htm>

More About the Youth Service

Provision is directed towards a foundation of locally delivered services focusing on a **high quality universal offer** for all 13-19 yr olds (up to 25 yrs for young people (YP) with special needs), from which locally accessible and timely **targeted intervention** for YP that need it most can take place. The Youth Service is locality based to enable the development of integrated provision, working with key stakeholders, including **increased evening & weekend provision**. This style contributes to the CYPP priorities 2008-11. **See next month's issue for more information on the youth service**

For more information contact:
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POLICY

Safeguarding and Accident Prevention

Every year, some two million children – about one in five – are seen at hospital Accident and Emergency Units across the country after suffering an unintentional injury. Around 250 children die each year as the result of accidents. These stark facts give an indication of how great a challenge parents, carers and practitioners face in trying to keep children safe. A large proportion of injuries are preventable and while year on year the numbers of deaths from accidental injuries has fallen, attendance at hospital remains high and there is no room for complacency.

An increasing focus on early years learning, development and care brings new opportunities to safeguard children, promote wellbeing, health and safety and support parents, carers, and practitioners in their day to day work with children in different settings.

The Child Accident Prevention Trust (CAPT) has recently published four guides addressing topics in child safety and injury prevention.



1. Accidents and child development
2. Preventing childhood accidents: Guidance on effective action
3. Safety equipment schemes
4. Safety in day care and play settings.

CAPT also supply resources (leaflets etc) aimed at parents and carers. Visit their website for more information – www.capt.org.uk.

Children and Suicide

In 2007/08, a total of 2,925 callers (2,282 girls and 643 boys) rang ChildLine and were counselled specifically about suicide. This represents two per cent of all children and young people counselled on a first-time basis during that time. In addition, 3,003 children and young people rang and were counselled about another problem but also talked about suicide during the course of the call.



In many cases suicide is not mentioned in isolation and can be a result/effect caused by other issues including:

Family relationship problems – a feeling of having no control over what was happening their lives. Parents suffering with mental health problems was cited by callers and noted as a risk factor in research.

Depression/mental health – callers talked about a range of emotions and problems such as clinical depression, eating disorders and self harm.

Bereavement – research links a family history of suicide to an increased risk of suicide. CYP often missed the person and wanted to be with them.

Sexual and or physical abuse – intense feelings of guilt and fear. Those suffering a history of serious abuse have a higher risk of suicide and self harm according to research.

Bullying – 14% of boys and 10% of girls who called about suicide said that they had been bullied.

For full report and further information follow the link below: http://www.nspcc.org.uk/Inform/publications/Serials/ChildLineCasenotes/suicide_wda64278.html

The Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health partnership will be discussing the issue of suicide prevention at its July meeting.

Equality Bill

An upcoming Bill will impact across all local authority functions including the Children's Trust. The Bill has two main purposes;

1. to harmonise discrimination law, and
2. strengthen the law to support progress on equality.

In practical terms, it means that consideration will have to be given to how all listed public authorities policies, programmes and service delivery will affect people with the protected characteristics for example those with disabilities.

For the full document follow the link <http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmbills/085/voli/2009085i.pdf>

Toolkit for Children with Autism

The Autism Toolkit is a resource developed for Scottish Schools. It provides critical information which could be used in all our services that have autistic service users.

The toolkit includes up to date information from research, practical experiences and best practice which is easy to understand and apply in the classroom, playground and home. There are useful explanations, strategies and resources which are often the first source of practical knowledge for schools.

For further information and to view the toolkit in full please e-mail Theresa.brooks@plymouth.gov.uk

Research & Consultation

Points of View for PCC

The PCC Corporate Performance Unit in the Chief Executives Department manages a panel made up of randomly selected Plymouth Residents who complete surveys four times a year about the service and delivery of Council Services they use and receive.

There are surveys coming up in May, July and October 2009 and any department can suggest questions for their service area. It could be used to gauge perception about some new service delivery techniques that you are considering using, or to try and assess public awareness about your service or simply to test your services impact.

Recent surveys that have been conducted asked the panel their views on –

- How they accessed the council
- Knowledge of adult abuse services and reporting channels
- Knowledge of the councils services
- Experiences of libraries in Plymouth

Full reports of the findings can be found at:

<http://www.plymouth.gov.uk/homepage/newsandviews/consultation/surveys/surveyreport.htm>

For further details and to find out how to submit questions contact Jo Atkey 307747



Adolescent Neglect



DCSF recently conducted a literature review aimed at improving the evidence base on recognition, effective intervention and inter-agency working in child abuse which also explores the concept of 'neglect' as it applies to adolescents. This is a significantly under-explored area in the UK.

Child maltreatment is often considered something that only happens to young children. However, there are substantial numbers of 10- to 15-year-olds who are the subject of child protection plans in England

The literature review draws together information from research in other countries on this topic, and also considers a range of other relevant UK and international literature. The review considers the practice, policy and research implications of the literature, and has also informed other products of this project such as:

- A guide for multi-disciplinary teams who work with young people
- A young person's guide on neglect.

It reviews the difference in policies, practice and potential signs of abuse which our practitioners are always looking out for in their day to day safeguarding of children and young people in Plymouth.

For further information follow the link below <http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/research/data/uploadfiles/D-CSF-RBX-09-04.pdf>

Young Runaways and Accommodation

The DCSF has commissioned a research report as part its Young Runaways Action Plan. The report aims to generate a set of recommendations to help local authorities and other key stakeholders to develop solutions to meet the emergency accommodation needs of young runaways.

The project, which started in November 2008 and will end in June 2009 has three strands:

1. Key informant interviews in 12 locations and a questionnaire based survey in all remaining locations
2. In depth interviews with young people who experienced running away
3. Stakeholder consultations and focus groups with young people.

The final report will be submitted to the DCSF in June 2009.

Assessments Relating to Learning Difficulties – Guidance to Local Authorities (LA)

Children and young people with learning difficulties are at particular risk of not making a successful post 16 transition and are twice as likely to not be in education, employment or training (NEET).

An assessment of the young persons learning and support needs will help to make sure that they receive a suitable offer under the September Guarantee (an offer by the end of September of a place in learning to young people completing compulsory education). A draft version of the guidance has been produced and has been issued to LA's and other stakeholders for consultation.

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations/index.cfm?action=consultationDetails&consultationId=1588&external=no&menu=1>

Training and Events

Local Events

Effective Supervision Skills (training course)

Effective Supervision Skills and its approach is proven in real working experience across public service organisations – whether based in the community, voluntary or statutory sectors.

It offers a simple but powerful structure, focussing on the tasks and performance of the worker while simultaneously building and maintaining the essential supervisory relationship. The course lasts for two days, and one of its great strengths is its experiential nature. All the teaching is underlined by progressive practical sessions which use participants' own issues in a non-threatening, safe environment to ensure everyone's learning is grounded in reality.

The course is particularly effective in building competence and confidence in recently appointed supervisors.



The two day course will be held at **Seymour House, Plymouth 22nd and 23rd June 2009** at a cost of £198.00 +VAT for two days per delegate.

To book go to www.idtraining.com/booking

National Events



What: Introduction to local Government

When/Where: 25th June
LGiU Offices, 22 Upper Woburn Place
Euston, London, WC1H 0TB

Target Audience: Newly elected councillors, new recruits to local government, employees in new posts, people working with local government in partnership.

Contact: Follow the link below
<http://www.lgiu.gov.uk/events-detail.jsp?&id=255&md=0§ion=events>

What: The Future of the Children's Workforce and a half day briefing on Developing Leadership Capability

When/Where: 22nd June – Central London (Full day). 23rd June – Central London (Half day)

Target Audience: All those involved in implementing and embedding workforce reforms and multi agency integrated working.

CPD certified

Contact: www.capitaconferences.co.uk

Useful Links

Below is a list of all the useful sites:

Care Knowledge

www.careknowledge.com

The Department of Children and Families

www.dcsf.gov.uk

Plymouth City Council

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

Parliament

<http://www.parliament.uk/>

Safeguarding children

www.safeguardingchildren.org.uk

Plymouth Safeguarding Children's Board

www.plymouth.gov.uk/homepage/socialcareandhealth/childrensocialcare/localsafeguardingchildrenboard.htm

Department of Health

www.dh.gov.uk

NHS stats

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics

Children and Young People Now

www.cypnow.co.uk

Research in Practice

www.rip.org.uk

Service Directories

National Service Directories

<http://www.careknowledge.com/secure/contenttypes/doc.aspx?id=58466>

Plymouth Service Directory

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

Supporting People Service Directory

<http://www.plymouth.gov.uk/supportingpeopledirectory>

Parents Guide to Plymouth

<http://www.parents-guide-to-plymouth.co.uk/index.htm>

Printing Schedule

For further information contact:

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Next Months Issue	Submission deadline	Publication date
Issue 9	June	5 June 2009
		12 June 2009