



NCERCC Notes – February 2009

1. New on NCERCC website this month

www.ncb.org.uk/ncercc

- A new 'Talking Point' page has been added to the NCERCC website. The current Talking point is an article on the healing effect of nature for children in residential care.
- A summary report and powerpoint presentation on the Life Skills Coaching project in Chelsea, looking at solutions and developing useful transition to adulthood life skills.

2. Government & Associated

Consultation on 2020 Children and Young People's Workforce Strategy

<http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/deliveringservices/childrenandyoungpeoplesworkforce/>
<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations/index.cfm?action=consultationDetails&consultationId=1591&external=no&menu=1>

In December 2008 the Government published the 2020 Children and Young People's Workforce Strategy. This sets out the Government's vision that everyone who works with children and young people should be: Ambitious for every child and young person; Excellent in their practice; Committed to partnership and integrated working; Respected and valued as professionals. The strategy sets out how the Government will work with partners, and people in the workforce, to ensure that every part of the children and young people's workforce achieves this vision.

Various documents in relation to this are gathered together on the Every Child Matters site. There is also a consultation running in relation to this which is accessible from the DCSF site, closing Date: Tuesday 10 March 2009.

Professional Standards for Residential Child Care Workers and the Children's Social Care Professional Development Framework

<http://webserv1.cwdcouncil.org.uk/QuaskFormServer/ResidentialCareQST>

This is an online questionnaire which you can complete by going to the CWDC website.

Remodelling Social Work delivery pilots

<http://www.cwdcouncil.org.uk/social-work/remodelling/pilot-projects>

The social workers in the Rochdale pilot are working with staff in residential children's homes using solution-focussed methods to keep children within families whenever possible. They are also hoping to improve care planning for young people accommodated in children's homes; to offer improved and timely support to children on the edge of care to prevent accommodation where it is safe to do so and to offer ongoing support to children and their families in cases where children return home.

New fact sheet – Common Core

<http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/files/ED5E120D64967A6809FFB6039CAFC4AB.pdf>

The Common Core of Skills and Knowledge for the children's workforce sets out the basic skills and knowledge needed by all people (including volunteers) whose work brings them into regular contact with children and young people.

1. Effective communication and engagement
2. Child and young person development
3. Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of the child
4. Supporting transitions
5. Multi-agency working
6. Sharing information

Consultation on revised statutory guidance for local authorities on children missing from home or care

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations/index.cfm?action=consultationDetails&consultationId=1597&external=no&menu=1>

In the Young Runaways Action Plan published in June 2008 the Government committed to updating guidance for local authorities on supporting children and young people who go missing from home or care. This draft guidance has been produced with help and support from statutory and voluntary sector partners and comments as part of a formal consultation process.

Launch Date: 14 January 2009

Closing Date: 8 April 2009

DCSF Consultation on amendments to the Belongings Regulations

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations/index.cfm?action=consultationDetails&consultationId=1603&external=no&menu=1>

The Belongings Regulations indicate which authority a Looked After Child "belongs" to when they are placed by one authority in another authority. For Looked After Children, the general DCSF guidance is that the host authority is responsible for the child. The amendment is taking place following a test case where the host authority claimed that the placing authority should be responsible for the child, after they were discovered to have SEN. The judge ruled that the belongings regulations would indicate that the placing authority is always responsible. DCSF is consequently proposing to amend the regulations to make it clear that the host authority has responsibility.

Outcome of the consultation on publishing children's homes inspection reports

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Publications-and-research/Browse-all-by/Documents-by-type/Consultations/Outcome-of-the-consultation-on-publishing-children-s-homes-inspection-reports>

Between June and September 2008 Ofsted consulted on whether it should publish the inspection reports of children's homes. This report details the results of the consultation and Ofsted's decision.

Commissioning Support programme

http://www.commissioningsupport.org.uk/about_the_programme.aspx

The Commissioning Support Programme will help Children's Trusts plan, design and implement services more effectively. The Programme will provide tailored support as and when Children's Trust partners need it, develop online resources and networks to help commissioners share best practice. In addition, the programme will hold events such as national and regional conferences. Above all, the Programme aims to help Children's Trusts deliver better outcomes for children, young people and their families. The Programme will run until April 2011, working at national, regional and local levels, with a clear focus on creating sustainable capacity. It will cover the commissioning of all services for children, young people and their families, including both health and education.

Measurement of Improvement and Efficiency Tool

http://www.southwestiep.gov.uk/Resources/SWCOE/Documents/SW%20RIEP%20mietool%20summary%202009_v1.0.doc

The Measurement of Improvement and Efficiency Tool (mietool) is a useful new that is being made available as a resource for local authorities. NCERCC thinks that it could prove useful to have it made available more widely so that a common approach is taken. Mietool is designed to help: Develop robust business cases; Measure the efficiency impacts of projects and to provide data for the new efficiency Performance Indicator; Plan and measure the improvement value of your projects, to your authority and your community, against all 198 national Performance Indicators. RIEPs have committed to support mietool, and have funded a support arrangement until 2011, so mietool is available to all local authorities free of charge.

Consultation on National Standards for School Leadership

<http://www.ncsl.org.uk/publications-national-standards-consultation>

The Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) and NCSL are formally consulting on the proposed National Standards for School Leadership before further developing, refining and finalising the standards. Feedback is sought from members of the school workforce (leaders and aspiring leaders), governors, and others working with school leaders on the proposed standards. The consultation will be open until 3 March 2009. There is an online questionnaire, a number of face-to-face consultation events scheduled for January and February 2009, and an online seminar.

Leadership training for DCS

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/2009/jan/09/social>

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/pns/DisplayPN.cgi?pn_id=2009_0004

Directors of children's services are to receive 12 months of leadership training from the National College of School Leadership. Ed Balls has announced a new leadership programme for Directors of Children's Services will start from this autumn - with a bespoke programme for those at the forefront of children's services. The new leadership programme will be aimed at existing DCSs and those aiming for promotion. Its development will be led by the National College for School Leadership and developed with the Association of Directors of Children's Services and the Children's Workforce Development Council.

Skills Active census on outdoors sector

<http://www.skillsactive.com/outdoors/projects/census>

SkillsActive are calling on all those who work in the outdoor industry to let us know what is happening on the ground in the sector. SkillsActive have a role to improve workforce training and qualification provision for both employers and employees within the outdoors sector. By gathering hard facts on the problems and concerns facing you and your staff, we can influence the funding and availability of training locally. This Outdoors Census Survey aims to collect information on the key activities and services offered by outdoors organisations, the main participants for those activities, and the seasonal variation of both activities and participation to build up a picture of the sector across the UK. We are also keen to find out what staff and/or volunteers are needed in order to run those activities effectively. We are interested in hearing about all forms of outdoor/adventurous recreation, education and development training delivery even if activity provision is not your core business.

Promoting physical activity for children and young people: guidance

<http://www.nice.org.uk/Guidance/PH17>

The NICE recommendations relate to all children and young people up to the age of 18, including those with a medical condition or disability (except where clinical assessment or monitoring is required prior to and/or during physical activity). The guidance does not cover specialised services for children and young people with a disability. There is a specific focus on children aged 11 and under and girls aged 11 to 18.

Active play guidance

<http://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/index.jsp?action=folder&o=41640>

The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) has issued guidance on active play and sport for all children and young people up to the age of 18 in family, pre-school, school and community settings, in a bid to help local authorities meet their targets to promote physical activity and reduce obesity among children and young people.

Increase demand for Children's Services

<http://www.cypnow.co.uk/news/ByDiscipline/Education/login/872846/>

<http://www.lga.gov.uk/lga/core/page.do?pageId=1305400>

6% of children's services in England have already experienced an increased demand for services as a result of the economic slowdown and another 30% anticipate an increase in demand, according to a survey by the Local Government Association.

Applications for care hit new high

http://women.timesonline.co.uk/tol/life_and_style/women/families/article5542713.ece

The Times reports that more applications to take children into care are being issued than at any time since the present system of child protection was established. New figures from CAFCASS show that 693 applications to take children into care were issued in December 2008, 66 per cent higher than in December 2007 and 89 per cent higher than the all-time low in June 2008, when 367 requests were made.

Special Educational Needs: Children in Care

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000785/SFR08_2008_NationalTables2.xls

In 2007, there were 9,300 looked-after children (who have been looked after for at least 12 months) with a statement of special educational needs. This figure can be found in table A of the 'Outcome Indicators for Children Looked After, 12 months to 30 September 2007—England' Statistical First Release.

Three years on: survey of the development and emotional well-being of children and young people - Office for National Statistics, 2008

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/articles/nojournal/child_development_mental_health.pdf

This survey followed-up the second national survey of children's mental health and wellbeing which was carried out in 2004. The aims of the 2007 follow-up survey were: to identify persistence, onset, risk factors and outcomes of childhood mental disorders to examine resilience and protective factors to examine the medium-term effect of special education needs on subsequent psychological health, absenteeism and exclusions.

A new inquiry will be conducting a "fundamental re-examination" of the way society responds to youth offending.

<http://www.cypnow.co.uk/inDepth/ByDiscipline/Youth-Justice/878028/News-Insight-Youth-Justice---Investigation-begins-youth-crime/>

The Independent Commission on Youth Crime and Antisocial Behaviour has been set up by the charity the Police Foundation and will be looking for better, more sustainable ways of dealing with behaviour issues that affect whole communities, whether they are direct victims of crime and anti-social behaviour. The Commission will ask experts to examine international research on prevention of youth crime and different approaches to youth justice. It will report in the summer of 2010.

ContactPoint

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/pns/DisplayPN.cgi?pn_id=2009_0015

<http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/deliveringservices/contactpoint/>

Training for local authorities in England and children's charities Barnardo's & KIDS on the new ContactPoint database has started. The database will contain basic information for every child in England plus details of any professional who is working with that child.

The first steps to activate the Government's online directory of children's services - ContactPoint - has begun. From Monday 26, two security vetted officials from local authorities all over England will begin the necessary training to start operating the system. In addition, training will start in 17 LA's in the North West and two national voluntary sector partners – Barnardo's and KIDS – where ContactPoint will be more intensively piloted. Frontline practitioners will start training and operating the system in these areas in the spring and across the country from the summer.

Secure children's homes

<http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/socialcare/childrenincare/securechildrenshomes/>

The DCSF commissioned the National Children's Bureau (NCB) to undertake a project looking into the use of restraint in secure children's homes. The findings of this project were published on 15 December 2008 in the report, Restrictive Physical Intervention in Secure Children's Homes.

Successful leadership for promoting the achievement of white working class pupils

<http://www.ncsl.org.uk/publications-index/publications-display.htm?id=29058&idnum=59>

<http://www.cypnow.co.uk/bulletins/Daily-Bulletin/news/861393/?DCMP=EMC-DailyBulletin>

This report found that 'white British' boys entitled to free school meals were the male group with lowest attainment and 'white British' girls entitled to free school meals were the female group with lowest attainment. The research identified and studied 12 schools that have managed to buck the national trend in the attainment levels of their white, working-class students, and from this it delivers a blueprint for school leadership. The school leaders who did buck the trend and achieve good results for their pupils had consistently high expectations of students, regardless of class.

Needs and aspirations of white working class pupils

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/media/109339/aspirations_evidence_pack.pdf

<http://www.cypnow.co.uk/bulletins/Daily-Bulletin/news/758649/?DCMP=EMC-DailyBulletin>

Young people from ethnically diverse, urban neighbourhoods tend to have greater aspirations than those from traditional working class communities in ex-industrial areas, a government report has found. The needs of white young women from working-class families are often overlooked in the education system, according to another report published in 2006 by the Progress, Achieve and Continue in Education. Challenging Girls looked at ways of raising educational attainment among girls from low-income families in Camden, north London. It found that this group has low staying-on rates at school and is the least likely group to continue in education and training.

The procedures for dealing with care workers suspected of harming children breach the European Convention on Human Rights, the House of Lords has ruled.

<http://www.cypnow.co.uk/news/ByDiscipline/Social-Care/875619/Blacklisting-care-workers-breaches-rights-say-Lords/>

Under the Protection of Children Act, accused care workers were placed on a provisional list, resulting in an immediate ban from working with children without the opportunity for a hearing. The judgement said this was unfair, and that care workers have the right to a hearing before they can be placed on this list.

3. Alliance for Child-Centred Care's young people's group at the Associate Parliamentary Group for Looked-After Children and Care Leavers

<http://www.cypnow.co.uk/news/showcase/876318/Interview-care-speaking---Alliance-Child-Centred-Cares-young-peoples-group/>

Extracts

....Sitting before a packed committee room, which can barely contain the streams of young people there to hear the message, Katie and the rest of the panel speak of the need for children in care to be treated with respect and equality.

Stories of success and hardship are shared, with the young people keen to have their voices heard and ensure politicians take the steps needed to improve their lives.

... "If we manage to stop people from thinking negative things about us we can get on with our lives without people questioning us about things, like why we are in care."

The Alliance group initiative, supported by organisations including Voice and the National Children's Bureau, has given the young people an opportunity to take part in sessions in debating, public speaking and team building, over the last year, to help them in their goal of celebrating children in care.

The Alliance for Child-Centred Care's young people's group launched one year ago to bring young people in care together to work on a common goal

- It allows young people to decide on a campaign centred on their experiences in care
- Last week, the young people's group launched its campaign to promote positive images of children in care
- The group also enables young people to inform politicians, journalists, and the public of issues important to young people in care
- It holds sessions on training journalists, public speaking and team building.

4. Care leavers get boost to find work through new Catch22 initiative

<http://www.hmg.gov.uk/media/9102/NewOpportunities.pdf>

<http://www.catch-22.org.uk/index.asp?m=241&s=276&month=1&year=2009&c=1875>

The New Opportunities White Paper published 13 January includes an initiative to support for young people leaving care entering the jobs market. The initiative will be led by the National Care Advisory Service (NCAS) – supported by the national young people's charity Catch22 and will receive funding from the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) for the next two years to work with 9 local authorities next year, and half of all local authorities in 2010-11, to develop and test models of support into employment with a view to a phased national roll out from 2010-11. It will bring together voluntary, private and public sectors to provide career support for care leavers in a national programme. Support to develop the initiative has already been secured from major employers including BAA, Norwich Union, Reed and SERCO. All suitably qualified care leavers are entitled to the offer of an apprenticeship place from 2009. Specialist youth homelessness advisors will work with local authorities to improve the quality/suitability of care leavers' accommodation. The project is due to start April 2009. To register your interest and to tell NCAS about work experience and employment schemes you already know about email claire.baker@catch-22.org.uk.

5. Parent participation takes off

www.togetherfdc.org

Parent groups in 97% of English local authority areas have now been allocated funding to help them have a say in planning and shaping disabled children's services. In just two months parents with disabled children in 145 of the 150 local authority areas were successful in bidding for grants to help them get involved in local decision making. Over the next year a further £1.5 million is available to parent groups to develop participation activity across England, as part of the Aiming High for Disabled Children (AHDC) programme. Together for Disabled Children (TDC), a partnership between Contact a Family and Serco Education and Children's Services with responsibility for developing parent participation forums under AHDC, is delighted with this positive response from groups. For further information on what's happening in your local area or to find out more about the next phase of grants available to groups contact the TDC administrator on 020 7608 8783 or visit the TDC website.

6. RCP issues standards for young people on adult psychiatric wards

<http://www.communitycare.co.uk/Articles/2009/01/14/110413/camhs-rcp-issues-standards-for-young-people-on-adult-wards.html>

The Royal College of Psychiatrists has developed safeguarding standards for young people placed on adult psychiatric wards, to help meet a duty to ensure they receive age appropriate treatment. The standards were commissioned by government agency the National Institute for Mental Health in England (Nihme) and are designed to help managers meet their duty to end the unsuitable accommodation of young people in adult wards by April 2010, under section 31 of the Mental Health Act 2007.

7. News from CDC & EDCM

<http://www.edcm.org.uk/Page.asp>

Council for Disabled Children and EDCM plan to take forward a specific strand of work on disabled children and health services this year and are currently putting plans in place for work to begin as soon as the Child Health Strategy is published. The key elements of this work will be:

1. Immediate response to the Child Health Strategy - A policy briefing from CDC on the Child Health Strategy as it relates to disabled children and a policy seminar run by CDC for the sector to discuss implications of the Strategy as it relates to disabled children, with government officials present.
2. Briefing from NHS Confederation - A briefing document produced by the NHS Confederation, supported by EDCM, which will communicate the developments in both Aiming High for Disabled Children and the Child Health Strategy to health leaders and the PCT workforce.
3. Lobbying and campaigning work - An EDCM campaign briefing on disabled children and health (to be written in partnership with Mencap, Whizz-Kidz, the Children's Trust Tadworth, Children's Hospices UK and ACT), which will include recommendations to central and local government relating to health services for disabled children. Briefing to be launched at a national conference with invited Ministers.

8. The number of young people self-harming has risen significantly, according to new NHS research.

<http://www.ic.nhs.uk/webfiles/publications/mental%20health/other%20mental%20health%20publications/Adult%20psychiatric%20morbidity%2007/Adult%20psychiatric%20morbidity%20in%20England%202007.pdf>

The figures show that 8.9 per cent of young people aged 16 to 24 said that they had ever self-harmed in 2007, compared to 5.3 per cent in 2000. The rise was particularly marked among young women, with 6.5 per cent of women aged 16 to 24 reporting self-harm in 2000 compared with 11.7 per cent in 2007. More than 20 per cent of young people also said they thought about suicide, and 1.7 per cent made an suicide attempt.

9. Vulnerable children attending boarding school research

<http://www.cypnow.co.uk/news/877309/Boarding-school-transform-lives-says-charity/>

Conducted by the Royal Wanstead Children's Foundation, a charity which funds boarding schools places for children, the study found more than two-thirds of 97 assisted boarders sampled, who have either one active parent or no active parent, reported that boarding school had improved academic success, self-esteem and social skills. Every assisted boarder, 60% of whom had been exposed to abusive, abnormal or threatening behaviour at home and over 70% of whom had significant social or emotional needs, who took part in the study said that boarding school had improved his or her social relationships and sense of independence.

The charity found that while 27% were rated as at or above average for their peer group on admission to boarding school, across a range of social, academic and emotional criteria, 85% had attained this level within three years. Children were assessed as having improved significantly in

terms of social skills/peer relationships, relationships with adults and teachers, adapting to school structure, capacity to learn, academic progress and self-esteem. Parents and guardians also reported that boarding school was beneficial for their children, with 65 per cent claiming it had improved family relationships.

10. Restorative practice: Consultation on new qualification and NOS review

www.skillsforjustice.com

Skills for Justice, as part of its plan for the children's workforce, is looking to review the restorative justice National Occupational Standards (NOS) and develop a new award in restorative practice. The aim of the project is to create a set of standards and an award which can be used across the children's workforce in a variety of restorative practice settings.

During 2006-07, Skills for Justice developed a number of units in restorative justice as part of the youth justice suite of standards. The units need to be reviewed to ensure that they are fit-for-purpose for all the areas which use restorative practice. A demand has also been identified for a competency based award. The new award will be submitted for inclusion on the Integrated Qualifications Framework.

Consultation on the units and the proposed qualification structure is a critical part of the development process. It is extremely important that as many people as possible comment on the draft standards.

Next Steps:

Skills for Justice is looking for practitioners who have current operational experience to view the NOS and the proposed qualification structure, in order for a sector wide consultation to take place. A working group will be established to take the work forward. Further information will shortly be available on the Skills for Justice website. A working group to review the standards and qualification structure was held in January and Skills for Justice will be holding an online consultation in late February/early March.

If you would like to be involved in the project or would like more information about the project, please contact Linda Millington, Programme Lead for the Children's Workforce.

email: linda.millington@skillsforjustice.com

11. Resources

Interconnections Electronic Bulletin

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

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

Shared responsibility: safeguarding arrangements between hospitals and children's social services

http://www.ncb.org.uk/dotpdf/books/sres_final_web.pdf

Funded by the Department of Health, this publication highlights the ways in which hospitals and children's social services can improve their working relationships in order to safeguard and promote children's welfare. The report and recommendations are designed to support hospitals and local authorities in meeting the requirements of the National Service Framework for Children, Young People and Maternity Services and the Children Act 2004.

Making sense of Every Child Matters

https://www.policypress.org.uk/catalog/product_info.php?cPath=10090&products_id=1364

The Policy Press has published a new book, "*Making sense of Every Child Matters: Multiprofessional practice guidance*", edited by Richard Barker. The book considers the

implications for practice of the 'Every Child Matters' (ECM) agenda for working with children, analysing the key issues from the perspective of the different professions that make up the 'new children's workforce'. If ordered from the website a 20% discount is given.

NCSL Leadership Library

<http://www.ncsl.org.uk/leadershiplibrary-index>

The Leadership Library is a free, online resource where school leaders (and useful for many others too) can access quick and practical resources to support their knowledge and skills development. The Leadership library is a collection of world class leadership and management development resources, in a range of different media, from Harvard and Ashridge Business Schools, 50 Lessons, NCSL and Teachers TV. New resources include: The Manager as Coach - a coach learning guide updated by Liz Carroll; 360 Degree Feedback Pocketbook - by Tony Peacock; Reward Pocketbook - covering a wide range of issues for employees.

Good Practice in Safeguarding Children. Working Effectively in Child Protection.

<http://www.jkp.com/new/9781843109457>

Good Practice in Safeguarding Children considers how front-line professionals can keep the best interests of the child at the heart of their work when statutory guidance, the way agencies are integrated and the delivery of services are changing. The contributors discuss current dilemmas in safeguarding children work and provide models of good practice, including case scenarios and exercises. This book explores how changes in the system offer an opportunity to enhance the quality of service provision, to achieve better outcomes for children and their families.

Calling and Counting Cumbria

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

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

The excellent publication 'Calling Cumbria' demonstrates that the relational commissioning approach being promoted by NCERCC and others is a practical method for the development of commissioning across children's services. It is an example of how it is possible to work better across boundaries by getting at the opportunities which lurk in the spaces between people and between organisations. 'Calling Cumbria' is supported by analysis (published as 'Counting Cumbria') to quantify the public money going into the county and find out as far as possible what happened to it.

Helping Children with Complex Needs Bounce Back. Resilient Therapy™ for Parents and Professionals.

<http://www.jkp.com/new/9781843109488>

Bringing up a special child can leave parents feeling deskilled, disarmed, and worn down. A resilient child has the ability to cope with challenging situations, and the capacity to bounce back from trauma and gain long-term strength from these life experiences. Resilient Therapy™ is an innovative way of strengthening children with complex needs. This is a tried-and-tested handbook for parents to read from cover to cover, or dip in and out of as needed. This 'magic box' of ideas and remedies is perfect for parents and carers, friends and families of children with disabilities, special educational needs, and mental or physical health needs, as well as professionals working with these children.

Being White in the Helping Professions. Developing Effective Intercultural Awareness.

<http://www.jkp.com/new/9781843109365>

In this reflective yet practical book, the author challenges white helping professionals to recognize their own cultural identity and the impact it has when practising in a multicultural environment. Judy Ryde reveals how white people have implicit and explicit advantages and privileges that often go unnoticed by them. She suggests that in order to work effectively in a multicultural

setting, this privilege needs to be fully acknowledged and confronted. She explores whether it is possible to talk about a white identity, addresses uncomfortable feelings such as guilt or shame, and offers advice on how to implement white awareness training within an organization.

Taking Part in Making Decisions: Training for 8 to 12-year-olds

<http://www.participationworks.org.uk/ResourcesHub/TakingPartinMakingDecisions/tabid/426/Default.aspx>

These training resources have been produced to support workers who want to provide appropriate development opportunities to improve the ability of the 8 to 12-year-olds they work with to participate in decision making. The training takes the form of a package of five training resources, each section focusing on a different set of skills. Together the skills will equip children and young people to take an active part in decision-making. The sections are: Recruitment and Selection; Facilitation; Evaluation; Developing Children's Champions; Making Change Happen.

CWDC Integrated Working bulletins

<http://www.cwdcouncil.org.uk/integrated-working/monthly-updates>

CWDC is charged with implementing integrated working as a central part of the Every Child Matters agenda. One of its areas of responsibility is information sharing. It therefore provides a monthly email update with useful information to help you implement integrated working, including the latest policy and guidance, top tips and real life examples. Visit the website to read previous editions and to sign up for the service.

Kitezh, A Community Approach to Raising Children in Russia

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

Being neglected or abandoned is not a fear that orphans living in the Kitezh Community in Russia have to face anymore, unlike thousands living in crowded institutions or freezing train stations. Their lives in this purpose built village for foster children are filled with play, individual and group therapeutic approaches, academic study and interactive family life. Ecologia Youth Trust brings this reality to the UK with the self-published book '*Kitezh, A Community Approach to Raising Children in Russia*' written by the founder of the community Dimitry Morozov. In his book Morozov combines the experience of 16 years developing the first therapeutic community for foster children and families in that country, with hands-on tools for parents, foster and adoptive parents, teachers, social workers and other professionals. The official book launch will be held in London at the BEARR Trust at 6:30pm on April 1st with a public talk and presentation by Dimitry Morozov (CAN Mezzanine, 32-36 Loman Street, London SE1 0EE, Southwark Tube Station, T. 020 7922 7849).

After visiting Kitezh this year, journalist Michael Schwartz from The New York Times writes: "In a Fairy-Tale Village, Russian Orphans Thrive." He adds: "Though perhaps hard to replicate on a large scale, Kitezh still stands as one of the few largely successful alternatives here to institutional care for orphans."

In this account of the birth and development of Kitezh children's community, Morozov describes how a group of families living together devote themselves to the care and rehabilitation of orphaned children. The challenges and joys of this experiment in living are related in an informal style to make complex ideas accessible.

Morozov says: "However unusual conditions in Russia, and especially in Kitezh, may be, we have been able to develop methods and procedures for working with difficult children that can help not only professionals working in children's institutions or foster parents, but also parents of 'normal', non-dysfunctional families. This book deals with how a child's consciousness is formed and how we, as parents, can love our children *in the right way*: by preparing them for life in the real world."

Central to Morozov's philosophy is the concept of a child's 'image of the world' as the lens through which all experience is filtered. A negative image of the world must be changed before the child can change and grow. At Kitezh this is done through love, education, support, discipline and honest feedback. The combination of a loving family environment coupled with professional psychotherapeutic techniques within beautiful surroundings is a potent mixture that provides hope for even the most damaged children.

E. Sh. Kamaldinova from the Department of Sociology of the Moscow Humanitarian University comments on the book: "Morozov wisely, convincingly and delicately, and in an absolute grounded manner, teaches adults to choose the best ways to make optimal decisions."

'Kitezh, A Community Approach to Raising Children in Russia' is a 248 pages paperback book, ISBN 9781906011369, and it is available from Ecologia Youth Trust for £12.99 + £2.00 postage.

12. Conferences/Training – in date order

Childhood Epilepsy Study Day

National Centre for Young People with Epilepsy

http://www.ncype.org.uk/epilepsy/childhood_epilepsy_training_for_professionals/study_day_for_social_workers_and_connexions_personal_advisors/

This day is aimed at social workers and personal advisors working with children and young people who want to learn more about epilepsy. During the day the following topics will be delivered either as a talk or within a workshop. We aim to make as many of our sessions as interactive as possible by including a variety of activities and plenty of opportunities for discussion and sharing good practice. All talks and workshops will be delivered by specialists working at the NCYPE
Monday 9th February 2009, 9.30am – 4.30pm

Face Equality – Meeting all the challenges when a pupil has a condition, injury or illness that affects the way they look.

<http://admin.changingfaces.org.uk/downloads/CPD%20secondary%20Feb%202009.pdf>

Research shows almost all of us treat people with disfigurement differently, especially on first meeting them, even though we don't mean to; 9 out of 10 people cannot link positive words and phrases with images of people with disfigurements. This one day course is for all secondary education professionals, particularly SENCOs and staff responsible for inclusion, pastoral care, PSHE & Citizenship.

26 February 2009, London

5th Annual Restorative Approaches in Education and Residential Child Care Conference

http://www.psstrategies.co.uk/Education_and_Care_Sector_Conference_Feb_2009.htm

This annual conference has established itself as the main conference for those using restorative approaches in education and youth settings – as well as for those who wish to learn more about restorative approaches in these settings. This year's conference is centred on how restorative systems in school, units and residential homes reinforce and complement strategies for developing social and emotional skills (SEAL) and, in residential childcare settings, the 'Care Matters' agenda. On the second day of the conference these themes will be developed to explore cross-agency approaches to bullying, anti-social behaviour and violence reduction.

26th - 27th February 2009, Birmingham

Advancing Practice: Recent Research into Residential Child Care

<http://www.sircc.org.uk/node/1021>

The aim of the seminar is to disseminate research into practice and to ensure that information is passed on to the field and to all those who have the opportunity to influence and implement research into practice. There will be choice from a wide range of short presentations in syndicate rooms at three points during the day.

3 March 2009, Edinburgh.

Transforming together: innovation, public services and the voluntary sector

<http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/events/latest/?id=11014>

A unique chance for the public and voluntary sector to share successes and challenges of designing and delivering innovative public services together. An inspiring day where you will explore the role for the sector in the economic downturn. There will be practical workshops, case studies, expert advice sessions and a drinks reception.

3 March 2009, London

Transitions, health and housing – getting it right for young people in supported accommodation

www.ncb.org.uk/dotdoc/new%20folder/flyerjan09.doc

It is estimated that at any one time there are around 12,000 young people living in supported housing in England. Many have experienced events that leave them vulnerable to a range of physical, mental and emotional health problems. Transitional periods, such as leaving care or custody, or moving onto adulthood can be difficult times for young people and can put them at risk of falling through the gaps. It is essential that they get the right support and services to be happy, healthy and to thrive. Providers of supported housing and their health partners have a key role in ensuring these needs are met. The Supported Housing and Health Network is a unique forum for practitioners and policy makers to share expertise and examples of good practice, develop new ideas and partnerships, and help create a united voice on what is needed to effectively meet the health and well-being needs of young people in supported housing.

4th March 2009, London

What research tells us about Workforce Development

<http://www.childrenengland.org.uk/upload/Programme.pdf>

<http://www.childrenengland.org.uk/upload/Workforce%20Development.pdf>

Children England and CWDC's third annual free conference will be looking at the current and major issues in workforce development today. Questions we hope to answer throughout the day range from: What's working and what's not? Are we meeting the challenges of the 21st century? How might we improve outcomes for children, young people and families/carers through developing our workforce?

10 March 2009, Leeds

The Lioncare Diploma in Therapeutic Child Care and Education

<http://www.lioncare.co.uk/Training.htm>

Accredited by The National Open College Network, successful completion of the course leads to the NOCN Certificate in Therapeutic Child Care, and award of 43 credits at Level 3.

15-week programme of experiential learning for anyone working in therapeutic settings, special needs education, children's social care, foster care, social work, and youth work. The course is geared towards developing students' capacity to think about unconscious processes, giving them tools for their own survival and for supporting and developing children. The experienced tutors assist students to think about and make sense of the difficulties in working with, caring for, and educating children & young people with complex needs, trauma, and emotional & behavioural difficulties. Theory sessions and case discussion workshops offer opportunities to reflect on, explore, and understand concepts and integrate knowledge with practice.

commencing 12th March, Brighton & Hove

Stay Safe – Keeping Children Safe

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

Topics will include: Promoting resilience, Parent Partnership, Forced Marriage, Human Trafficking, Children Missing Education, Children Fleeing Domestic Violence

18 /19th March 2009, Bolton

Successful PR in a challenging climate

<http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/events/latest/?id=12496>

This event is for you if you are involved in a communications role within a charity, voluntary or community organisation – PR and Communications managers and Press officers alike. It is also ideal if you work with or support these organisations. The event will cover a range of topics, including how to protect your reputation in a recession, how to get good regional coverage, how PR can support your fundraising activity and more.

25 March, Birmingham

Have we got it right? Safeguarding BME deaf and BME disabled children

http://www.nspcc.org.uk/inform/newsandevents/cpconferences/havewegotitright_wda62534.html

A conference bringing together policy makers, professionals and practitioners to identify the challenges, barriers and strategies for responding to the safeguarding needs of BME deaf and BME disabled children.

26th March, London

The future of child placement practice – Messages from research

http://www.baaf.org.uk/res/training/details/090326_se_conf.shtml

By the end of the day, delegates will have had an opportunity to consider: a substantial range of evidence from a range of highly regarded studies; what we know, where there is controversy and what we still need to gather more evidence about; the lessons and implications for both child placement policy and practice; where the next 10 years might take us that makes a real difference to the outcomes for children in care.

26th March, London

Aiming High for Disabled Children, Putting Government Policy into Practice

<http://www.conferencesandtraining.com/disabled-children>

Aiming High for Disabled Children (AHDC), a three year government initiative running from 2008-2011, moves up a gear in April as local agencies receive a new tranche of funding to transform provision by improving access to universal services and radically improving specialist services. Supported by £430 million of government money, AHDC is widely seen as an opportunity for practitioners and their managers to move services on to a new level in the battle to help disabled children and their families improve their lives. This conference is an excellent opportunity for practitioners and their managers to find out about the latest thinking and experience on policy and practice.

27th March, London

A Solution Focused Approach - working with young people & Families in a Social and Education Setting

http://www.brief-therapy-uk.com/docs/title/training_events

Using the Solution Focused Approach to work with young people & their families to support family relationships and enhance learning within educational settings.

28th April, Sheffield

The Social Educator in a Globalised World AIEJI 17th World Congress

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

<http://aieji2009.dk/AIEJI2009/UK/Registration/Registration%20and%20fees.aspx>

<http://aieji2009.dk/home/Aktuelt/Verdenskongres%202009/Free%20private%20accommodation.aspx>

<http://da-dk.facebook.com/group.php?gid=53627158155&ref=share>

How can social educators around the globe create networks that strengthen the struggle for a decent life for everyone? How do we develop our profession in such a way that our work does not become part of the new forms of power but helps create a decent life for everyone? How do social educators make themselves familiar with and learn to master the global media to ensure focus on social exclusion – wherever it takes place? And how can we use the new media in the struggle against social exclusion? The ambition is to come up with answers to these questions in such a way that they can be used in our daily work as social educators.

- Due to the financial crisis that has many social organisations, the AIEJI secretariat has decided to extend the period of early registration to 1 March 2009. Until 1 March, the early registration fee is 400 EUR and will from 1 April increase to 475 EUR. Students and attendees from Latin America, Africa, Asia and Palestine can register at a reduced fee throughout the whole registration period.
- Many families and private individuals are ready to welcome their foreign colleagues into their homes for free private accommodation during the congress.
- There is now a Facebook group called "AIEJI World Congress 2009". The idea is to have a collective forum where the attendees of the congress can meet and exchange views and generally get to know each other. At the moment of writing the group has 60 members - primarily from Denmark.

4-7 May, Denmark

Children's Food Practices in Families and Institutions

<http://www.dass.stir.ac.uk/old-site/food-practices/>

Food is both an essential and mundane part of everyday life. Our familiarity with it can mean that we often pay little attention to the meanings and actions that surround it. Food practices can, however, provide a remarkable insight into different social arenas and the relationships between adults and children. This one day conference presents recent studies into children's experiences and practices around food in families, schools, and residential children's homes. Attendance is free but places are limited. Bookings should be made via the Conference website and then by email to jennifer.gordon@stir.ac.uk

11 May 2009, Stirling

Deaf Parenting UK Conference – Education, Education, Education

<http://www.deafparent.co.uk>

The theme, Education will focus on three key areas: Educating professionals about the needs of Deaf parents; Accessing children's education - vital for Deaf parents; and Educating Deaf parents on their rights and entitlement. The conference offers an exciting programme of speakers and fun family activities for children of Deaf parents. In addition the conference offers an excellent opportunity to meet with other Deaf parents, families and professionals, in order to work together to ensure Deaf Parents have equal access to Education, Education, Education!

12 June, 2009, London