



NCERCC Notes – April 2009

1. New on NCERCC website this month

www.ncb.org.uk/ncercc

- The April Talking Point is an article by Adam Philips ‘In Praise of Difficult Children.’ NCERCC are especially pleased to be able to bring this article to the CRN, Adam Phillips is a thoughtful and thought provoking writer. The article discusses our understanding of Adolescence in today’s world. Given the population of young people who are looked after in Residential Child Care this is a timeless subject. Only a few years ago it was a major focus for thought and action. The sector has not revisited the subject for some years and NCERCC hopes this article will be topic of discussion in all of RCC. **Please note - this article is made available by kind permission of The London review of Books – for this month only.**
- A list of books relevant to Looked After Children, compiled by Kent County Council
- Information on an online resource of local alcohol initiatives throughout England
- An NCERCC paper on Attachment and Neuroscience, and the implications for practice
- NCERCC comments and guidance on using Scotland’s legislation and documentation on overnight stays.

2. Government & Associated

The protection of children in England: a progress report, by Lord Laming

<http://publications.everychildmatters.gov.uk/eOrderingDownload/HC-330.pdf>

<http://publications.everychildmatters.gov.uk/default.aspx?PageFunction=productdetails&PageMode=publications&ProductId=HC+330&>

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/pns/DisplayPN.cgi?pn_id=2009_0053

The DCSF has published Lord Laming's report on child protection in England This document, and its recommendations, are aimed at making sure that good practice becomes standard practice in every service. It includes recommendations on improving the inspection of safeguarding services and the quality of Serious Case Reviews as well as recommendations on improving the help and support children receive when they are at risk of harm. The document aims to: evaluate the good practice that has been developed since the publication of the report of the Independent Statutory Inquiry following the death of Victoria Climbié; identify the barriers that are now preventing good practice becoming standard practice; and recommend actions to be taken to make systematic improvements in safeguarding children across the country. The UK Government has accepted all 58 recommendations and will be publishing a detailed response in April. Secretary of State Ed Balls has announced the creation of a new cross-government National Safeguarding Delivery Unit; the appointment of Sir Roger Singleton as the Government’s first Chief Adviser on the Safety of Children; that summaries of serious case reviews should be full, comprehensive and publicly available; LSCBs will become watchdogs with an independent chair and two members of the public; improved training and support for social workers and senior managers. He also detailed plans for improved support for health visitors, the police and a review of court fees in care

proceedings. Laming's report also includes recommendations about children in hospital A&E departments.

Keeping our schools safe

<http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/wholeschool/familyandcommunity/childprotection/safeguarding/>
<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090324/wmstext/90324m0001.htm#09032427000006>

Sir Roger Singleton, the government's chief adviser on the safety of children, has published 'Keeping our schools safe', a report on safeguarding children in independent, non-maintained special schools and boarding schools. The purpose of the review was to examine the practical operation of the current statutory and non-statutory safeguarding arrangements that apply to these schools, and to make any recommendations where practice could usefully be improved. Children's Secretary Ed Balls and Children's Minister Delyth Morgan have announced that the Government accepts Sir Roger Singleton's findings and will look at how best to implement his recommendations alongside those made by Lord Laming.

New funding for creative media projects for young people

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/pns/DisplayPN.cgi?pn_id=2009_0058

Beverley Hughes, Minister for Children and Young People, has announced a further £8 million to give more disadvantaged young people the opportunity to produce creative media projects. The Youth Media Fund initiative gives young people the chance to take part in 'Mediabox' projects where they can express their ideas and views on issues that matter to them using print, television, film, radio, digital, or online media.

Vetting and Barring Scheme

<http://nds.coi.gov.uk/Content/Detail.asp?ReleaseID=395920&NewsAreaID=2>

The Home Office has announced more detail about the vetting and barring scheme - VBS, parts of which will come into force on 12 October 2009. People wanting to work with children will be able to register with the VBS from 26 July 2010.

Serious Case Reviews Evaluation

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Publications-and-research/Browse-all-by/Documents-by-type/Statistics/Serious-case-review-evaluations-April-2007-onwards>

Ofsted has published a list of the local authority serious case reviews it has evaluated since April 2007.

UN Convention on the Rights of Disabled People

http://www.un.org/disabilities/default.asp?navid=12&pid=150_blank

<http://www.officefordisability.gov.uk/working/theunconvention.asp>

The Government has ratified the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention on the Rights of Disabled People and it's signing of. The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities is an international treaty that identifies the rights of disabled people as well as the obligations on States parties to promote, protect and ensure those rights.

The UK government has noted a reservation on Article 24 of the Convention which requires states to deliver an inclusive education system. However the government has released a statement saying that they are "...committed to continuing to develop an inclusive system where parents of disabled children have increasing access to mainstream schools and staff, which have the capacity to meet the needs of disabled children."

Christine Lenehan, Director of the Council for Disabled Children, says: "We note, with disappointment, the reservation on Article 24 but we welcome the Government's statement about its commitments to an increasingly inclusive education system, a goal we share."

NCSL to extend remit to children's services

<http://www.ncsl.org.uk/about-role-remitextension>

The National College for School Leadership's remit is being extended to include development opportunities for leaders of children's services. In partnership with the Association of Directors of Children's Services and Children's Workforce Development Council and a group of experienced directors of children's services, the College has started to develop a leadership programme for directors of children's services and for aspirant directors of children's services, building on its successful provision for school and children's centre leaders.

Leaders must support and connect with frontline workers

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/pns/DisplayPN.cgi?pn_id=2009_0051

Following on from Lord Laming's report on child protection in England, Ed Balls has accepted the proposals of the National College for School Leadership to extend its remit. The proposal will mean the NCSL will develop a new leadership programme to support future and existing leaders across the whole of children's services. The College also proposes to change its title to the National College for School and Children's Leadership.

Developing outstanding leaders

<http://www.ncsl.org.uk/publications-index/publications-display.htm?id=31175&idnum=62>

The purpose of this research from the National College for School Leadership was to explore, with a group of excellent and outstanding headteachers, their personal journeys and to understand what had shaped their careers and leadership expertise. The report summarises the key findings about leadership influences and highlights the implications for aspiring outstanding leaders.

Children, young people and alcohol

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations/index.cfm?action=consultationDetails&consultationId=1579&external=no&menu=1>

<http://publications.dcsf.gov.uk/default.aspx?PageFunction=productdetails&PageMode=publications&ProductId=DCSF-00208-2009&>

DCSF has recently launched a national consultation on the issue of young people and alcohol. Although fewer young people are drinking, those that do drink are starting younger, drinking more and do not see their drinking as a problem. This can cause problems for families and communities in terms of violence and anti-social behaviour as well as to young people themselves in terms of their health, education and safety.

Sir Liam Donaldson, the Chief Medical Officer (CMO) for England has drafted *Guidance on the Consumption of Alcohol by Children and Young People*. The aim is to give clearer health information to parents and young people about how consumption of alcohol - particularly at an early age - can affect children and young people. The guidance is intended to help parents and carers to supervise and guide their children's alcohol consumption, and to ensure that any harms related to alcohol consumption are minimised. This is the first time that Government are proposing action based on the latest medical evidence of how alcohol affects young people and their development. The consultation period closes on Thursday 23rd April. A stakeholder engagement pack has also been developed to help stimulate debate and collect opinions by running a workshop or meeting on the issue in local areas.

Consultation on foundation degrees for the social care workforce

http://www.cwdcouncil.org.uk/whats-new/news/1780_social-care-foundation-degree

The Children's Workforce Development Council has launched a consultation on foundation degrees for the social care workforce. Deadline for responses is 30 April 2009.

DCSF consultation on gang membership

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations/index.cfm?action=consultationDetails&consultationId=1576&external=no&menu=1>

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/pns/DisplayPN.cgi?pn_id=2009_0059

DCSF consultation on new guidance to help professionals spot the first signs of gang membership. This guidance is aimed at professionals such as social workers, youth workers and youth offending teams already working with young people displaying risk factors. The new guidance, developed with the police and local authorities, lists 16 signs that should ring alarm bells and will be sent to thousands of youth and social workers later this year. It outlines what signs to look for, what traits make a young person most 'at-risk' of getting caught up in a gang and provides an overview of support and intervention that are available to anyone working with young people. Deadline for responses is Friday 19 June 2009.

Designated teachers for looked after children: draft regulations and statutory guidance

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations/index.cfm?action=consultationDetails&consultationId=1608&external=no&menu=1>

This consultation seeks views on draft Regulations made under section 20(3) of the Children and Young Persons Act 2008. The Regulations set out the qualifications and experience which will be required of designated teachers in maintained schools. The DCSF is also consulting on the content of the draft statutory guidance to governing bodies of maintained schools (to be issued under section 20(4) of the Act).

Closing Date: 20 May 2009

Future rules: children's advice on the regulations to be made under the Children and Young Persons Act 2008

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Publications-and-research/Browse-all-by/Documents-by-type/Thematic-reports/Future-rules-Children-s-advice-on-the-Regulations-to-be-made-under-the-Children-and-Young-Persons-Act-2008>

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/News/Press-and-media/2009/February/Children-in-care-want-more-frequent-contact-with-social-workers>

Social workers should visit children and young people living away from home at least once a month. That is the strong message children in care are giving to the Government in a unique report that will help shape new regulations under the Children and Young Persons Act 2008. The report, Future rules, published by the Children's Rights Director for England, is the outcome of a national conference, where 136 young people in care and care leavers gave their views on a range of subjects relating to regulations that will affect their future.

Youth Justice

<http://www.yjb.gov.uk/publications/Scripts/fileDownload.asp?file=Youth+Justice+Annual+Workload+Data+200708.pdf>

http://www.yjb.gov.uk/publications/Resources/Downloads/Girls_offending_fullreport.pdf

<http://www.yjb.gov.uk/publications/Scripts/prodView.asp?idproduct=436&eP=>

The Youth Justice Board Annual Workload Data 2007-8 reported the rise in offences committed by young women coincided with a six per cent fall in offences committed by young men. Overall young people committed more than 17,000 fewer crimes last year than the year before, while the number of first-time entrants to the youth justice system fell by 10 per cent last year, beating the YJB's target of a five per cent drop.

A separate report, *Girls and Offending – Patterns, Perceptions and Interventions*, also published by the Youth Justice Board, called for support programmes for young women in the criminal justice system to receive "considerably more support". Researchers at London South Bank University found that girls prefer the building of one-to-one relationships and a female only environment, while boys prefer more structure and rules.

While the workload report showed the number of offences committed by young women had risen, an Ipsos Mori survey of young people, also published today, showed the proportion of young people committing a crime, including girls, has fallen compared to 2005.

ContactPoint

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/politics/2009/mar/23/dna-database-idcards-children-index>

<http://www.jrrt.org.uk/uploads/Database%20State.pdf>

A report by the Joseph Rowntree Reform Trust claim that 11 of the 46 largest databases in Britain calling for 11 databases, including ContactPoint, eCAF and Onset, are fundamentally flawed and should be immediately scrapped or re-designed. The report says the systems have significant problems with privacy or effectiveness and could be in breach of European data protection and rights laws.

Invitation to attend Social Work Task Force regional events

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/swtf/>

The Social Work Taskforce has been set up by the Children's Secretary Ed Balls and Health Secretary Alan Johnson to undertake a comprehensive review of frontline social work practice. It has been asked to identify any barriers social workers face in doing their jobs effectively and has been asked to make recommendations for improvements and long-term reform in social work. As part of this, a series of regional events are planned so the Social Work Taskforce can listen to and learn from the front line.

Raw Deal or Truth Told? Young People in the Media

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

The Hansard Society and the House of Lords have launched a new competition for young people aged 11 to 16 to express how they feel about media portrayals of their generation: Raw Deal or Truth Told? Young People in the Media. The entrants are being asked to look at issues such as portrayals of youth culture in television programmes, negative coverage in print media and questions like should celebrities, sports stars or musicians be role models? This follows on from the success of 2008's What a Waste! competition.

Entry details, competition rules, background information and lesson plans for teachers outlining the work of the House of Lords can be found online.

The competition closing date is Friday 15 May

3. C4EO scoping studies – well-being and disability

<http://www.c4eo.org.uk/themes/disabledchildren/default.aspx?themeid=2&accesstypeid=1>

SCIE for C4EO (Centre for Excellence and Outcomes in Children and Young People's Services)

The function of these scoping studies is to establish the key research questions and search parameters for later review work, assess the nature and strength of the evidence base and provide an initial overview of trends in the literature. A study was completed for each of the following :

Improving the wellbeing of disabled children (up to the age of eight) and their families through increasing the quality and range of early interventions.

Improving the wellbeing of disabled children and young people through improving access to positive activities: extended services, youth work, inclusive play and leisure opportunities, sports and the arts.

Ensuring all disabled children and young people and their families receive services which are sufficiently differentiated to meet their diverse needs.

4. C4EO research call

<http://www.york.ac.uk/inst/spru/research/summs/c4eo.html>

The Centre for Excellence and Outcomes is funding an evaluation of interventions for sleep and/or behaviour problems for families. This is being carried out by a team based at the Social Policy Research Unit, University of York. The research team are very keen to hear from practitioners involved in delivering such interventions: in health, education, social care or voluntary sector settings; in a universal service, or located in a secondary level service, or as a specialist service; through the provision of information, or running parent training workshops or groups, or working with individual families. If your job involves such work the research team would like to hear from

you! They have a brief questionnaire they would like you to complete (this would take less than five minutes).

5. Virtual Child - Children's consent to sharing personal data

<http://www.archrights.org.uk/issues/Virtual%20Child.htm>

[http://www.archrights.org.uk/docs/NYA\(4\)arch_16.2.0%5b2%5d.pdf](http://www.archrights.org.uk/docs/NYA(4)arch_16.2.0%5b2%5d.pdf)

The charity Action on Rights for Children has published its report on children's consent to sharing personal data.

6. The London Pledge for Children and Young People in Care

<http://www.younglondonmatters.org/hottopics/pledge>

<http://www.younglondonmatters.org/uploads/documents/childrenincarethepledge.pdf>

The London Pledge aims to ensure that children and young people in care across London have equal access to the same range of key services and support wherever they live, go to school or access employment or training opportunities in London. The London Pledge is a commitment from all Children's Trusts and their partners to all children and young people in care and leaving care. This pledge has been developed in partnership with young people, Lead Members for Children's Services and partners from the Community and Voluntary Sector.

7. Workforce development newsletters

<http://www.childrenscotland.org.uk/workforce/Workforce2.htm>

Children in Scotland is pleased to announce publication of issue 2 *Working it out* - the second in a series of four newsletters exploring developments in the children's sector workforce. The newsletters are part of a 12-month programme inviting the children's sector workforce, with employers, planners, universities, colleges and other stakeholders to join us in debate about future workforce development.

Issue 2 contents: A simple and coherent qualification framework for the children's sector; The early years framework and the children's sector workforce; Pedagogy pilot for multi-disciplinary team; Scotland leads EU workforce programme; Supporting universities and colleges to provide a skilled workforce; Education for a more mobile workforce; National review of residential care workforce; Towards integrated service across health and education; About Working it out - a 12 month programme.

8. Actress takes to streets in bid to save care home

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/actress-takes-to-streets-in-bid-to-save-care-home-1640155.html>

The actress Samantha Morton led a demonstration against plans to close one of four children's homes in her home town, Nottingham. The Council says it is being forced to close a home as part of the £20m in cuts due to the credit crunch that will also make 350 staff redundant. At age 13, Morton was living in a children's home. She said, 'Living in a children's home for me was a positive experience. I beg the council to reconsider cutting these vital services to children in care, who are already as we know among the most vulnerable members of society'.

9. Corporate Parent concerns about location of Children's Home

<http://www.cypnow.co.uk/news/ByDiscipline/Social-Care/888739/Corporate-parent-opposes-Somerset-childrens-home/>

Councillor Jeremy Blatchford, the executive member for children and young people's services at North Somerset Council, has voiced concerns about the safety of the location of a children's home. His concern was for the visibility of the young people who may be 'blamed for everything and this is not right for young people who are very vulnerable'. He

also had other worries re proximity to the tidal estuary with dangerous mud and sand. Planning permission is not needed as the home was once a home for the elderly. OfSTED registration is being sought by a private provider. Local residents have met Ofsted officials in an attempt to stop the plans. The home is being opened further to the provider being part of the consortium that invited tenders from organisations to become residential care home providers in the area.

10. Gatehouse School Independent Review

<http://www.miltonkeynes.gov.uk/mkcouncil/displayarticle.asp?DocID=22457&ArchiveNumber=Anindependentmanagementreview>

A local authority commissioned report on the Gatehouse School Milton Keynes was conducted by Kathryn Stone of Voice UK, the national charity for vulnerable victims of crime, particularly people with learning disabilities. Support was also given to the review by child care specialist Patrick Ayre, an independent consultant and senior lecturer at the University of Bedfordshire, and Graham Hopkins, a nationally recognised expert on effective recording.

This team reports on a number of fundamental limitations in communication, processes and procedures relating to the management and monitoring of Gatehouse School and serious breaches of financial, recruitment and selection, and safeguarding children procedures.

Milton Keynes Council accepted that practices in the school fell far short of what should have been reasonably expected and, once senior management were alerted, immediate action was taken to remedy the situation.

Care planning, training needs and especially behaviour management training including distraction, de-escalation and other techniques as positive alternatives to restraint, recruitment procedures, safeguarding measures, medication and complaints procedures were included in the report. The council is in the process of implementing 27 recommendations from the review.

11. High court ruling: limiting access to disabled children's services is unlawful

http://www.edcm.org.uk/Page.asp?originx_9865jm_98358393056475n37c_20093135630Z

The Council for Disabled Children (CDC) has welcomed a High Court ruling that the use of 'eligibility criteria' by local authorities to limit access to disabled children's services can be unlawful. The judgment was made by Mrs Justice Black in the case of *JL and LL v Islington London Borough Council* [2009] *EQHC* 458 (*Admin*)

The court found in favour of the claimants, JL and LL, a young disabled man and his mother who also has health problems. Their package of services had been reduced by almost half as a result of new eligibility criteria introduced by Islington in 2007.

The judge found that these criteria were unlawful because they failed to distinguish between services the council had a duty to provide and those that they had only a power to provide. Islington was also found to have acted unlawfully because they had not shown proper regard to their duties to promote disability equality when setting the criteria.

Christine Lenehan OBE, Director of the Council for Disabled Children and board member of the Every Disabled Child Matters campaign, comments:

‘CDC welcomes this judgment because it brings much-needed clarity about the law in this area. We would want to emphasise that Islington should not be singled out for criticism as a result of this judgment. In our experience, all local authorities use eligibility criteria to limit access to disabled children’s services. Yet I have never met a local authority officer who could tell me what the legal basis was for their criteria’.

Following the judgment, CDC is calling on all local authorities to consider its conclusions and review their eligibility criteria. CDC is also calling on the Department for Children, Schools and Families to issue guidance on the law governing eligibility criteria, to meet what the judge described as a ‘pressing need’ for a central steer from government.

12. Children’s Football Alliance

<http://www.childrensfootballalliance.com/questionnaireIntro.aspx>

The CFA’s purpose is to promote and advance children’s right to engage in football play that is fun, safe, engaging, inclusive and developmental. NCB is supporting the CFA by both hosting discussion and supporting this consultation to determine its potential and future purpose and structure.

13. Social Pedagogy

<http://www.communitycare.co.uk/Articles/2009/03/18/111007/social-pedagogy-in-practice.html>

14. Delivering Brighter Futures

<http://www.cwdcouncil.org.uk/events/delivering-brighter-futures/2008-findings>

Throughout summer 2008, CWDC held nine regional events with stakeholders. The series of events saw nearly 1,000 members of the children's workforce come together to establish dialogue about the key issues that affect them. A summary report of the key findings is now available on the CWDC website.

15. Learning together to safeguard children: a ‘systems’ model for case reviews

<http://www.scie.org.uk/publications/reports/report19.asp>

This report and the accompanying guide presents an adapted systems model for multi-agency safeguarding and child protection work with the aim of identifying underlying patterns of factors in the work environment that support good practice or create unsafe conditions in which poor practice is more likely. It is a method for identifying what works well as well as where there are problems: ‘make it harder for people to do something wrong and easier for them to do it right’ (Institute of Medicine, 1999: 2) The approach works for safeguarding and protecting children in theory needs to be tested out and adapted. It also may have use for the RCC sector when considering major change in services delivery.

16. Resources

Towards safer organisations - Selection and recruitment procedures to help safeguard children

http://www.nspcc.org.uk/Inform/research/Findings/TowardsSaferOrganisations_wda63931.html

The NSPCC has published "Towards safer organisations", which looks at the literature on abuse within organisations and how to select and recruit suitable people for working with children.

Interconnections Electronic Bulletin

<http://www.icwhatsnew.com/bulletin/current/index.htm>

The latest edition of the Interconnections Electronic Bulletin is now available online.

The Playday 2009 Get organised! guide now available

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

The guide, for Playday event organisers, contains tips and ideas to help you plan your Playday celebration. From choosing a location to getting publicity or ideas for the day, it's easy with the Playday Get organised! guide. Download the Get organised! guide from the Playday website . Free printed copies will be available shortly. To order email Play England playday@ncb.org.uk including your name, delivery address and quantity required.

The safeguarding needs of young people in gangs and violent peer groups

http://www.nspcc.org.uk/Inform/research/Findings/TeenagersAtRisk_wda64009.html

The NSPCC has published a briefing on the safeguarding needs of young people in gangs and violent peer groups.

Participation Works guide on involving children and young people in research

<http://www.participationworks.org.uk/resources/how-to-involve-children-and-young-people-in-research>

Participation Works has an 'how to' guide, looking at how to involve children and young people in research projects. It provides some ideas on what you need to consider before carrying out this research work and includes three case studies that demonstrate practical methods of involving children and young people.

17.Conferences/Training – in date order

Child Sexual Abuse: The female offender

<http://www.ceop.gov.uk/training/courses/femaleoffender.asp>

The last 20 years has seen a dramatic shift in attitudes and beliefs regarding the prevalence of the sexual abuse of children, however, tackling female sex offenders remains an area that is still met with incredulity by professionals and poorly represented in the media. Given the traditional view of women as carers, nurturers and protectors, the idea of women who sexually offend against children is sometimes too difficult for most to comprehend. This new conference asks you to suspend your disbelief - to accept that these awful crimes against children are committed by women, to understand how they are committed, to recognise offending patterns, examine how female offenders respond to treatment programmes and gain an insight into the emotional and psychological impact these crimes have upon the victims.

21 April 2009, Manchester

Working With Black & Minority Ethnic Children and Families

<http://www.afruca.org/>

AFRUCA – Africans Unite Against Child Abuse is the premier charity promoting the welfare of African children in the UK. The aims of this training course are to explore and build on the values, knowledge and skills required to engage with and work effectively with Black and minority ethnic children and their families in assessment, safeguarding and care planning activities.

21st April 2009, London

Representations of children in news media: revisiting the Oslo challenge

<http://www.ioe.ac.uk/newsEvents/21241.html>

This conference will draw out the implications of representations of children in the media, and invite delegates to consider questions including why negative representations of children matter, what evidence there is about adverse effects on children, and whether there is scope for children to work with adults to improve their representation in the media.

22 April 2009, London

The Social Educator in a Globalised World

<http://www.sl.dk/AIEJI2009/UK.aspx>

AIEJI 17th World Congress 2009 is an opportunity for you to meet social educators from all over the world, with outstanding key speakers, exciting workshops and incredible networking opportunities.

4-7 May, Copenhagen, Denmark

Working to Meet the Short Breaks Full Service Offer

http://www.ncb.org.uk/Page.asp?originx_727xv_56749403568485d95c_200919188i

The new one-day course enables short break service commissioners and providers to develop their understanding of Aiming High for Disabled Children's 'Full Service Offer' and how to meet it.

13 May, Reading, / 11 June, Nottingham / 9 July, Brighton

Transforming Disabled Children's Services Through Partnership

<http://publicpolicyexchange.co.uk/events/9E14-PPE.php>

To address the stark gap between national policy and local reality for disabled children, the Government launched Aiming High for Disabled Children in May 2007 – A radical transformation programme for disabled children's services, supported by £430 million of funding over three years from 2008-2011. A year into the AHDC funding programme, this timely conference hosted by the Centre for Parliamentary Studies, provides an invaluable opportunity for local practitioners and stakeholders to assess the progress made in transforming disabled children's services and consider the barriers that still need to be overcome, particularly in light of the current economic climate. Delegates will discuss how the AHDC Programme and its substantial funding can be implemented fully and effectively through a coherent partnership between local authorities, health, education and social services to achieve an effective, personal and tailored service for disabled children and their families.

14th May 2009, London

Improving the Life Chances of Children in Care Conference

<http://www.capitaconferences.co.uk/OurConferences/LocalGovernment/Children+in+Care.htm>

Capita's 5th National Improving the Life Chances of Children in Care Conference brings together key organisations and expert speakers to discuss new initiatives and share best practice on improving the outcomes of children and young people in care. With the passing of the Children and Young Persons Bill, the Government continues its commitment to place the welfare of children in care at the top of its agenda. To ensure that outcomes for those in care continue to improve, it is essential that local authorities and key stakeholders work in partnership with each other and those they care for to share best practice and develop services.

19th May 2009, London

Including All of Us

<http://au2.eventbrite.com/>

Participants will develop a framework to ensure that children with complex health needs, children who require moving and handling, and children with behaviour that challenges are all safely included in services.

19 May, London

Safeguarding Children: What Happens Now? Protecting Children and Young People in Light of the Baby P Tragedy

<http://ncbsafeguarding.eventbrite.com/>

Child protection work will always be extremely demanding, anxiety-provoking work involving professionals in making finely-balanced judgments in very difficult circumstances. Professionals' confidence in their knowledge, skills and values have been seriously challenged as has public

confidence in the system and policy. All involved must seek to continuously challenge ourselves to improve practice in this vital area. This conference is an opportunity for practitioners, policy makers and managers to refresh as they reflect on the current state of child protection practice in England.

Tuesday 19 May, London

Pathways to Permanence for Minority Ethnic Children

<http://www.beds.ac.uk/research/iasr/mrc/events/pdspermanence>

Although there are many strongly held beliefs and opinions, there have been very few research studies that have examined permanency planning for minority ethnic children. This seminar will examine the findings from a recently completed study, across three local authorities with high minority populations, in the DCSF funded 'Adoption Research Initiative.' Julie Selwyn and colleagues set out to understand more about minority ethnic children's care careers and to examine whether their placement outcomes were different from those of white children, especially in relation to permanence.

20 May 2009, London

Westminster briefing on implementing the Laming recommendations

<http://www.westminster-briefing.com/?p=292>

Following the events in Haringey and subsequent investigations in a number of other authorities, the Secretary of State asked Lord Laming to prepare an "urgent report of progress made across the country to implement effective arrangements for safeguarding children". Lord Laming was asked to identify "what specific actions should be taken by Government and national and local agencies to overcome these barriers [to progress] and accelerate systematic improvements in safeguarding practice across the country". Delegates at this Westminster Briefing will have the opportunity to consider the impact of Lord Laming's recommendations on child protection, bringing together all the key agencies and stakeholders.

21st May, London

Seeing the Whole Picture: Working in partnership to enhance the lives of children looked after away from home

<http://www.sircc.org.uk/node/980>

The conference will explore the issues, challenges and opportunities associated with a partnership approach to working with children and young people looked after away from home. For everyone working in or for residential child care at any level. All associated professionals whose work impacts on broad aspects of residential child care including research, health, education, fostering, housing and through-care. International practitioners visiting to Scotland with relevant interests in the theme. This conference meets the post-registration training and learning requirements set by the SSSC.

11th-12th June, Perthshire

A Living Learning Experience – An Introduction To Therapeutic Child Care

<http://www.mulberrybush.org.uk/uploads/PETT%20June%202009%20workshop.pdf>

This residential workshop aims to introduce the principles of therapeutic childcare practice. Through understanding disordered attachment and early childhood damage, workers will begin to make sense of distressed behaviour in children and to learn to make use of their own feeling responses as a tool for treatment and nurturing care.

11-13th June 2009, nr Cheltenham

Safeguarding Children: Prevention, Protection, Provision

<http://www.neilstewartassociates.com/kd175/>

Children in the UK have been the focus of many reports in the media of late. Concerns for their physical and emotional wellbeing, in their homes, in care, on the internet and at schools have been

discussed as well as fears of an increase in child poverty in light of the current financial climate. In response to this, fears that children might be at risk of overprotection have been raised, so how do we get the balance right? This 7th annual national conference will bring together representatives from local and central government, LCSBs, police, education and child protection organisations to offer a unique opportunity to hear from experts in the field and discuss how best to protect and safeguard children while providing a safe and normal childhood.

18th June 2009, London

Strategically Measure Impacts and Outcomes - Working In Partnership To Embed Measurement Into Your Service And Effectively Evaluate The Impact Your Work Has On Children & Young People's Lives

www.measuringoutcomes.co.uk

Children's services professionals are faced with a raft of indicators that are intended to demonstrate that their work is delivering better outcomes for children and young people. But, if you go beyond ticking the boxes and cut through the red-tape what do you actually need to be doing to measure the impact and outcomes of the services you provide?

9 July, Birmingham

Postgraduate Certificate/Diploma in Applied Systemic Theory

<http://www.tavi-port.org/training/tavistock-clinic-courses-and-professional-training/by-course-code/codes/d4.html>

This course is a continuing professional development opportunity for professionals/managers from health, social, education and related services. It will focus on developing an understanding of systemic theory and its applications to professional contexts. This programme commences October 2009 and is recruiting now.

Trauma, Empathy and Common Sense

http://www.pactcharity.org/News/News/PACT_Conference_-_Save_%A315/

The conference will explore the impact that children's traumatic experiences (adoption, domestic violence, broken attachments) may have on their lack of empathy and consciousness and the impact of this on their families and those working with them. It will consider what support the adults who care for them will need to help them survive.

15 October 2009, Oxford