



## NCERCC News – February 2007

### 1. Channel 4 Programme on Children's Homes

<http://www.philframpton.co.uk/index.htm>

Phil Frampton, author of *The Golly in the Cupboard*, writes:

*I am presenting a programme for Channel 4's The Insider series, 7.30pm Friday, March 9th. Working Title: Bring Back Children's Homes. Prior to the programme I have features appearing on March 7th in The Guardian and Daily Mail. It would be good if we can all weigh in at that time. The aim is for people to see that decent residential homes are provided, in particular for young people to be in residential care if they so wish rather than being pushed from family placement to placement.*

This programme is bound to attract interest. Preparation locally and nationally is important. This is a good opportunity for others to showcase good RCC practice, outcomes and stories in the media. There may be enquiries from journalists. There may be additional interest from Corporate members. You may receive interest from members of the community from whom you have never heard before. So it is important that every setting and organisation discusses and arranges how they are going to meet any enquiries. For large organisations this will often be dealt with centrally. In such cases it can only be helpful to those who will be meeting or fielding questions to let them have some information in advance.

So the following advice holds good:

- Focus on the positives and the successes - the story that is waiting to be told about RCC.
- Give some figures of your setting and the national picture. The reference here has to The State of Social Care from CSCI recently. NCERCC has a briefing that has all the RCC relevant figures in its website
- A prepared statement is helpful - it says what you want to say.
- It helps to have some quotes prepared in advance
- You can be asked questions of course. You only need to answer questions that you feel you can answer to the best of your ability. You don't have to answer all the questions and can give a reply such as 'I think you need to ask someone else about that, they may know more than me.' If in doubt, and especially if you don't deal with such enquiries often, stick to the prepared statement and quotes or refer them to someone else who you have decided will answer the questions.

NCERCC sees that this can be an opportunity for the sector and there may be many examples of good practice you want many more people to know about. NCERCC is happy to coordinate and to arrange any introductions with journalists, etc. Please keep us updated of any interest shown and we will collate for circulation.

### 2. Children Now interview with joint presidents of Association of DCS

<http://www.childrennow.co.uk/news/index.cfm?fuseaction=details&UID=bfdd2931-e746-43c6-8fd8-fcd244019177>

Children Now publish an interview with John Freeman and John Coughland, joint presidents of the Association of Directors of Children's Services, on their vision for the role the organisation has to play in the Every Child Matters Agenda.

### **3. Research in Practice Prompt**

[http://www.rip.org.uk/prompts/pl\\_mapping.asp](http://www.rip.org.uk/prompts/pl_mapping.asp)

The current prompt from Research in Practice focuses on improving educational outcomes for looked after children.

### **4. School Improvement Partners for special schools**

[http://www.ncsl.org.uk/programmes/sips\\_special/index.cfm](http://www.ncsl.org.uk/programmes/sips_special/index.cfm)

Every mainstream school is to have a School Improvement Partner (SIP) who will provide the school with professional challenge and support. During 2007 it is hoped to accredit in the region of 350 SIPs for special schools across the country. A limited number of places will be available on residential programmes from March 2007. Applications are invited from experienced serving or former special school headteachers, as well as from local authority special school advisers and independent consultants.

### **5. CSCI report on Better transition planning for young people with complex needs**

[http://www.csci.org.uk/about\\_csci/news/nightmare\\_for\\_teenagers\\_with\\_d.aspx](http://www.csci.org.uk/about_csci/news/nightmare_for_teenagers_with_d.aspx)

The CSCI report, Growing up matters: better transition planning for young people with complex needs, is about young people with combinations of acute and chronic medical conditions, multiple and profound impairments, behavioural problems and learning difficulties. In particular it looks at the views and experiences of those who have been placed in residential care outside their home area. It includes the views of families and carers, residential schools, and social services and their partners in education and health.

The report, plus an easy to read summary, is available from the CSCI website.

### **6. Safeguarding Children From Abuse**

<http://www.dfes.gov.uk/consultations/conDetails.cfm?consultationId=1453>

The DfES has published Safeguarding Children from Abuse linked to a Belief in Spirit Possession; draft DfES guidance on how to identify signs of ritual abuse to help teachers and people working with children. The guidance aims to raise awareness of the practice - there have been 38 known cases of child abuse linked to alleged spirit possession in England since January 2000 - and to help those coming into contact with children to recognise signs of abuse. The consultation ends on 9 March 2007.

### **7. Reports from Children's Rights Director**

[http://www.csci.org.uk/PDF/childrens\\_index\\_consultation.pdf](http://www.csci.org.uk/PDF/childrens_index_consultation.pdf)

[http://www.csci.org.uk/PDF/children\\_and\\_safeguarding.pdf](http://www.csci.org.uk/PDF/children_and_safeguarding.pdf)

The Children's Rights Director for England has published two reports on the views of children on the information sharing index and safeguarding. Children believe their family will keep them safe, but only people like teachers or social workers should access information about them.

### **8. Children in Europe consultation**

[http://www.childrenineurope.org/eng\\_discuss.php](http://www.childrenineurope.org/eng_discuss.php)

Children in Europe have published a discussion paper on developing a European approach to services for young children and their families. Read the discussion paper and give your comments by 30<sup>th</sup> June 2007.

## **9. Resources**

### **Online Care Planning Toolkit**

<http://www.ncb.org.uk/careplanning/>

This toolkit has been written for all practitioners, carers and managers in agencies working with and caring for looked after children. It contains guidance and information on care planning, three training programmes, activities and presentations, a glossary and references.

### **See Beyond the Label – empowering young people who self harm – a training manual**

<http://www.youngminds.org.uk/beyondthelabel/>

This training manual offers a method of involving young people who self-harm, and those staff who seek to support them, to achieve four key aims.

Aim 1 - To provide opportunities for all of us to think about our attitudes about self-harm

Aim 2 - To increase our understanding about why children and young people self-harm

Aim 3 - To seek out ways to tackle the stigma commonly associated with expressions of mental distress

Aim 4 - To ensure the involvement of young people who self-harm in the design, implementation and evaluation of local self-harm protocols.

It does not seek to be a 'one fit all' solution, but it is hoped that this manual will support the provision of co-ordinated, consistent and respectful services to address the mental health needs of children and young people who self-harm.

### **Holistic Special Education – Camphill Principles and Practice**

<http://www.florisbooks.co.uk/detail.asp?author1=special&Submit=Submit&ISBN=0863155472>

This book puts forward the case for holistic special education, as practised by Camphill schools. Camphill's holistic approach embraces education and therapy in various forms, all aspects of care – including, for those children receiving residential care, everything from nutrition to bedtime routines – as well as crafts and medical treatments. It emphasizes the importance of the creative arts alongside core aspects of the curriculum such as literacy and maths. It believes that the relationship between the child and their adult co-worker should be one of mutual teaching and learning. It recognizes parents, not as recipients of a service, but as equal and active partners, and strives to develop the physical, mental and spiritual aspects of a child.

### **Children with Special Needs – Rudolf Steiner's Approach**

A concise introduction to Rudolf Steiner's ideas on the development and education of children with special needs, this little guide, illustrated throughout with colour photographs, gives an overview of the development of the child, educational options and therapies for special needs, and special topics such as adolescence. Steiner's insights have led to the creation of special needs schools, communities and villages around the world. Camphill, an important part of this network, exists on four continents.

### **Children's Commissioner – publications and consultation responses**

<https://www.childrenscommissioner.org/adult/consultationresponses.cfm?id=1920>

A variety of documents are available from this site, including Bullying Today - A report by the Office of the Children's Commissioner, with Recommendations and Links to Practitioners Tools; Journeys - children's perspectives on bullying; A response to plans for a cross-London protocol on the treatment of sexually active young people; Views expressed by children and young people on government's plans to weigh and measure children in school.

### **Replays - Using Play to Enhance Emotional and Behavioral Development for Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders**

<http://www.jkp.com/catalogue/book.php/isbn/1-84310-832-1>

Replays addresses the challenging behaviours of children with autism spectrum disorders through interactive symbolic play. It shows parents and professionals how to help children access their emotions, whether the child is verbal or not, cognitively able or impaired, even-tempered or volatile. The chapters introduce and show readers how to implement Replays, and describe ways of adapting this intervention to address specific issues in different settings and circumstances.

### **Acting Antics - A Theatrical Approach to Teaching Social Understanding to Kids and Teens with Asperger Syndrome**

<http://www.jkp.com/new/9781843108450>

This fun and inspiring step-by-step program provides the full set of tools for developing social understanding in children with Asperger Syndrome (AS) through drama. Acting Antics contains a wide repertoire of activities and ideas for immediate application at home, in the classroom, in therapy workshops or social groups, ranging from initial warm up techniques, through paired activities, to larger group scenes and staging a show.

### **The Transporters – animation DVD for young children with autism - DCMS**

<http://www.gnn.gov.uk/Content/Detail.asp?ReleaseID=255133&NewsAreaID=2>

Professor Simon Baron-Cohen, Director of the Autism Research Centre (ARC) at Cambridge University and David Lammy, Culture Minister, have launched an animation DVD to help young children with autism. The Transporters DVD, commissioned by Culture Online, part of DCMS, aims to help children with autism to look at the human face and to learn about emotions. The series of 15 five-minute episodes features the adventures of eight toys with human faces, each focusing on a different human emotion. Stephen Fry is the narrator.

### **Enhancing Social Work Management - Theory and Best Practice from the UK and USA**

<http://www.jkp.com/new/9781843105152>

This book looks at the nature of management in the human services sector and examines the prevailing issues affecting both the UK and USA. Contradictory forces affect the act of management, such as the imperatives driving the introduction of new control systems which exist alongside the requirement to cut resources. In this book, contributors present both the problems and opportunities associated with the growth of management in the social care sector.

### **Social Work with Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children**

<http://www.palgrave.com/products/Catalogue.aspx?is=1403989664>

This illuminating book offers a comprehensive overview of what is known about the resettlement of young asylum-seekers, answering social work practitioners' need for a fuller understanding of this challenging and under-researched area of work. Drawing on the author's original research, the text reviews existing theoretical frameworks and research evidence, establishes a detailed picture of current resettlement practice, and develops a new conceptual framework for social work that is sensitive to the distinctive needs of this vulnerable group.

### **CROA resources – Make It Count; Total Respect; Active Participation; Up the Ladder**

<http://www.croa.org.uk/book/print/207>

### **Children's Workforce Network Newsletters**

<http://www.childrenworkforce.org.uk/?lid=3>

These are now available to download from the CWN website.

## **10. Conferences/Events**

Four themes emerged in conference planning – health; safeguarding; education & children's services.

## Health

### Children & Young People HIV Network

[http://www.ncb.org.uk/Page.asp?originx\\_5454yy\\_71086482438472m92g\\_200611273213y](http://www.ncb.org.uk/Page.asp?originx_5454yy_71086482438472m92g_200611273213y)

The Children & Young People HIV Network has a rolling training programme that runs a range of courses, from *Children First*, a course for those who work in the children's sector but have little knowledge of HIV, and those who work in the HIV sector, but who have little knowledge of children's issues, to *The impact of immigration and asylum on children and young people living with HIV*. The Children and Young People HIV Network is running two training events, in February and April.

- *The impact of immigration and asylum on children and young people living with HIV*  
Campanile Hotel, Birmingham  
19 February
- *Talking About HIV Workshop*  
Campanile Hotel, Birmingham  
23 April

### The Centre for Child Mental Health

[http://www.childmentalhealthcentre.org/pages/events\\_conf.html](http://www.childmentalhealthcentre.org/pages/events_conf.html)

CCMH is running a number of events over coming months, including:

*Conference with Art Exhibition – It hurts too much to feel*

Working with extreme Defence Mechanisms (Somatisation, Dissociative Identity Disorder and Emotional Numbing)

London N1

17th February 2007

### Depression in Childhood and Adolescence: the way forward

[http://www.acamh.org.uk/bfora/systems/xmlviewer/default.asp?arg=DS\\_ACAMH\\_EVENTART\\_20/list.xsl/9](http://www.acamh.org.uk/bfora/systems/xmlviewer/default.asp?arg=DS_ACAMH_EVENTART_20/list.xsl/9)

Emanuel Miller National Conference, includes the Emanuel Miller lecture: Early Onset Depression - Meanings, Mechanisms and Processes; and guest speaker John March: The Treatment for Adolescents with Depression Study: Lessons Learned.

Regent's College, London NW1

23 February 2007

### Children that Matter

[http://www.youngminds.org.uk/whatwedo/conference\\_07\\_03\\_07.php](http://www.youngminds.org.uk/whatwedo/conference_07_03_07.php)

**Goal of the event** - Improving the Mental Health Outcomes for Children and Young People in Care. **Aims of the national conference are to:** Increase awareness of current issues and policy in relation to children in care, including developments from the 'Care Matters' green paper; provide delegates with examples of practice; provide a forum for debate between policy makers, commissioners and providers of services to children in care, including views from young people and foster carers; offer networking opportunities.

Walkers' Stadium (Leicester City Football Club), Leicester

7<sup>th</sup> March

### Improving Mental Health Services for Young People with Learning Disabilities

[www.conferencesandtraining.com/camhs](http://www.conferencesandtraining.com/camhs)

This one-day conference, a joint event by *Community Care* and the National CAMHS Support Service, part of the Care Services Improvement Partnership (CSIP), will examine research such as *Mind the Gap* – a study to follow up findings of an inquiry into the mental health support needs of young people with learning disabilities and embedding this research into practice. It will also look at the Department of Health funded project, *Access for All*, which aims to support practitioners, managers and commissioners to address the service gap through local action

learning sets, improve access to services for young people, and enable CAMHS, learning disability services and children and families services professionals to increase their expertise in this area.

Central London  
22 March 2007

### **Developmental Traumatology - The Covert Crisis in Secure Settings**

<http://www.stah.org/en/1/newexh.html>

Childhood trauma, including abuse and neglect, is probably the greatest public health challenge in the UK today. The effects of this trauma can be seen most profoundly in criminal justice settings for young people, including prisons and secure training centres but also in local authority secure units and adolescent mental health services. Emerging evidence indicates that childhood trauma impacts very directly on the developing brain, producing a range of problems with managing arousal, aggressive behaviour and deliberate self harm. This one day national conference will seek to highlight this evidence and promote a dialogue between those who come in contact with this challenging group of young people.

St Andrew's Healthcare, Northampton  
16 June 2007

### *Safeguarding*

#### **Stay Safe - Everyone matters**

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

Organised by CAPE (Child Protection in Education), this one-day conference will consist of presentations and workshops by a range of professionals covering: Allegations made against professionals; the adult's view; the child's voice; and National Teachers Union Human Resources.

Blackpool  
09 February 2007

#### **Making contact – What is safe and what works in child contact?**

[www.conferencesandtraining.com/childcontact](http://www.conferencesandtraining.com/childcontact)

Children of separated parents, the parents themselves, looked after children and carers need support from different services, including mediation services, legal services and contact centres. Professionals working with families arranging or experiencing contact must be fully aware of the wide range of issues which arise and how to handle contact both sensitively and effectively. This one day conference hosted by Community Care will allow professionals to consider and question the current framework in place in England and Wales for child contact, understand the functions of the other services involved in the contact process and better understand how they can facilitate contact in order to address the needs of the child.

Central London  
29 March 2007

### *Education*

#### **Leaving Care – Beyond the Green Paper**

<http://www.csn.info/events-detail.jsp?&id=58&md=0&section=events>

The Green Paper Care Matters, published in October 2006, highlighted the fact that care leavers are under-represented in further and higher education, and the proportion of young people leaving care aged 19 without any form of purposeful activity such as employment, training or education is much higher than that of their peers. The Green Paper made a number of proposals

for young people in care designed to contribute to their successful transition to adult life. This seminar, presented jointly by CSN and the National Leaving Care Advisory Service, will focus in particular on the development of education, training and employment opportunities for those leaving care or preparing to do so, within the context of corporate parenting responsibilities.

London

20<sup>th</sup> March 2007

### **Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET), Prevention, Intervention and Sustainability**

<http://www.capitaconferences.co.uk/NR/rdonlyres/2A493D16-0CC7-4B84-9E0F-35E1722B1F37/0/TSDENEETs.pdf>

Capita's 2nd National one day conference, designed in association with the LSC and QCA, will look at ways to remove barriers to education, training and employment for young people. It will consider schemes and programmes which can effectively intervene in cases where young people are at risk and look at ways of sustaining these to ensure young people make a smooth transition to adulthood and sustainable employment.

London

27<sup>th</sup> March 2007

### **Raising SEN Attainment through Personalised Learning**

<http://www.emapeducation.com/SEN/homepage.asp>

This event combines expert guidance and best practice approaches to ensure you come away with the latest information on how to successfully implement a widely-differentiated curriculum with an individual focus.

Inmarsat Conference Centre, London EC1Y

29<sup>th</sup> March 2007

## *Children's Services*

### **Children's Services Planning: Guidance and Good Practice**

<http://www.ssr.org.uk/events/2006.asp#serv>

This event will give participants the opportunity to consider issues relating to: the revised guidance on Children's Services Planning from DfES, due to be published in February 2007; the work programme of the new Association of Directors of Children's Services (ADCS); outcome-based accountability and the planning of services for children and young people; researching plans and the planning process; good practice emerging from the 'planning for excellence' network; a health perspective on children's planning.

Birmingham

22<sup>nd</sup> February 2007

### **Transforming the care of looked after children**

<http://www.lgc-lookedafterchildren.co.uk/homepage.asp>

This event focuses on the future of looked-after children's services; assesses the progress so far, the vision going forward and presents an opportunity to learn from those authorities already implementing the agenda.

Copthorne Tara Hotel, London W8

27 February 2007

### **Empowering Families and Communities**

<http://www.lgc-empoweringfamilies.co.uk>

The changing role of local authorities in shaping Children's Services.

Earls Court Exhibition Centre, London SW5

28 February 2007

**Securing Placement Stability Through the Looked-After Children Green Paper**

[www.lookedafterchildrengreenpaper.com](http://www.lookedafterchildrengreenpaper.com)

From examining how corporate parenting can (and should) compliment looked-after services, to ensuring emotional wellbeing and healthy care for all looked-after children, improving educational attainment and examining the reality of providing sufficient placement choice for children, understand how you can improve services and outcomes for these children. In addition, you will have the opportunity to hear discussion and ask your questions on the rethinking of the corporate parenting role, choose your learning focus in the afternoon breakouts (select from health, education and joined-up working), and hear from care leavers themselves in placement choice.

The Centennial Centre, Birmingham

21 March 2007

**Achieving the Every Child Matters outcomes for all children and families**

<http://www.bildservices.org.uk/acatalog/Conferences.html#ecm>

This second partnership conference brings together the strengths of BILD, nasen, autism.west midlands and Sunfield PDC and supports the joined up thinking and multi agency working at the heart of the Every Child Matters. It is hoped that the day will be of benefit to all who work with or support children and young people with special needs and disabilities.

Holiday Inn, Solihull

8<sup>th</sup> June 2007