



NCERCC Notes – March 2008

1. Government & Associated

Transforming short breaks for families with disabled children – 21 pathfinder Local Authorities named.

Twenty-one local areas will launch the first wave of a £370m investment for local authorities that will extend to all of England from 2009. To meet the needs of families the short breaks will vary in length from just a few hours to a weekend or week, with disabled children and young people being cared for in their own home or given opportunities to access activities and places in the wider community. Evidence for the 'Aiming High for Disabled Children' review found that short breaks are seen as the highest priority service for families with disabled children. 'Aiming High for Disabled Children' will deliver a total of £430 million plus to local authorities in new investment in disabled children's services during 2008-11 and additional funds to PCTs.

Local authorities will receive £269m revenue and £90m capital funding to improve short breaks services over the next three years (2008-09 to 2010-11) with a further £11m revenue for national delivery. In the first year the majority of funding will be allocated to the 21 pathfinder areas with all other local authorities receiving an average of £50,000 to help them prepare to transform their short break services from 2009. Subject to adequate preparations all local authorities will then receive a share of £76m revenue and £33m capital in 2009-10 and £178m revenue and £52m capital in 2010-11. The 21 pathfinder authorities are:

Bradford, Bolton, Bournemouth-Dorset-Poole (joint pathfinder), Brighton, Dudley, Derbyshire, Enfield, Gloucestershire, Gateshead, Halton, Kent, North Yorkshire, North Tyneside, Nottinghamshire, Norfolk, Suffolk, Sutton, Sunderland, Telford & Wrekin.

Whilst these authorities have been chosen because they have capacity to deliver short breaks immediately, there should be possibilities for schools to engage in the wider work programme. The Department for Children Schools and Families is seeking to contract for national implementation support to assist local authorities and Primary Care Trusts in implementing Aiming High for Disabled Children. The Government is now inviting tenders from organisations - potentially in coalition - to provide national implementation support in regard to two key, interlinking AHDC workstrands:

- the transformation of short break services for disabled children;
- the participation of parents in disabled children's service planning and delivery.

Organisations are invited to bid for one or both areas of work by 14 March 2008.

The contract is to be for a period of 2 years with a possible extension of 1 year.

To request a copy of the tender specification or find out more information contact Gillian Conroy by emailing: Gillian.conroy@dcsf.gsi.gov.uk or by telephoning: 0207 273 5293

Safeguarding Children and Young People – A Shared Responsibility

http://www.healthcarecommission.org.uk/db/documents/Safeguarding_Children.pdf

The Healthcare Commission has published its first report on safeguarding children in England and Wales. It summarises the Commission's responsibilities for protecting children and young people and promoting their welfare.

Staying safe: action plan

<http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/stayingsafe/>

Staying Safe was a major government consultation that asked parents, children, young people, members of the general public and practitioners about their concerns in relation to children's safety. The Action Plan is being published in response to the consultation and covers three main areas: universal safeguarding, involving work to keep all children and young people safe and to create safe environments for them; targeted safeguarding to reduce the risks of harm for vulnerable groups of children and young people; and responsive safeguarding, involving responding effectively when children are harmed. It sets out new commitments on children's safety, including a new £18m home safety equipment scheme targeted at vulnerable areas, a Child Safety Education Coalition and a new National Safeguarding Unit for the Third Sector. Published 5 February 2008

£20 million to improve children's palliative care services

<http://www.gnn.gov.uk/environment/fullDetail.asp?ReleaseID=353555&NewsAreaID=2&NavigatedFromDepartment=True>

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_083106

Care Services Minister, Ivan Lewis has today launched a £20m boost to improve palliative care services for the thousands of children with life-limiting or life-threatening conditions. The money which is launched alongside the first ever Children's Palliative Care Strategy 'Better Care: Better Lives', will enable some of the country's sickest children to be cared for and die in their choice of setting whether at home or in a hospice

Guidance on child trust fund top ups for looked after children launch

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations/conDetails.cfm?consultationId=1533>

Care Matters: Time for Change sets out the Government's commitment to provide an extra £100 per year to the Child Trust Funds (CTFs) of looked after children for every year they spend in care. The DCSF will fund all eligible children who have spent a year in care from 1 April 2007. The guidance sets out the processes that a local authority will need to follow to make sure that every eligible child receives the additional investment in their CTF.

Closing Date: 2 April 2008

Guidance on personal education allowances for looked after children

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations/conDetails.cfm?consultationId=1529>

This consultation provides draft statutory guidance on how local authorities should operate personal education allowances to support the learning and development of looked after children. It sets out which looked after children should be eligible for personal education allowances, what support should be funded from a personal education allowance and how looked after children and young people, and their designated teacher should be involved.

Closing Date: 2 April 2008

Mentor UK champ awards

<http://drugs.homeoffice.gov.uk/news-events/latest-news/mentorawards>

Under an innovative award scheme aimed at recognising projects that help prevent children and young people of 14 and under from misusing alcohol, Mentor UK is asking the public, professionals and young people themselves to nominate projects that promote healthy attitudes and behaviours and which help children and young people avoid the dangers of alcohol misuse. Mentor UK will be giving out the awards, each worth £20,000 in three categories - schools,

communities and young people led projects. The winners and runners up will be chosen by young people aged 14 and under.

2. Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder: consultation

<http://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/index.jsp?action=folder&o=39061>

A clinical practice guideline on attention deficit hyperactivity disorder: pharmacological and psychological interventions in children, young people and adults is being developed by National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) for use in the NHS in England and Wales. Registered stakeholders for this guideline are invited to comment on the provisional recommendations via the website. Note that the provisional recommendations do not constitute NICE's formal guidance on this topic. The recommendations are provisional and may change after consultation.

Closing date: 27 March 2008

3. Report on Children Missing from Care

http://www.ncb.org.uk/ncercc/ncercc%20practice%20documents/ncercc_children_missing_from_care.pdf

Children Missing from Care, a new practice document from NCERCC explains that children go missing from their care placements for a variety of reasons, some children will go missing due to issues surrounding the management of their care and others will be motivated by factors beyond the placement. *Children Missing from Care: Good Practice in Residential Care*, shares Lancashire's successful protocols that have led to cost savings, improvement in safeguarding, and decreases in both the numbers of children from care going missing and offending. The report by Bob Gower, County Residential Manager Children and Families for Lancashire, is now available to download for free from the NCERCC website.

In Parliament a Bill was recently presented by Helen Southworth MP based on evidence brought forward by The Children's Society. Every year in the UK, more than 100,000 children go missing from home or care. Most of them return home safely, but about 10,000 children every year are hurt or harmed while they are missing, including an estimated 50 who die each year. The Bill introduces a requirement for data to be recorded or collected nationally, since without that information local authorities are not allocating resources to safeguard these vulnerable children. The Bill's Second Reading is provisionally scheduled for 20 June 2008.

Jonathan Stanley, Manager of NCERCC, said 'Reports have consistently come up with similar messages. NCERCC learned of the Lancashire protocols through its Children's Residential Network. Learning from other areas of NCERCC's work we knew a key to changing the situation was getting a practice document available for everyone to follow.'

From the time we began sharing our knowledge of the Lancashire project people have been asking for details of how they can follow this good lead. What we wanted to offer was the success of the Lancashire scheme which involved local authorities, private care homes, and specialist children's workers to tackle the problem. '

The Lancashire project led to a dramatic reductions in the number of children who repeatedly go missing from children's homes. In the first year of the pilot the number of frequent runaways dropped by one-third. In the second year the number of frequent runaways decreased by 17%. There has been over half a million pounds in savings for the Police alone.

Bob Gower said

'There is no doubt that the protocols for missing children in Lancashire have provided a framework for improving services, better safeguarding children, and more effective inter-

agency work; not only do the statistics indicate a clear reduction in such incidents, but of equal importance they provide the basis for effective responses and intervention with individual young people, some of whom have found themselves in situations of extreme risk.

He wanted to ‘share the positive experiences and accumulated wisdom of many years of developing this work in Lancashire, built particularly on strong working relationships with the police and the valuable contribution of a voluntary organisation, as well as some excellent children’s homes staffed and managed by some exceptional people, who have really taken on board the concept of “good corporate parenting” – which for me is what this is primarily about’.

Inspector Neil Middleham, Lancs Constabulary, said
“The project’s success shows that there are effective ways of dealing with the problem of young runaways using careful analysis, joint protocols and close partnership working.”

"We've had lots of interest from other forces," says Middleham. "But more important than financial savings is the positive impact the scheme is having on the lives of our most vulnerable children. It gives them hope for the future."

4. Press interest in RCC

<http://education.guardian.co.uk/egweekly/story/0,,2252183,00.html>

<http://www.communitycare.co.uk/Articles/2008/02/06/107177/private-equity-and-residential-care-of-children-the-threat-to-quality.html>

<http://www.communitycare.co.uk/Articles/2008/02/20/107321/icha-ministers-must-urge-councils-to-cut-care-placement.html>

There has been a growing level of press interest in the past month, including articles in the Education Guardian and Community Care.

5. Children’s Experience of Bullying

http://www.rights4me.org/content/beheardreports/159/bulling_report.pdf

The Children's Rights Director for England has published a report on children's views and experiences of bullying. It looks at what triggers bullying, why and when it happens and how children protect themselves from bullying.

6. Michael John Murphy Bursary scheme

http://www.brief-therapy-uk.com/the_michael_john_murphy_bursary.php

The Michael John Murphy Bursary scheme is open for 2008 with a closing date of 31st April 2008. The Bursary offers a donation of a one day inhouse Solution Focused Approach training event facilitated by Eileen Murphy anywhere in mainland UK and is tailored to meet the remit of the participating group.

The criteria for application is that the recipient group work with either: Children & Families; Mental Health or Drug & Alcohol. Further information and application sheet is available via the website. Applicants are encouraged to provide as much information as they are able in order to give the Trustees a wider view of their work and why this Bursary will be of use to them. If you have any queries about the criteria or other issues on the Bursary please contact the Consultancy on Tel: 0208 542 9310 or by email: info@brief-therapy-uk.com.

7. A fight for what is right – competition for young people to go to Geneva

<http://www.crae.org.uk/cms/dmdocuments/Get%20yourself%20to%20Geneva%20competition%20flyer.pdf>

http://www.crae.org.uk/cms/index.php?option=com_frontpage&Itemid=1

Each year the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child examines progress made in countries in implementing the UN Convention. In June this year, the UK will be examined and the UN Committee will hear from children's rights charities, human rights bodies and young people. Last week the Children's Rights Alliance for England (CRAE) launched a competition to find nine young people under 18 to go to Geneva to give evidence. For more details of the competition see the weblinks.

8. Resources

Gifted and talented education: helping to find and support children with dual or multiple exceptionalities

<http://publications.teachernet.gov.uk/eOrderingDownload/DCSF-00052-2008.pdf>

This booklet is aimed at schools and education professionals. It provides details on identifying and supporting children who are highly able with sensory impairment, learning problems, conduct issues and/or disabilities.

Teenage Grief training pack

http://www.childhoodbereavementnetwork.org.uk/policyPractice_training.htm

A free professional development pack for those working with bereaved young people is now available on the Childhood Bereavement Network website. The pack accompanies Teenage Grief, the animated DVD made by Leeds Animation Workshop.

Putting Corporate Parenting into Practice: Developing an effective approach - a toolkit for councils

In conjunction with the implementation plan for the White Paper Care Matters: Time for Change, the government will be disseminating corporate parenting training materials, developed by NCB. Putting Corporate Parenting into Practice - a handbook for councillors will be distributed to local authorities across the country. Directors of Children's Services will receive copies of a toolkit, containing practical tools and training materials to support them in putting effective local arrangements in place.

Putting Corporate Parenting into Practice: Developing an effective approach - a toolkit for councils, by Di Hart and Alison Williams, will also be available to purchase from 17 March. The book and CD-Rom provide a valuable source of material for trainers running courses on Corporate Parenting.

To buy the toolkit, contact Central Books on 0845 458 9912, fax: 0845 458 9912 email: ncb@centralbooks.com

For enquiries about government distribution email shorsfall@ncb.org.uk

Caring for Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children

http://www.baaf.org.uk/res/pubs/books/book_cuasc.shtml

A series of pamphlets aimed at foster carers looking after unaccompanied asylum-seeking children and young people, consisting of an introductory pamphlet and five pamphlets that focus on young people coming from China, Somalia, Eritrea, Afghanistan and Iran.

Unaccompanied asylum-seeking children and young people who come into the UK have been through difficult and sometimes horrific experiences in their home countries and in their journeys to a safe haven. They have had to leave their home and family to seek refuge in the UK and, through no fault of their own, find themselves alone and in need of care and protection. These pamphlets aim to help foster carers and others learn about the circumstances these children have experienced, the effect of traumatic events on these young people, what their needs are likely to be, what issues are important for them now, and how they can help these young people cope with the profound changes in their young lives.

Asperger's Love Guide - A Practical Guide for Adults with Asperger's Syndrome to Seeking , Establishing and Maintaining Successful Relationships

http://www.luckyduck.co.uk/shop/products/978_1_4129_1910_4/viewProduct

Material based on the experiences of the people on the Autistic Spectrum is usually written by neurotypical writers. Here, Genevieve and Dean, both adults with Asperger's Syndrome, share their advice and tips for romantic success. The chapters cover: building self-esteem; the best places to meet potential partners; dating; maintaining relationships. Both authors work with the Asperger community, either providing support or training, so their insight is based upon other people's experiences as well as their own. This is shown in a number of case studies that support the elements described in each chapter. They write in a clear, accessible and non-patronizing way which will suit their audience.

9. Conferences/Training/Events – in date order

Postgraduate Certificate/Diploma/MA in Child Protection and Complex Child Care (Ref. M22)

<http://www.tavi-port.org/training/tavistock-clinic-courses-and-professional-training/by-course-code/codes/m22.html>

Validated by the GSCC for the Higher Specialist and Advanced Award in Social Work (Children, Young People and Families), this programme offers a distinctive approach to developing skills in working with highly complex child care cases and child protection. It is a multidisciplinary programme designed to provide professionals with the opportunity to work together in developing their knowledge and skills in working with families and other organisations.

Postgraduate Certificate in Emotional Well-being in Children and Families: Interprofessional Practice

<http://www.tavi-port.org/training/tavistock-clinic-courses-and-professional-training/by-course-code/codes/d42.html>

This innovative multidisciplinary programme of study is for practitioners and managers working in integrated children's services. It is underpinned by the Common Core of Knowledge and Skills central to The Every Child Matters agenda which is shaping child care policy and practice in England and Wales.

Postgraduate Diploma/MA In Child and Adolescent Primary Mental Health Care Work

<http://www.tavi-port.org/training/tavistock-clinic-courses-and-professional-training/by-course-code/codes/m42.html> This innovative multidisciplinary programme was commissioned by the National CAMHS support service/CSIP to develop the knowledge, skills and capabilities of Child Primary Mental Health Workers (PMHWs), as part of the newly emerging CAMHS workforce.

Open Evening - chance to hear an overview of the above courses, see a presentation on the approach to learning and teaching and meet with current students.

5 March 2008, 6.00 - 8.00pm

The Tavistock Centre

RSVP Martyn Clark, Course Administrator, Tel: 020 8938 2540, Email: camhsadmin@tavi-port.org

Participation Works & Arts Council England- Putting the Arts in Participation!

<http://www.eventbrite.com/event/96813572>

Find out more directly from different arts organisations about how the arts and creative approaches can be used to enhance participation practice involving children and young people. Workshops will be practical, fun and informative! This event aims to: showcase using the arts and creative approaches to increase participation of children and young people, particularly harder to reach groups; demonstrate variety of methods/models and good practice from the creative and cultural sector to a statutory sector audience (and those who work with statutory

sector); support statutory sector to consider alternative, exciting models to use in achieving local area agreements and new national indicators. All places are FREE for this event for both voluntary and statutory sector delegates.

March 7 2008, London

Consequences for Children Affected by Maternal Drug & Alcohol Usage: A Multi-Disciplinary Approach.

http://www.parentsforchildren.org.uk/data/files/lores_flyer_fasdrug_conference_march_08.pdf

A series of 3 one-day conferences, on the support for these children throughout their lives.

1: Binge, Crack & Methadone: The Effects on the Unborn Baby - 6 March 2008, Derby

2: Minimising Risks & Identifying Long-Term Needs - 11 March 2008, London

3: Maximising Development Opportunities & Managing Challenging Behaviour of Children & Young People - 12 March 2008, London

Child Abuse and the Impact on Youth Offending

<http://www.positivelearning.co.uk/files/March08Conference.pdf>

This conference explores the links between child abuse and subsequent serious offending by children and young people. There is clear evidence that children and young people who offend are often themselves victims of child abuse and/or neglect. Those who work with them frequently find this complex situation a professional challenge. This day offers participants an excellent opportunity for professional development in this area.

12 March 2008, London

Mummy's Black, Daddy's Yellow and I'm Orange: Talking with young children about racial identity

http://www.ncb.org.uk/Page.asp?originx_5536bd_45486526696999t79t_20061013724b

As mixed-heritage children become the fastest growing ethnic minority group, practitioners need the skills to recognise and work with the early judgements that children make about others. This new course focuses on practical ways to understand the language we use in talking with children and their families. The course will help those developing Race Equality Action plans, and those meeting the requirements under the Childcare Act 2006 to listen to the voices of young children.

12 March 2008, Birmingham

24 June 2008, London

SEBD The Voice in the Child

http://www.sebda.org/events/conf_140308_form.pdf

Professionals working with children and young people with social, emotional and behavioural difficulties have increasingly recognised the very limited spoken and unspoken language skills that often accompany difficult and sometimes disturbing child behaviour. Impoverished communication skills can contribute to children with SEBD being the most vulnerable in our communities, often with little resilience and low self-esteem, lacking the ability to speak up for themselves in positive, meaningful ways. A key to meeting their needs is to enable them to find their 'voice inside', so that they can communicate better with others, interpret the world around them and gain greater control over their lives. The keynote speakers and workshop presenters will be reporting and interpreting research and current practice in this crucial area.

14th March – 15th March, Harrogate

Sex and Relationships Education for Young People with Physical Impairments

http://www.ncb.org.uk/Page.asp?originx_1812vo_2722830010086n20q_20061016651n

NCB has come together with fpa and Contact a Family to deliver a two-day training course to enable practitioners and advisors who work with young people with physical impairments, to

develop practical and sensitive approaches to meeting their needs in relation to Sex and Relationships Education (SRE).

17 & 18 March 2008, London

6 & 7 November 2008, London

What About The Children? National Conference - ‘Getting the balance right – supporting parents and their under 3’s’

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

What About The Children? exists to raise awareness of the never-changing emotional needs of children under 3 in our ever-changing society.

18th March 2008, London

Risk Management issues for disabled children's services

http://www.ncb.org.uk/Page.asp?originx3385bo_21153560490050s26x3337257361

This unique course draws on current legislation, case studies and group discussion to enable practitioners and managers to identify practical ways to include disabled children in a range of settings whatever their level of impairment.

25 March 2008, Birmingham

Early Intervention for Families At-Risk, Tackling Exclusion and Supporting Change

<http://www.capitaconferences.co.uk/NR/rdonlyres/B3F4DA48-B234-4BE4-8B0B-7ED2EE285C30/0/EarlyInterventionforFamiliesatRiskMKNCB.pdf>

There are an estimated 140,000 UK families who have ‘chaotic lifestyles’ and are receiving statutory services and support. The Cabinet Office report ‘Reaching Out: Think Family’, has called on services for children, young people, parents and communities to build an holistic birth to adult inclusion programme within the context of the family. Early intervention is now recognised as key to proactively supporting and challenging the most at-risk families before their complex needs engender further exclusion.

Friday 28th March 2008 – Central London

Improving the Life Chances of Looked After Children

<http://www.capitaconferences.co.uk/OurConferences/Health/Looked+after+Children.htm>

The publication of the **White Paper ‘Care Matters: Time for Change’** and the introduction of the **Children and Young Persons Bill** highlights the Government’s focus on improving the lives of looked after children. This timely conference will tackle the main policy issues surrounding looked after children and care leavers.

23rd April 2008, London

Involving Disabled Children in Planning and Reviews

http://www.ncb.org.uk/Page.asp?originx_896sr_21632731210086u49i_20074232525t

This one-day training course looks at various forms of communication from verbal to emotional, aimed at improving participants’ engagement with disabled children.

13 May 2008, Manchester

Including Me: working with children with complex health needs

http://www.ncb.org.uk/Page.asp?originx_5536bd_45486526696999t79t_20061013724b

Based on the highly popular book, *Including Me - Managing complex health needs in schools and early years settings*, this course is designed for those working with children with complex health needs.

26 November 2008, Reading

Life Routes call for regional partners

www.liferoutes.org.uk

Life Routes is an innovative NCB accredited life skills programme. Specifically developed to raise levels of young people's self confidence and awareness of their own potential it is established in alternative education and community settings in the NW, NE, Yorks and Humber and London and the SE. The programme's Regional Coordinators are looking to work with new partners.

Life Story Training

<http://www.saccs.co.uk/mary-walsh-institute/training>

Based on the SACCS Life Story, the training uses exercises and pragmatic tasks to assist the delegate in carrying out successful life story work with their service users. The training makes use of the techniques discussed in Rose and Philpot's 'The Child's Own Story - Life Story Work with Traumatized Children' published by Jessica Kingsley Publishing - London.

Communicating With Traumatized Children

<http://www.saccs.co.uk/mary-walsh-institute/training>

Based on the work by SACCS and Liz Brayne. The training uses discussion, experiential group sharing and case study examples to enable exploration of communicating, sharing and engagement skills for professionals working with traumatized children. This course is particularly useful to Social Workers, Social Care Professionals, Health and Education Workers and professionals others involved in working with children who are traumatized through extraordinary events.

Attachment Grief and Loss

<http://www.saccs.co.uk/mary-walsh-institute/training>

When children fail to develop secure attachments to loving protective caregivers, they are faced with an overwhelming array of emotional, social, cognitive, behavioural, developmental, physical and moral problems. These problems often lead to further trauma through multiple placements within the care system. This training focuses on attachment patterns, the impact of grief and loss, and the wider implications of trauma for children who have suffered abuse and neglect.

Therapeutic Contact

<http://www.saccs.co.uk/mary-walsh-institute/training>

Based on practice within the SACCS Recovery Programme, delegates will learn how therapeutic contact can be used to help young people establish, maintain and develop relationships with members of their family and others with whom they have legally approved contact. Delegates will gain an in-depth understanding of therapeutic contact, the legal requirements, and its central role in the child's journey through placement and beyond.

Independent Specialist College Leaders Online Toolkit

<http://www.centreforexcellence.org.uk/?Page=Programmes&id=A4B2A5D8-9ECD-4D4C-9998-5CFD3575D0B6>

The ISC online toolkit is an accessible resource tailored specifically to the needs of independent specialist colleges. It provides leaders and managers with valuable learning resources, and its seven interactive topics cover the core business areas crucial to improved organisational effectiveness.