



Policy & Research Briefing

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

Dear Colleagues

Back to school and back to work for those of you who have been enjoying a lengthy summer break. An exciting time and a transitional period for a lot of our young people who are changing school or who are going into further education, training and/or employment. We have had some very pleasing exam results this summer and I hope this has helped empower many young people to pursue their path to success.

It's time to start thinking about the next Children and Young People's Plan. Research has been underway to gather evidence across the Trust to help establish the needs of children and families in the city and to help prioritise what needs to be delivered. The Children and Young People's Trust Executive has met and outlined some priorities that we can work together to achieve. Work with the Young Reps and the Plymouth Youth Cabinet has also been underway this month to ensure that the proposed priorities make sense to our children and young people and we have had some excellent suggestions to improve the style!

We will be coming to you in October to consult on the proposed priorities and give you the opportunity to share your views about the upcoming plan. So watch this space for more information on how to get involved and expect to be hearing about it soon!!



With Best Wishes

Bronwen Lacey

Chair of the Plymouth Children and Young People's Trust Executive

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Focus on: Travelling safely to and from school

The mode of travel chosen for a child's journey to school is recognised as having an impact not only on their safety but their health and personal development and of course the environment in which they live.

September marks the start of the new school year and an important transitional time for young people who are starting their first year at a secondary school. This is often the time when young people may start travelling to school on their own, either by using public transport or by walking and/or cycling.

It is timely to look at the safety of travelling to and from school and the resources available to parents and practitioners to help improve child road safety.

The Child Accident Prevention Trust www.capt.org.uk provides resources to support work around child accidents, which includes road safety.

A recent Road Safety Analysis <http://www.roadsafetyanalysis.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/08/Child-Casualty-Report-2010.pdf> looked at 120,000 child road casualties over five years from 2004-2008.

Ricky the road safety dog!

The key findings include:

- Increased risk for children from more deprived circumstances
- Risk is highest on a Friday
- The month with the highest casualties is May and the lowest is August

Locally the Plymouth Road Safety Team is responsible for reducing the number of casualties on Plymouth's roads. There is a statutory responsibility under the Road Traffic Act 1988 to prepare and carry out a programme of measures designed to promote road safety throughout the city.

To support our young people and families walking to school, the roads and areas around the school need to be safe and Plymouth has recently brought in a new road safety campaign to put a stop to dangerous and inconsiderate parking that could make the school areas more hazardous for drivers and pedestrians. A road safety camera car will be used to tackle illegal parking in school 'Keep Clear' zones and pedestrian crossing zigzags, as well as enforcing bus lanes and helping everyone travel safely and efficiently to school, regardless of mode.

One of the key priorities in the Plymouth Children and Young Peoples' Plan <http://www.plymouth.gov.uk/pcypt.htm> is to reduce children and young people's accidents and injuries. The work around this priority is everybody's business and is very much based on partnership working.

You may have read in the May Issue about Junior Life Skills, which takes place for young people in the last year of primary school and involves educational scenarios about fire safety, rail safety and water safety, to name but a few. Road safety is a key part of Junior Life Skills, with support from partner agencies and Ricky the Road Safety dog this and many other initiatives are implemented to improve child road safety in Plymouth and improve education and awareness of how to use the road safely.

October is **walk to school month** <http://www.walktoschool.org.uk/index.php> and currently 100 local authorities take part in the campaign and it reaches 1.3 million children nationally. Plymouth also has a walk to school week and many schools take part. Check out the official website for resources and ideas for Walk to School 2010.



UK Youth Parliament to debate in House of Commons Chamber

Plymouth Members of Youth Parliament (MYPs) are celebrating as MPs from across the country have voted in their hundreds to allow UK Youth Parliament to use the House of Commons chamber for their annual debate.

The UK Youth Parliament made history in 2009 as 300 of its members were the first non MPs allowed to debate in the chamber. The debates, held on Friday 30 October 2009, were chaired by the Speaker of the House, John Bercow, recorded in Hansard and shown on the BBC Parliament Channel; much like a debate between MPs.

This year, MPs debated whether the UK Youth Parliament Members should be able to return and eventually voted overwhelming to let the MYPs use the chamber again, with the result being 499 for and 21 against.

The Plymouth MYPs lobbied our local MPs Alison Seabeck, Gary Streeter and Oliver Colvile, who all voted in favour of the motion. The debate will take place on 29 October 2010. The two Plymouth MYPs are looking forward to attending. Hopefully this will be the start of a new tradition, with the young people showing MPs how it should be done.

See the events sections of this issue for more young people's democracy news or follow the link below:
<http://www.plymouth.gov.uk/localdemocracyweek>



DoH's third-sector investment programme's 'Innovation, Excellence and Service Development Fund: Opportunity to apply



The Information Pack provides third sector organisations with information to help them decide if this funding stream is applicable to both their organisation and the proposed activity they are seeking funding for. It details the funding themes for 2011-12, the priority areas for each theme and the criteria used for assessing applications. A timetable is also provided for the whole process from application through to decision. There are four themes for any proposed project:

Patient-led NHS - Proposals that strengthen patients' choice and control over their own care.

Delivering better health outcomes - Proposals that support improved health outcomes, including outcome measures, patient-reported outcomes and patient experience measures.

Autonomy and accountability - Proposals that support the creation of a long-term sustainable framework for the institutions of the NHS, public health and social care with greater accountability to patients, users and the public and focused on outcomes.

Improving public health - Proposals that promote better public health through an improved public health delivery system.

An on-line application form needs to be completed by **noon on Monday 1 November 2010**.
http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_118373

A new handbook: Promoting engagement in learning at Key Stage 3

This handbook produced by Research in Practice (RiP) is aimed at all those who work with young people at risk of disengagement from learning at KS3. It aims to help staff to explore approaches to tackling this problem to both prevent disengagement and to promote re-engagement.

The handbook incorporates research, key policy initiatives and explores case studies and practice guidance to offer a range of responses that practitioners can draw on to help support young people.

To download a copy or order copies follow the link below:
http://www.rip.org.uk/publications/handbooks/handbooks?page=shop.product_details&flypage=flypage.tpl&product_id=104&category_id=4

Adoption social workers embrace digital technology for 'family finding'

'Be My Parent' is a website from the British Association for Adoption and Fostering (BAAF) which profiles children waiting for adoption or long term fostering when attempts to place them with a family locally have not been successful. Children are referred to the service by adoption and fostering social workers at a local authority. The BAAF stated that their 'Be My Parent' service saw a 37% increase in the number of children profiled online in the last 12 months reaching an all time high of 250 children. There was also a 100% increase in the numbers of videos of children featured on the website.

In the last three years BAAF helped find families for 1,300 children through its range of family finding services, which includes 'Be My Parent'. For more information about this service visit
www.bemyparent.org.uk
<http://www.baaf.org.uk/media/releases/100816.shtml>

POLICY

Ofsted reports on Excellent Services for Children and Young People

This report highlights aspects of best practice in the ten children's services judged by Ofsted in 2009 to be performing excellently, which is the highest of four ratings. To achieve a rating of excellence, the overall effectiveness of a very large majority of inspected services and settings was deemed good or excellent. This report analyses some of the key factors that led to their high performance and illustrates these with practical examples.

The main characteristics of the best performing local authorities show:

- Consistency in practice that is driving real improvement of local services
- A clear focus on the children and young people who need support most and on their progress and development
- A deep understanding of local children, families and communities

This report includes case studies from the ten local authorities. Although these initiatives may be similar to authorities elsewhere, these ten stand out because of the consistency of their approach.

[http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Publications-and-research/Browse-all-by/Documents-by-type/Thematic-reports/Outstanding-local-authority-childrens-services-2009/\(language\)eng-GB](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Publications-and-research/Browse-all-by/Documents-by-type/Thematic-reports/Outstanding-local-authority-childrens-services-2009/(language)eng-GB)

2010 Drug strategy consultation paper

The government plans to publish a new drugs strategy later this year and this consultation sets out the Government's vision for the drugs policy. The consultation aims to provide an early opportunity for drug sector organisations to influence the development of the strategy. The vision develops the key themes and objectives of:



- Preventing drugs use
- Strengthening enforcement, criminal justice and the legal framework
- Rebalancing treatment to support drug free outcomes
- Supporting recovery to break the cycle of drug addiction

Follow the link below for more details:

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/consultations/cons-drug-strategy-2010/>

The government also plans to introduce new measures to combat so called 'legal highs' being marketed to young people. Proposals are for a 12 month temporary ban on new substances as they emerge. Under the proposed laws, the police will be able to confiscate suspected substances and the UK Border Agency will be able to seize shipments of the drugs. Possession of one of these would not be a criminal offence but those found guilty of supply will face a prison term of up to 14 years and an unlimited fine. If passed by parliament the proposals could become law by the end of the year.

Follow the link below to the full article:

<http://www.cypnow.co.uk/bulletins/Daily-Bulletin/news/1023274/?DCMP=EMC-DailyBulletin>

Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) Children and Young People Strategy

The final version of the ACPO Children and Young People Strategy has now been launched and can be downloaded at <http://www.acpo.police.uk/policies.asp>

The strategy has four main objectives:

1. To prevent and reduce crime and anti-social behaviour
2. To improve satisfaction and confidence of young people in their police force
3. To improve the safety of children and young people
4. To work with other agencies to improve effectiveness

The strategy supports the Every Child Matters Outcomes and a multi agency approach to problem solving

Equality Act 2010 becomes law in October: are you ready?

The Act provides a new legislative framework to protect the rights of individuals and advance equality of opportunity for all. There are a number of provisions in the Act that come into force in **October**. Other provisions will be implemented at different times to allow those affected to prepare. The Act will update, simplify and strengthen the previous legislation. Under the Act there is a duty to eliminate discrimination, advance equality and foster good relations for our diverse communities. For more information on the Act go to:

http://www.equalities.gov.uk/equality_act_2010.aspx

In order to prepare staff, the Social Inclusion Unit is offering Equality Act Briefings for team meetings. Please contact Grace Ndongwe grace.ndongwe@plymouth.gov.uk for more information.

Research & Consultation

Ofsted report on children missing from education

This report aims to evaluate the effectiveness of local authorities interventions in relation to children and young people who are missing from education or in danger of becoming so.

The report makes some recommendations to local authorities to:

- Ensure that all maintained schools communicate and cooperate with them on issues related to absence, exclusions and taking children off roll
- Challenge unsafe or inappropriate practices
- Ensure that guidance and protocols are followed and realise failure to do so could place the child at risk
- Work closely with Primary Care Trusts to ensure that they capitalise on the knowledge of health professionals in ensuring that children do not go missing from the education and care systems
- Ensure that schools keep pupils from Traveller families on roll as required by the regulations.



To read the full report, go to:

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Publications-and-research/Browse-all-by/Documents-by-type/Thematic-reports/Children-missing-from-education>

Characteristics of bullying victims in schools



This study shows that the range of characteristics related to bullying is wide and complex. However, it identifies a number of themes that are useful to policy makers. Findings include:

- Many of the characteristics of bullying victims (such as having SEN or a disability, being a young carer or having been in social services care) are factors that mark the young person out as being different from others
- Different types of young people (particularly boys and girls) are more likely to be victims of different types of bullying
- School characteristics can affect young people's risk of being bullied (including the proportion of pupils with SEN and whether the school is a single-sex school).

An ambition recommended by the research would be to increase understanding and tolerance of diversity in the classroom and reduce the victimisation of those who are different.

To view the full report, follow the link below:

http://www.careknowledge.com/uploadedFiles/CareKnowledge_CMS/Public/Documents/201008/DFE-RR001.pdf

In Plymouth the Tackling Bullying Together Strategy has identified groups who may be vulnerable to bullying and outline objectives to tackle bullying behaviour. To view the Plymouth Strategy follow the link below:

http://www.plymouth.gov.uk/pcypt_anti_bullying_strategy.pdf

Ofsted 1st annual survey of social work practitioners

This report is Ofsted's first national survey collecting social work practitioners views. Key findings include:

- Positive responses on training and levels of line management support received.
- Many social workers felt they did not have enough time available to them to work as effectively as they would like.
- It appears that many local authorities find it a challenge to communicate issues raised in serious case reviews and policy and procedure updates.
- Many respondents felt that induction programmes had not been effective in preparing individuals for their role.

For the full report follow the link below:

http://www.careknowledge.com/uploadedFiles/CareKnowledge_CMS/Public/Documents/201007/National%20social%20work%20practitioner%20survey%202010.pdf

Sofa sleeping increases risk of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome

Recent statistics from the Foundation for the Study of Infant Deaths (FSID) reveal that in the last two years at least 25 babies in the UK have died while sleeping together with an adult on a sofa. FSID and the DoH's advice for all parents remains that the safest place for a baby to sleep, for the first six months, is in a separate cot in a room with the parent.

Further recommendations to parents include:

- Stop smoking in pregnancy, this advice is for mothers and fathers.
- Place the baby on their back to sleep (and not on the front or side).
- Do not let the baby get too hot, and keep the baby's head uncovered.
- Place the baby with their feet to the foot of the cot, to prevent them wriggling down under the covers.

Follow the link below for more information:

<http://fsid.org.uk/>

Training and Events

Local events

Local Democracy Week - Local Democracy Week is traditionally held during October and this year the week runs from Monday 11 to Sunday 17 October 2010. Across the UK hundreds of Councils and thousands of schools will be taking part in various events during the week.

In Plymouth, one event will be the **Young Persons' Question Time**. This will take place in the Council Chamber, Council House on Wednesday 13 October between 6pm-9pm. The event is aimed at sixth form students across Plymouth but it is open to any young person interested in current affairs, local and national politics. Young people will be able to ask topical questions to a panel of elected Members.

Follow the link below for more details:
<http://www.plymouth.gov.uk/localdemocracyweek>

Common Assessment Framework (CAF) Training

Training dates are now available until December 2010. If anyone is interested in training or would like to speak to Amanda Paddison (CAF Co-ordinator) to discuss a case or for further advice and guidance, please feel free to contact her: CAF@plymouth.gov.uk
Tel: 01752 307160
Mobile: 07774 336 579



More Events

What: Childhood Epilepsy Study Day – one day course that covers the educational, behavioural and psychosocial issues that may accompany this condition.



When/Where: Thursday 25 November 2010 – Tamar Science Park, Plymouth

Target Audience: SENCOs, teachers, teaching assistants, support workers, foster carers, social care staff and Connexions personal advisors.

Contact: <http://www.ncype.org.uk/epilepsy/childhood-epilepsy-training-for-professionals>

What: Early intervention for families at risk Conference looks at strategies to ensure the effective delivery of early intervention schemes; an opportunity to hear from leading experts and best practice.

When/Where: Tuesday 23 November 2010, Central London.

Target Audience: All those involved in implementing early intervention for vulnerable families.

Contact: <http://www.capitaconferences.co.uk/public-sector-conferences/local-government-communities/full-conference/article/early-intervention-for-families-at-risk-1.html?code=EMTBK>

Useful Links

Plymouth Children and Young People's Trust

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

Research in Practice

www.rip.org.uk

Care Knowledge

www.careknowledge.com

Department for Education

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

Plymouth Parent Partnership

www.plymouthparentpartnership.org.uk

Safeguarding children

www.safeguardingchildren.org.uk

Plymouth Safeguarding Children Board

www.plymouthscb.org.uk

Department of Health

www.dh.gov.uk

NHS statistics

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics

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.plymouthparentpartnership.org.uk/index.php?p=4>

Plymouth's Public Interpretation and Translation Service

<http://www.plymouth.gov.uk/homepage/communityandliving/socialinclusion/translatingplymouth.htm>

Printing Schedule

For further information contact:

Abigail Jago, Assistant Policy and Planning Officer
Services for Children and Young People Tel: 307113

To download previous Policy Briefs go to:

<http://www.plymouth.gov.uk/homepage/socialcareandhealth/childrensocialcare/pcypt/pcyptnews.htm>

Next Month's Issue	Submission deadline	Publication date
Issue 10	6 October 2010	13 October 2010