



# Safeguarding Children Updates

NOVEMBER 2011

## **Ending gang and youth violence: cross-government report (01/11/11)**

This report looks into the scale of the problem of gang and youth violence. The report analyses its causes, and identifies what can be done by government and other agencies to stop the violence and to turn around the lives of those involved.

It sets out detailed plans to make this happen through:

providing support to local areas to tackle the problem

preventing young people becoming involved in violence in the first place, with a new emphasis on early intervention and prevention

pathways out of violence and the gang culture for young people wanting to make a break with the past

punishment and enforcement to suppress the violence of those refusing to exit violent lifestyles

partnership-working to join up the way local areas respond to gang and other youth violence

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/crime/ending-gang-violence/>

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/media-centre/news/cross-government-strategy>

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/crime/ending-gang-violence/gang-violence-summary?view=Binary>

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/crime/ending-gang-violence/gang-violence-detailreport?view=Binary>

## **Family Justice Review proposals to end delays in family courts (03/11/11)**

The Family Justice Review panel today announce a package of recommendations aimed at tackling delays in the family justice system and to make sure that children and families are given the service they deserve.

The key recommendations are:

A new 6 month time limit in care cases so delays are significantly reduced

Enabling people to make their own arrangements for their children when they separate, and only use courts when necessary

Overhauling the family justice system so that agencies and professionals work together to improve the experience and outcomes for children and families.

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/news/press-releases/moj/moj-newsrelease031111a.htm>

## **Children and Young People in Custody 2010-11: An analysis of the experiences of 15-18-year-olds in prison**

Produced jointly with the YJB, this report describes children and young people's own perception of imprisonment. The 7<sup>th</sup> report to be published, it outlines the responses from surveys carried out annually in all young offender institutions holding children and young people aged 15 to 18 years old.

Findings are summarised from 1,052 young men from all 9 male establishments and 40 young women from 4 female establishments. This represents 65% of young men and 95% of young women of the total

### **NCMP - publication of legal Directions** (21/10/11)

These Directions allow the NHS Information Centre and PCTs to continue to process National Child Measurement Programme data. Further information about NCMP can be found in the NCMP guidance.

[http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsLegislation/DH\\_130729](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsLegislation/DH_130729)

### **All children really want this Christmas is their parents to quit smoking** (01/11/11)

Research, conducted on behalf of the DH and polled 1,000 children in England between the ages of 7 and 13, reveals:

54% of children with a parent who smokes say that their one wish for Christmas is that their mum or dad give up smoking

98% wish that they would quit

73% worry about the risk of their parent dying. A further 58% worry about the risk of heart disease

94% of children surveyed thought smoking was either stupid (52%) or dangerous (42%)

88% wished nobody in the world smoked.

90% say they have never tried a cigarette, and 91% say they never will.

93% wouldn't want their own children smoking, when they grow up

When it comes to what children would do to get their parents to quit, 37% would go without any Christmas presents; 59% would give up pocket money; and 78% would commit to doing their homework every night and 76% going to bed when told

29% admitted to hiding their parents' cigarettes in a desperate attempt to help them quit

<http://www.dh.gov.uk/health/2011/11/>

### **A Call to Action Health Visitor Implementation Plan** (01/11/11)

Securing a future health visiting service that is universal, energised and fit for long-term growth requires prompt action and investment. Therefore, the DH embarked on a 4-year transformational programme of expanded and refocused training, recruitment and retention, professional development and improved commissioning as part of the plan to improve public health. This summary report sets out progress made on key areas since April 2011.

<http://www.dh.gov.uk/health/2011/11/a-call-to-action-health-visitor-implementation-plan-summary-progress-report/>

### **Value of childminders in Wales** (03/11/11)

In Wales, NCMA Cymru has launched a new research report which highlights the value of the registered childminding sector to the Welsh economy.

Some of the key findings are:

The childminding sector supports a minimum of 9,488 jobs in the Welsh economy. It is estimated that for every 1 childminder in operation, at least 3 jobs are supported elsewhere in the economy.

There are 2,372 people working in the childminding sector in Wales, either as self employed registered childminders or their assistants. This represents 54% of all registered childcare settings in Wales.

Registered childminders provide approximately 12,000 childcare places across Wales, which represents 16% of the total registered childcare places.

[http://www.ncma.org.uk/news\\_and\\_events/news/july\\_-\\_december\\_2011\\_value\\_of\\_childminders\\_in\\_wales.aspx](http://www.ncma.org.uk/news_and_events/news/july_-_december_2011_value_of_childminders_in_wales.aspx)

**Safeguarding Children Across Services: Messages from research on identifying and responding to child maltreatment** (October 2011)

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

11 studies were commissioned as part of the Initiative, but the research also refers extensively to a further 4 important research studies that also reported during the same time period. These briefs provide the key messages for relevant professionals in the field. These include strategic and operational managers and practitioners, commissioners and providers of services, and policymakers in all those agencies that are required to work together to safeguard children.

Includes:

Messages for professionals working in the Family Justice system

Messages for health professionals working with children

Messages for professionals working in children's social care

Messages for adult services professionals working with parents

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

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

**The protection of children online: a brief scoping review to identify vulnerable groups** 99% of children aged 12-15 use the internet, as do 93% of 8-11 year olds and 75% of 5-7 year olds. New

are accessing online content are changing and ever evolving. Policy makers need research evidence to inform policies that articulate children's online risks, safeguard them from harm and promote their welfare.

The Child Wellbeing Research Centre was commissioned by the DfE, working closely with UKCCIS to explore what is currently known about children's vulnerability to harm from online activity or interactions.

This scoping review explores levels of intended and unintended exposure to specific risks, the impact of harm suffered by children, and the characteristics of children who may be at highest risk.

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

<http://www.cwrc.ac.uk/>

**Serious and fatal child maltreatment: Setting serious case review data in context with other data on violent and maltreatment-related deaths in 2009-10** (October 2011)

This interim report summarises data from SCRS notified to the DfE during 2009-10. The aim of this work is to provide up-to-date, comprehensive data on serious and fatal maltreatment of children in England, and to set those data in the context of other relevant data on children's health, well-being and possible harm. This has been achieved through a descriptive analysis of SCRs from 2009-10, using data from the database reports.

Data are compared to other available data sources including ONS death registration statistics, HO data on recorded homicides, CDOP returns, and the CIN census.

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

**What does the Local Child Poverty Measure tell us about the distribution of child poverty in England?** (October 2011)

The Child Poverty Strategy, A New Approach to Child Poverty: Tackling the Causes of Disadvantage and Transforming Families' Lives, set out the Government's approach to tackling child poverty for this Parliament. The strategy maintained the Government's commitment to the Child Poverty Act 2010 and the duties it placed on national Government to meet four child poverty targets by 2020.

This paper explores what local level child poverty data can tell us about the distribution of child poverty in England and how child poverty rates at these lower geographies have changed over time, further developing the evidence base on the extent and distribution of child poverty. It demonstrates how this data might be exploited more fully in developing local and national strategies.

<https://www.education.gov.uk/publications/RSG/AllPublications/Page1/DFE-RR161>

**Review to improve the training and qualifications for people working in the early years** (28/10/11)

An independent review to strengthen the training, qualifications and career opportunities of people working in early education and childcare was launched today.

Children's Minister Sarah Teather has asked Professor Cathy Nutbrown, an expert in early childhood education from the University of Sheffield, to lead the review. Today Professor Nutbrown launched a call for evidence to hear from people working in the early years about the training and qualifications they think they need, and from employers, trainees, and parents.

The number of people working in childcare has risen by 25% since 2006.

Professor Nutbrown will focus on the qualities needed to ensure that young children receive the best quality pre-school education. She will focus on improving the confidence, knowledge and skills of people who work with families on all aspects of children's development.

<http://www.education.gov.uk/inthenews/inthenews/a00199748/review-to-improve-the-training-and-qualifications-for-people-working-in-the-early-years>

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

**See Consultations**

**The impact of KS4 vocational courses on disengaged young people's engagement with education 15-18** (October 2011)

Previous research and anecdotal evidence has suggested that offering a broader curriculum, and in particular, vocational qualifications, may be a way to motivate young people who have become disengaged from education and improve their subsequent attainment. However, this hypothesis has not been systematically evaluated.

The analyses presented here explore the educational outcomes of disengaged young people from a nationally representative cohort who reported taking vocational courses in Year 10 compared to similarly disengaged young people who did not.

<https://www.education.gov.uk/publications/RSG/AllPublications/Page1/DFE-RR165>

<https://www.education.gov.uk/publications/RSG/AllPublications/Page1/DFE-RB165>

### **LAs challenged to do better on adoption** (31/10/11)

New performance tables show huge variation in how well local authorities are looking after the children in their care. The Government has published the tables for the first time ranking every LA in England on key issues, including how quickly they place children for adoption.

The Government wants to overhaul the care and adoption system to improve chances for vulnerable children. The average length of time for an adoption to take place is two years and seven months. The Government wants this to be quicker

The tables show:

York, South Tyneside and Hartlepool are rated top over the last 3 years for placing children for adoption within 12 months of the decision being made that they should be adopted.

The percentage of children leaving care for adoption ranges from 26% to 2%.

The best LAs for getting children in care into higher education were Barking and Dagenham and West Berkshire.

36 LAs had fewer than 10% of children in care achieving five A\* to C GCSEs and equivalent, including English and maths. The best, Sutton, had 25%.

The proportion of care leavers NEET ranged from 15% in the best area to 69% in the worst.

<http://www.education.gov.uk/a00199774/local-authorities-challenged-to-do-better-on-adoption>

<http://www.education.gov.uk/a00199753/children-in-care-and-adoption-performance-tables>

### **SEND green paper pathfinders** (26/10/11)

The DfE has announced the appointment of 20 pathfinders, covering 31 LAs and their PCT and emerging Clinical Commissioning Group partners. In addition, the Department has announced the appointments of SQW to evaluate the pathfinder programme and Mott MacDonald to provide support to the pathfinders.

<http://www.education.gov.uk/childrenandyoungpeople/sen/b00191706/send-green-paper-pathfinders>

### **Evaluation report of Safe At Home** (01/11/11)

Safe At Home aimed to help families tackle home accidents to under 5s. The scheme installed free home safety equipment - including safety gates, fireguards and cupboard locks - in the homes of 66,127 disadvantaged families in areas with the highest child accident rates in England. In addition, more than 300,000 families with children under 5 received home safety advice and information.

Some of the findings of the evaluation team, from the University of Nottingham, were:

96% of families were satisfied with Safe At Home

91% felt their homes were safer after having the equipment fitted

99% of those who received equipment were in receipt of social benefits and there was good coverage of families of minority ethnic origin.

Safe At Home was based on evidence of best practice and itself demonstrated the importance of using a combination of injury prevention approaches, specifically the provision of education, home safety checks, equipment and installation

Safe At Home was cost effective

**Ages of concern: learning lessons from serious case reviews (26/10/11)**

This report highlights key lessons over 4 years from reviews of serious incidents involving babies under 1 or children over 14. Previous reports have identified that a large proportion of SCRs concerned children in these age groups. The reviews showed:

In too many cases for babies under 1 year old, there were shortcomings in timeliness and quality of pre-birth assessment.

Repeated examples of agencies underestimating risks for children arising from their parents' background and lifestyle.

That health agencies were the main, and sometimes the only agency involved with families. Messages for health agencies are:

the need for better coordination between the different aspects of health provision involved with safeguarding babies, particularly on the transfer of care between midwifery services, health visitors and GPs;

the importance of understanding and implementing agreed procedures; and

the need to improve assessment that uses all sources of information.

For children aged 14 and over cases reviewed showed:

the complexity and range of risks teenagers face including alienation from their families, school difficulties, accommodation problems, abuse by adults, unemployment, drug and alcohol misuse, emotional and mental health difficulties and domestic abuse. Common messages were:

agencies focused on the young person's challenging behaviour, seeing them as hard-to-reach or rebellious, rather than trying to understand the causes of the behaviour and the need for sustained

young people were treated as adults rather than children

there was no coordinated approach to meeting young people's needs

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/news/ofsted-reports-protection-of-vulnerable-babies-and-young-people-0?news=17469>

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/ages-of-concern-learning-lessons-serious-case-reviews>

**Edging away from care – how services successfully prevent young people entering care (26/10/11)**

This report looks at good practice of 11 LAs working 'safely' to reduce numbers of looked after children and manage the risks associated with helping young people remain living with their families and communities.

The overriding message was that the key worker was crucial in helping families successfully stay together. Practitioners' persistency, reliability, openness and frank nature helped engage with families. They recognised that while the young person's needs were the priority, the needs of parents, including fathers, also had to be addressed to successfully achieve this balance.

Services which successfully supported young people and their families were often felt to be a lifeline for families in crisis. The report found that successful intervention required strong operational and strategic multi-agency working, combined with clearly understood and consistent decision-making processes, and investment in services.

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/news/ofsted-reports-protection-of-vulnerable-babies-and-young-people-0?news=17469>

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/>

### **Conducting inspections of independent schools** (26/10/11)

This updated document had the previous title - General guidance for inspectors on s162A independent school inspection procedures, timelines and tariffs.

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/conducting-inspections-of-independent-schools>

### **Completing the record of inspection evidence and judgements (independent schools)** (26/10/11)

This updated document had the previous title - Guidance for the completion of the record of inspection evidence and judgements.

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/completing-record-of-inspection-evidence-and-judgements-independent-schools>

### **Ofsted statistics show a rise in the number of childminders** (27/10/11)

The number of childcare providers in England has risen steadily since September last year. Prior to this numbers had fallen each quarter since the end of 2008.

Childminders make up 60% of childcare providers registered with Ofsted and numbers are continuing to increase.

The number of larger providers of childcare on non-domestic premises, such as nurseries and crèches, is not increasing.

Around 10% of providers work in the child's own home: their numbers have grown steadily over the last 3 years.

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/news/ofsted-statistics-show-rise-number-of-childminders-0>

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/news/ofsted-statistics-show-rise-number-of-childminders?news=17485>

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/registered-childcare-providers-and-places-england-december-2008-onwards>

### **Application for cancellation of registration (social care provision)**

(31/10/11)

Social care providers must use this revised form to apply to cancel their registration.

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/application-for-cancellation-of-registration-social-care-provision>

### **Changes to children's social care services that are registered and/or inspected by Ofsted** (31/10/11)

This revised guidance tells you about the changes a registered provider has to tell us about; how to make requests for changes to any conditions of registration; and changes we may impose. It also sets out the changes a local authority fostering or adoption service is required to tell us about.

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/changes-childrens-social-care-services-are-registered-andor-inspected-ofsted>

### **Disqualification from working in children's social care** (31/10/11)

The law prevents certain people from working in some children's social care services in order to protect children and young people. This revised leaflet details who is disqualified and what options are available to disqualified people.

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/disqualification-working-children%E2%80%99s-social-care>

### **Official statistics: Children's social care providers and places** (27/10/11)

Ofsted has a database of registered children's social care providers and residential accommodation for children in boarding schools and FE colleges in England, including the maximum number of places a provider may offer at any one time.

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/official-statistics-childrens-social-care-providers-and-places>

**Children's social care registration - Introduction to adoption support agencies** (31/10/11)

This revised guide tells you about adoption support agencies and what the law says they must do.

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/childrens-social-care-registration-introduction-adoption-support-agencies>

**Children's social care registration - Introduction to children's homes**

(31/10/11)

This revised guide explains the law for anyone intending to open a children's home.

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/childrens-social-care-registration-introduction-children%E2%80%99s-homes>

**Children's social care registration - Introduction to independent fostering agencies** (31/10/11)

There are different types of fostering services, some of which must register with Ofsted. This revised guide explains the law for anyone intending to open an independent fostering agency.

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/childrens-social-care-registration-introduction-independent-fostering-agencies>

**Children's social care registration - Introduction to residential family centres** (31/10/11)

Residential family centres must meet a range of legal requirements, including registration with Ofsted and also take into consideration national minimum standards. This revised guide to registration explains in detail what a residential family centre is and what the law says it must do.

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/childrens-social-care-registration-introduction-residential-family-centres>

**Children's social care registration - Introduction to voluntary adoption agencies** (31/10/11)

Voluntary adoption agencies must meet a range of legal requirements and take into consideration national minimum standards. This revised guide to registration provides information about what an applicant must understand and prove in order to become registered to provide and/or manage a voluntary adoption agency.

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/childrens-social-care-registration-introduction-voluntary-adoption-agencies>

**SC1 Application form for children's social care** (31/10/11)

This revised form should be completed by the applicant for registration or representative if an organisation

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/sc1-application-form-for-childrens-social-care>

**SC3 Changes to individuals and premises** (31/10/11)

This revised revised form can be used to tell Ofsted about:

changes to any individual who is part of the registered provider. This includes the director, manager, secretary, clerk, trustee, treasurer or other similar officer of the organisation (organisations only)

changes to the responsible individual (organisations only)

changes to the manager of a voluntary adoption agency, local authority adoption service or LA fostering service

the absence of a manager from an adoption support agency, children's home, independent fostering agency or residential family centre

changes to your registered premises or when you acquire additional premises.

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/sc3-changes-individuals-and-premises>

**Fostering agencies and fostering services dataset 2010/11** (27/10/11)

This dataset has provisional data. The final dataset will be published in Dec 2011.

This publication covers data on fostering services, in England between 01/04/10 – 31/03/11. The data are being published as experimental statistics as they are still subject to testing in terms of their volatility.

Although not fully complete, it gives a useful picture of the numbers and profile of foster carers and children in LA and independent services. It also gives data relating to types of foster care, registrations and de-registrations, and a range of other subjects.

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/fostering-agencies-and-fostering-services-dataset-201011>

**Report on Ofsted's consultation about the new draft framework for inspecting residential provision in boarding and residential special schools** (02/11/11)

An evaluation report on Ofsted's consultation about the new framework for inspecting residential provision in maintained, non-maintained and independent boarding and residential special schools, which is due to come into force in January 2012.

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/report-ofsted-consultation-about-new-draft-framework-for-inspecting-residential-provision-boarding>

**NCB New Website** (28/10/11)

The National Children's Bureau has unveiled its new website.

<http://www.ncb.org.uk/news/ncb-launches-new-website>

**Poll results show negative view of children** (03/11/11)

Barnardos has published the results of Research which reveals that the public holds a negative view of all children, despite the majority being well behaved, attending school, taking part in activities and a significant number contributing to their communities and volunteering.

**The findings show:**

49% of the UK population agree that children today are beginning to behave like animals.

44% agree that children in this country are becoming feral

47% agree that the trouble with young people is that they're angry, violent and abusive

25% of people think that children who behave badly or anti-socially are beyond help by the age of 10

more people disagreed with the statement that children who get into trouble are in need of help (38%) than agreed (36%).

[http://www.barnardos.org.uk/news\\_and\\_events/current\\_news.htm?ref=74120](http://www.barnardos.org.uk/news_and_events/current_news.htm?ref=74120)

**When will the next inspection take place? Guidance on inspecting new schools, schools working collaboratively and federated schools, and on the cancellation, deferral and re-scheduling of inspections** (03/11/11)

This document sets out Estyn's arrangements for inspecting schools in commonly occurring situations, such as when new schools are established, schools

work collaboratively, or schools work in federations.

It also sets out Estyn's approach to the cancellation, deferral and re-scheduling of schools inspected under s28 Education Act 2005.

<http://www.estyn.gov.uk/english/news/whats-new/>

**Evaluation of the Welsh School-based Counselling Strategy: Final Report**  
(03/11/11)

School-based Counselling is an integral part of school provision in Wales, according to an independent evaluation report from BACP published today.

In the Clywch Inquiry Report the Children's Commissioner for Wales recommended that all young people in schools should have a trusted adult to talk to about their concerns. Funding was made available to implement the national strategy for school-based counselling and all LAs now have counselling provision in place. The new report evaluates the success of the strategy and the longer term effect of the service on children and young people.

The report found that:

young people, teaching staff, LAs and counsellors all expressed high overall levels of satisfaction with school-based counselling.

Approximately 85% of young people using the service felt more positive about going to school and more able to cope since going to counselling.

Amongst the counsellors surveyed there was strong agreement that school counselling was an integral part of school provision, and that the counselling service was recognised and valued by school staff, parents and pupils.

Teachers showed high levels of agreement that counselling services met the needs of pupils and were in agreement that the perceived attainment, attendance and behaviour of pupils who had received school-based counselling had improved, whilst in addition there had been little impact on staff workload.

<http://wales.gov.uk/newsroom/educationandskills/2011/111103counselling/;jsessionid=2N4GTyPX7PT4R2c6DfNPTvnmlyK>

**The Safe Network: Safeguarding children and young people** (09/11/11)

The Safe Network is funded by the DfE and the NSPCC, and is run as a partnership between Children England, the Child Accident Prevention Trust and the NSPCC.

The Safe Network's website contains practical safeguarding information and advice for community and voluntary groups, as well as training events, an enquiry service and community-based support through regional development managers, delivery partners and other networks.

<http://www.isa.homeoffice.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=437>

<http://www.safenetwork.org.uk/Pages/default.aspx>

### **Education Act granted Royal Assent (15/11/11)**

The Education Act 2011 includes new legal powers to:

help teachers root out poor behaviour tackle underperformance, and improve the way in which schools are held to account

Provisions in the Act include:

a power for schools to search pupils without consent for any dangerous or banned items

Removal of restrictions preventing schools from issuing detentions to pupils without providing 24 hours' written notice

new pre-charge reporting restrictions on allegations of criminal offences made by pupils against teachers at their school

Power to create an entitlement to free early years provision for disadvantaged 2-year-olds

reforms to the procedure for establishment of new schools, to give preference to Academies and Free Schools

Re-focusing routine school inspections on 4 key areas that matter most to parents

Power to exempt schools from routine Ofsted inspections

Powers to tackle underperforming schools, including extended powers for the Secretary of State to close them

Abolition of 5 arms-length bodies, with some functions transferring to new executive agencies, directly accountable to the Secretary of State.

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2011/21/contents/enacted>

[http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2011/21/pdfs/ukpga\\_20110021\\_en.pdf](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2011/21/pdfs/ukpga_20110021_en.pdf)

### **Youth Justice Interactive Learning Space (YJILS) Survey**

The Youth Justice Board are currently undertaking a review of the Youth Justice Interactive Learning Space online resource. As part of the review, we intend on gaining an insight into your views about the website, what works and perhaps what doesn't work so well.

Youth offending managers, practitioners and volunteers are invited to complete this survey, which should only take 10 minutes.

<http://www.skillsforjustice.com/surveys/YJILS4/yjilssurvey.htm>

### **Family Justice Review proposals to end delays in family courts (03/11/11)**

The Family Justice Review panel today announce a package of recommendations aimed at tackling delays in the family justice system and to make sure that children and families are given the service they deserve.

The key recommendations are:

A new 6 month time limit in care cases so delays are significantly reduced

Enabling people to make their own arrangements for their children when they separate, and only use courts when necessary

Overhauling the family justice system so that agencies and professionals work together to improve the experience and outcomes for children and families.

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/news/press-releases/moj/moj-newsrelease031111a.htm>

Statement from the British Association for Adoption and Fostering

<http://www.baaf.org.uk/media/releases>  
<http://www.baaf.org.uk/node/3789>

### **Youth custody data – September 2011** (11/11/11)

This publication includes monthly statistics on the population in custody of children and young people within secure children's homes, secure training centres and young offender institutions.

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statistics-and-data/youth-justice/custody-data.htm>

### **Case reviews – News about SCIE model** (08/11/11)

Tim Loughton, Minister for Children and Families, has announced that the SCIE model for case reviews, called "Learning Together", is to be used in some pilot serious case reviews. A serious case review occurs where there has been a death of a child, and abuse or neglect is known or suspected to be a factor in the death.

<http://www.scie.org.uk/news/mediareleases/2011/081111.asp>

### **C4EO is looking for examples of effective practice of Adoption** (09/11/11)

C4EO is interested in local area experience of initiatives - involving LAs and all relevant partner agencies in the public, voluntary and/or private sector – which have been introduced to improve the wellbeing and life chances of children and young people currently in care by:

Increasing the number of children appropriately placed for adoption where this is in their best interest.

Improving the speed with which decisions are made and reducing delays in the adoption system.

Encouraging potential adopters to enter the system.

Improving the quality of adoption support.

<http://www.c4eo.org.uk/news/whats-new/11092011effectiveexamplesofadoption>

### **Child runaways in significant danger as professionals fail to step in**

(15/11/11)

26% of child runaways have been the victim of a harmful or dangerous experience, reveals new research from The Children's Society.

Still Running 3, the first comprehensive picture of running away for under 16s for 6 years, also shows that:

1 in 5 child runaways have begged, stolen or done 'other things' to survive.

11% were hurt or harmed on the last occasion they ran.

18% said they had slept rough, or stayed with, someone they had just met.

Yet teachers, social workers, police and other professionals are not stepping in and supporting the vast majority of young runaways. Around 2/3 of children who run away are not 'visible' to professionals.

The research also shows that:

there is a very strong link between family relationships and running away.

Children who have experienced family change are more than 3 times as likely to have run away in the past year as those who have not.

Children who have experienced high family conflict are around 6 times as likely to have run away in the past year.

7 in 10 runaways were not reported missing to police the last time they ran away.

A quarter of child runaways were forced to leave home.

<http://www.childrensociety.org.uk/news-views/press-release/child-runaways-significant-danger-professionals-fail-step>

**Missing Out: A child centred analysis of material deprivation and subjective well-being** (07/11/11)

This research published by The Children's Society reveals that materially deprived children are 5 times more likely to be unhappy than their peers.

The report shows, for the first time, the things children say they need for a 'normal kind of life' and gives a clear insight into how children experience material deprivation. The report pinpoints 10 items including family holidays, access to a garden or outdoor space and a personal music player.

Children most commonly lacked pocket money, with 37% not receiving it each week. This was also the item that was most frequently 'missed', with 22% of children wanting pocket money but not receiving it. Together with the second most commonly missed item, money to save each month, the findings suggest that children want some degree of financial autonomy and independence.

They also 'missed' monthly trips or days out with family or a family holiday every year, highlighting that many children want to spend more time with their family.

Children who wanted items or experiences but did not have them reported much higher levels of unhappiness. 34% of children without the right clothes to fit in with their peers were unhappy, followed by children without cable/satellite TV (28%), access to a garden or outdoor space (26%) and a family car (25%).

<http://www.childrenssociety.org.uk/news-views/press-release/materially-deprived-children-unhappier-peers>

[http://www.childrenssociety.org.uk/sites/default/files/tcs/Images/missing\\_out.pdf](http://www.childrenssociety.org.uk/sites/default/files/tcs/Images/missing_out.pdf)

**Cafcass Care Demand – Latest figures for October 2011** (07/11/11)

Care application demand has remained at a very high level. Between April and October 2011, Cafcass received 5,798 new applications. This figure is 10.1% higher when compared to the same period last year. Applications received between May to October this year have been the highest ever recorded by Cafcass for these individual months. The figures for August 2011 were the second highest ever recorded for a single month by Cafcass.

<http://www.cafcass.gov.uk/PDF/October%202011%20care%20demand%20update.pdf>

**Review of early year's qualifications – new learner cut off date postponed** (08/11/11)

Supporting the Government-commissioned, review of early year's qualifications, led by Professor Cathy Nutbrown, the CWDC has confirmed that it is postponing the cut-off date for new learners embarking on early learning and childcare qualifications beyond Spring 2012.

This decision means that all qualifications currently deemed as 'full and relevant' on the Qualifications List for those delivering the EYFS will continue to be accepted as such, until a clear statement about any future cut-off date is made in the Government's response to the Nutbrown Review. It is expected that Professor Nutbrown will publish the results of her review in Summer 2012.

[http://www.cwdcouncil.org.uk/press-releases/6561\\_cwdc-postpones-new-learner-cut-off-deadline-to-support-early-years-qualifications-review](http://www.cwdcouncil.org.uk/press-releases/6561_cwdc-postpones-new-learner-cut-off-deadline-to-support-early-years-qualifications-review)

### Ending child immigration detention - Commons Library Standard Note

(04/11/11)

Families with children are no longer detained in Immigration Removal Centres prior to removal from the UK, although they may be held in an alternative type of secure accommodation ("pre-departure accommodation") for up to a week instead. This accommodation, called 'Cedars', opened in August 2011. It can accommodate up to nine families at any time. It is operated by G4S on behalf of the UKBA. Barnardo's provides on-site welfare services.

The pre-departure accommodation is part of a new process for managing the removal of families:

Following a 'case conference' with UKBA staff, families are encouraged to make a voluntary departure

Those who do not leave have their removal arranged by the UKBA, but can continue to live in the community in the meantime and self-check-in at the airport

Those who do not cooperate with these processes are referred to an Independent Family Returns Panel. The panel will recommend a tailored family return plan. As a last resort, it may recommend that non-compliant families be accommodated for a few days prior to departure in the Cedars pre-departure accommodation

Families and unaccompanied children can still be held in short-term holding facilities at UK ports of entry (or in Tinsley House Immigration Removal Centre) pending their admission to or immediate removal from the UK. In Dec 2010 the Govt stated that it expected these powers to be used sparingly. However recent disclosures suggest that far greater numbers of children are being held in short-term facilities.

### Second evaluation for Newly Qualified Social Workers (04/11/11)

The interim evaluation of NQSW for 2009-10 highlights progress 2 years in for the 3-year project, launched in 2008. The programme sets out how to ensure NQSWs receive consistent, high quality support and that those supervising are confident to provide support.

Among the findings were:

NQSWs and their managers reported that the programme had made NQSWs more confident in their role and job satisfaction was high.

the majority of NQSWs who responded by the end of the survey were happy with the overall package of work, support and training that NQSW offered.

NQSWs particularly valued reflective supervision, a reduced caseload and peer support as key features of the first year.

Senior managers said they thought NQSW had led to an increase in the quality of applications for posts and that NQSWs had a better idea of what to expect in a career as a social worker.

Senior managers also saw NQSW as helping them to consolidate good practice and promote staff development through more formalized and systemic training.

Team managers said the programme was effective in raising the profile of supervision and Continuous Professional Development. They thought it made NQSWs more aware of the need for effective support in the crucial first year.

Where NQSWs were dissatisfied with the programme, the reasons were generally to do with the ways in which it was implemented in their organisation.

[http://www.cwdcouncil.org.uk/news/6559\\_second-evaluation-for-newly-qualified-social-worker-s-programme-published](http://www.cwdcouncil.org.uk/news/6559_second-evaluation-for-newly-qualified-social-worker-s-programme-published)

Some campaigners have suggested that the Government's claims to have ended child immigration detention are undermined by the secure nature of the pre-departure accommodation and the extent of use of short-term holding facilities. On the other hand, the Government argues that these 'last resort' measures are necessary for maintaining robust immigration controls, and are preferable to alternatives such as separating children from their parents.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/research/briefing-papers/SN05591>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/research/briefing-papers/SN05591.pdf>

### **New policy guidance on the marriage visa age of 21** (07/11/11)

The UKBA has issued new policy guidance following the judgment of the Supreme Court in the case of Quila and Bibi v Secretary of State for the Home Department [2011] UKSC 45.

This case challenged the requirement under paragraph 277 of the Immigration Rules for both foreign spouses and their sponsors in the UK to meet a minimum age of 21 before the foreign spouse could be granted a visa to enter or remain as a spouse or partner. Paragraph 277 (along with other paragraphs of the Immigration Rules) was amended on 27/11/08 to raise the minimum age from 18 to 21.

The Supreme Court has ruled that, whilst they recognised that the Secretary of State was pursuing a legitimate and rational aim of seeking to address forced marriage, the change to the rule disproportionately interfered with the Article 8 rights of those who were in genuine marriages.

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2011/november/10-marriage-visa-age>

### **Bullying rife in schools** (14/11/11)

One in four children have been verbally bullied in the past year, according to figures released today by the Anti-Bullying Alliance, part of the NCB. The study has been released to mark the start of the Anti-Bullying Week campaign which begins today.

This year, Anti-Bullying Week highlights the worrying trend of verbal bullying and the casual use of derogatory language - a widespread phenomenon not just amongst school children, but in society as a whole.

The results show that:

26% of 11-16 year olds have directly experienced verbal bullying, with 79% happening at school.

Almost 40% of respondents also reported being bullied online or my mobile phone.

81% of secondary school pupils think verbal bullying is a problem in their school and

66% say they have witnessed some form of verbal bullying in the past year.

14% of 11-16 year olds have considered missing school for fear of being verbally bullied.

54% of respondents would turn to a teacher for help and advice, highlighting the important role of teachers and schools in tackling bullying behaviour.

[http://www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/press\\_centre/latest\\_news/1\\_in\\_4\\_children\\_bullied.aspx](http://www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/press_centre/latest_news/1_in_4_children_bullied.aspx)

### **Candle Fire Safety Week** (14/11/11)

Fire and Rescue Services across the country are asking people to take care and snuff out the risk of fire in their homes.

The Fire Kills safety campaign is offering some top tips:

Place your candles carefully. Make sure they are on a stable surface, out of the reach of pets and children, and keep them away from flammable objects.

Don't move candles once they are lit.

Do not burn several candles close together.

Burn candles in a well-ventilated room.

Always put scented candles in a heat resistant holder.

Fit a smoke alarm and test it regularly.

Make sure that everyone in your home knows what to do if a fire should occur.

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/news/corporate/2028863>

### **Alcohol Awareness Week 2011 - 14-20 November 2011**

Did you know:

Every minute alcohol-related problems cost the UK economy around £48,000

Every hour more than 100 people go into hospital in England and Wales with an alcohol-related condition

Every day more than 40 people die as a result of alcohol in England and Wales

Every week more than 100 children call ChildLine upset about their parents' drinking

Alcohol Concern wants to build a grass-roots campaign movement to create a world free from alcohol harm. Our starting point is the launch in Alcohol Awareness Week of the Alcohol Concern Charter, a 4 point statement based on the WHO's own charter on alcohol. We want everyone, including those who represent us in local and national government, to sign up.

<http://www.alcoholconcern.org.uk/alcohol-concern-in-action/campaigning/alcohol-awareness-week>

### **Peer Inspector Programme - LA Education Services for Children and Young People - terms and conditions - Dec 2010 (08/11/11)**

This document outlines roles, responsibilities and expectations of the 3 parties in respect of the participation of peer inspectors in LA inspections.

Peer inspectors will bring a new perspective to LA inspections. They will work alongside HMIs and Wales Audit Office or Audit Commission staff. They do not take the place of inspectors but work alongside them to add a different perspective. The inspectorate will monitor the, in particular the performance of Peer Inspectors, the take-up of invitations for training and assessment as a Peer Inspector and the take-up of invitations to join inspection teams.

<http://www.estyn.gov.uk/download/publications/225279.6/peer-inspector-programme-local-authority-education-services-for-children-and-young-people-terms-and-conditions-december-2010/>

### **100 days in care (15/11/11)**

This report, from the Children's Rights Director, Dr Roger Morgan, documents 100 personal diary entries about children's experience of being in care, leaving care, and living in boarding schools or residential special schools. It asks children and young people for their views about their experiences, their rights, their welfare, and how they are looked after. It seeks to provide a direct voice for these young people, simply containing 100 of their diary entries, describing things happening in their own lives, in their own words.

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/news/personal-diary-entries-of-children-about-care-support-and-life-away-home-0>

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/100-days-of-care>

Review the early intervention services available for families every 2 years, and use this to deliver a clear action plan to address gaps.

[http://www.nspcc.org.uk/news-and-views/media-centre/press-releases/2011/11-11-10-all-babies-count/all-babies-count-press-release\\_wdn85695.html](http://www.nspcc.org.uk/news-and-views/media-centre/press-releases/2011/11-11-10-all-babies-count/all-babies-count-press-release_wdn85695.html)

### **Young People's voices on Cyber-bullying** (11/11/11)

As the UK prepares to raise awareness of bullying during Anti-Bullying Week, 14-18 November 2011, latest research reveals that:

cyber-bullying amongst teenagers is on the increase with 38% affected.

78% of young people fear cyber-bullying will continue to rise

46% of young people feel that current initiatives are insufficient in targeting their protection, prevention and needs, perhaps partly explaining why 28% of cyber-bullying victims have not informed anyone of their experience.

<http://diana-award.org.uk/news-events/new-research-shows-cyber-bullying-is-on-the-increase-38-of-young-people-affected#more-3186>

[http://www.cypnow.co.uk/Social\\_Care/article/1103587/young-people-fear-safeguards-against-cyber-bullying-not-enough/?DCMP=EMC-CONCYPNow%20Daily](http://www.cypnow.co.uk/Social_Care/article/1103587/young-people-fear-safeguards-against-cyber-bullying-not-enough/?DCMP=EMC-CONCYPNow%20Daily)

### **Achievement for All National Evaluation: Final report** (November 2011)

The Achievement for All pilot involved 10 LAs, and 454 selected schools. The main aim was to examine the impact of AfA on a variety of outcomes for children and young people with SEND. It also aimed to find out what processes and practices in schools were most effective in improving these outcomes.

### **The green paper on special educational needs and disability - Commons Library Standard Note** (04/11/11)

This Standard Note briefly outlines of the current SEN system in England, and highlights the main proposals in the Government's green paper on SEN and disability. A selection of initial reaction to the green paper is also provided.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/research/briefing-papers/SN05917>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/research/briefing-papers/SN05917.pdf>

### **'All babies count'** (09/11/11)

The NSPCC has launched its 'All babies count' campaign to highlight the vulnerability of babies and to call for better and earlier support for new parents.

Babies are 8 times more likely to be killed than any other age group in childhood. And factors such as domestic violence, mental health problems, and drink and drug dependency among parents are known to be important risk factors for abuse and neglect.

Two thirds of serious case reviews for infant fatalities or serious cases of abuse involve one or more of these problems. And over half the contacts to the NSPCC Helpline involve concerns about children in families with these issues.

The NSPCC is calling on the Government to:

Ensure there are sufficient resources in place to fund services for families.

Give commissioners at a local level - in health services and LAs - the powers and responsibility to ensure the right services