



NCERCC Notes – October 2008

1. NCERCC website

www.ncb.org.uk/ncercc

The NCERCC website is updated on an ongoing basis with documents relevant to the residential child care sector. In the last 12 months we have added Programme Board minutes, a report on last year's evaluation of our services, reports from the CRN regional events and, in the A-Z section, resources on the following topics:

- Solution focused residential unit
- Restorative approaches
- Reviewing statement of purpose dev pack
- Resilience paper
- Introducing social pedagogy into RCC
- Missing from care
- Participation report
- Highlight young people leaving care
- Risk assessment
- Setting of boundaries
- Staff handover
- Termination of placement
- Admission development pack
- Young person's questionnaire
- Overnight stays proformas
- Good practice guide for keeping in touch
- Setting up children's homes
- Biographies of young people
- Missing from care - young women
- House meetings
- Children decision making audit
- Attachment
- Fostering resilience
- Reading for life
- Eating at the table

2. NCERCC Annual Conference, 5 November, Manchester

http://www.ncb.org.uk/Page.asp?originx_4473tj_16524062400442n70a_20088264940b

This year's themes reflect the priorities for the year ahead, including leadership, management and outcomes. This conference offers the opportunity to hear positive developments in some of the most challenging areas to RCC.

3. Anti-bullying week 17-21 November

http://www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/Page.asp?originx_5240ck_84140993665645e88j_20071121142y

The theme of Anti-bullying week this year is 'Being different, being together'. Information and resources are available from the website.

4. Government & Associated

The Shared Care Network – short break network – free regional events

The Shared Care Network has received funding from the Department for Schools, Children and Families to bring together residential short breaks services for disabled children and explore developing a national network. The definition of residential short break services in this context are services that offers disabled children:

- Regular scheduled breaks away from their place of residence,
- The breaks take place in a residential setting,
- The breaks do not exceed 28 days continuous care or 120 days per year.

Amongst other things, SCN will be organising regional networking and consultation events and looking to produce a specific residential short breaks response to the anticipated public consultation on the National Minimum Standards later this year.

Four free regional meetings are being held in Bristol, London, Manchester and Newcastle.

The aims of these meetings are:

- To gather the views of the residential short breaks sector on the need for a national network.
- The role and aims of a national network.
- To explore the key issues for the residential short breaks sector.
- To look to the future and residential short breaks role within the developments driven by Aiming High.

All meetings will run between 11am – 2:30pm with lunch provided. Meeting will be held on the following days:

- Monday 24th November 2008, Bristol, Thistle Hotel.
- Monday 15th December 2008, London, County Hall, Westminster.
- Monday 12th January 2009, Manchester, Thistle Hotel.
- Monday 16th February 2009, Newcastle, Thistle Hotel.

Places are limited and free of charge. They will be allocated on a first-come-first-served basis. SCN are happy for more than one participant to attend from organisations, but as places are limited, initially each organisation will be allocated one place and the other possible participants will be placed on a waiting list.

If you wish to attend, please email the following information to Magda Conway, Residential Short Breaks Development Officer magda.Conway@sharedcarenetwork.org.uk :

- Which meeting to you wish to attend?
- Name
- Job Title
- Organisation
- Address
- Email
- Do you have any particular dietary requirements?
- Do you have particular access needs?
- Do you have any particular hearing needs?

Providers to be surveyed on commissioning.

The Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) has asked BMRB, an independent market research agency, to conduct an inaugural survey of providers of services to children, young people and families. This survey will help DCSF to better understand the perceptions and experiences of these providers with regard to how they are commissioned by local authorities and their Children's Trust partners. For example, it will seek to capture experiences of tendering and bidding processes, perceptions of how level the playing field is, and expectations for the future.

The results will be used to inform the Department's commissioning policy which aims to transform the commissioning of services for children, young people and families by Children's Trust partners. If the survey is repeated on a regular basis it will enable change to be tracked over time. Around 2,000 interviews will be conducted with representative samples of the following types of provider:

- Providers of placements in residential children's homes
- Providers of placements in non-maintained, and approved independent, residential special schools
- Providers of fostering services
- Providers of adoption services
- Providers of short breaks for disabled children
- Providers of positive activities for young people
- Providers of parenting and family support services
- Providers of home-to-school transport
- Providers of school supply teachers

These interviews will take place in spring 2009, although there will be a small pilot survey in November 2008, and the resulting report will be published on the Department's website in autumn 2009.

The participation of providers is entirely optional but DCSF hope to achieve high response rates so that the survey results are considered to be robust and representative of the wider populations of providers. In addition, all survey responses will be treated confidentially and will only be published in an aggregated form.

If you would like any further information on this survey, then please contact the DCSF project manager, Alan Krikorian: Alan.KRIKORIAN@dcsf.gsi.gov.uk

Quality standards for special educational needs [SEN] support and outreach services

<http://publications.teachernet.gov.uk/eOrderingDownload/00582-2008DOM-EN.pdf>

This guidance sets out quality standards for all SEN support and outreach services working in early years settings, mainstream and special schools, and other provision. The voluntary standards are designed to be used as suggested markers against which services provided can be evaluated. The standards can be applied across the full range of services provided.

Children's care monitor 2008: children's views on how care is doing

<http://www.rights4me.org/reportView.cfm?id=218>

http://rights4me.org/content/beheardreports/191/REPORT_Childrens_care_monitor.pdf

The Children's Rights Director for England has published "Children's care monitor 2008" - a report about the views of children in care. The report records the experiences of children in six specific areas as part of an annual monitoring process. From keeping safe, education, and bullying to care planning - consultation with children on these topics will be charted every year to show trends and highlight improvements or concerns. This year's monitor shows that there

are some variations in children's experiences. For example, children with a disability were more likely to feel unsafe and be bullied compared to everyone else in the survey. Similarly, older children (over 14 years) were more likely to be asked their opinion on things that matter to them and have more of a say in what went on in their care plans. The monitor shows that children value being asked for an opinion about things that matter to them and are interested to what extent their opinion counts when decisions are made.

Cafcass health and wellbeing review: the experiences of young people in care

http://www.cafcass.gov.uk/news/2008/health_and_wellbeing_review.aspx

Based on a research event organised by the Cafcass Children's Rights Team, this report outlines what young people in care feel about their health and wellbeing. It found that young people in care were happy but they sometimes felt the effects of stress, wanted better advice on relationships, and more support to eat healthily. Key findings include:

- many of the young people started to drink alcohol, smoke, take drugs, and experiment with sex at an early age but interestingly only 11% had experience of drug taking;
- more than a third of the young people felt that their health was only average;
- a large number felt that they were or had experienced stress;
- cost was seen as a barrier when considering healthy eating;
- very few people chose to go to professionals when considering sexual health;
- young people in care seek support from family and friends they left behind;
- peer pressure is a big impact on lifestyle choice for young people.

Statistics on children looked after in England year ending March 2008

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000810/index.shtml>

The Department for Children, Schools and Families has published the latest statistics for children in England who are subject to a child protection plan and children in care.

Disabled Children: Numbers, Characteristics and Local Service Provision

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/research/programmeofresearch/projectinformation.cfm?projectid=15219&resultspage=1>

The purpose of the research was to collect data at national and local level on the numbers and characteristics of disabled children and the availability of local service provision for them, so as to reduce the lack of information in these areas. A questionnaire survey of all Directors of Children's Services was undertaken.

Common Assessment Framework for children and young people

Integrated working to improve outcomes for children and young people

Managers' guide:

<http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/files/C90390EA0078D3E9721C7C1A8F04DDBE.pdf>

Practitioners' guide:

<http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/files/0C734C7BC2984FA94F5ED0D500B7EF02.pdf>

The Common Assessment Framework (CAF) is a key part of delivering frontline services that are integrated and focused around the needs of children and young people. The CAF is a standardised approach to conducting an assessment of a child's additional needs and deciding how those needs should be met. It can be used by practitioners across children's services in England.

Children's Plan: building brighter futures – speech by Kevin Brennan

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/speeches/search_detail.cfm?ID=826

The DCSF have just published this transcript of the speech by Children's Minister Kevin Brennan at the Aspect Annual Conference on 29 August 2008. He talks about bringing together all the professions in the children's workforce.

Couldn't care less: a policy report from the Children in Care Working Group

<http://www.centreforsocialjustice.org.uk/client/downloads/CouldntCareLessReportFINAL.pdf>
<http://www.centreforsocialjustice.org.uk/client/downloads/CouldntCareLessEXECUTIVESUMMARY.pdf>

Part of the Breakthrough Britain series, the report from the Centre for Social Justice argues that the care system is a 'source of national shame'. The report asserts that there are key issues which policy up until now has not effectively recognised. These include the effect on the care population of family breakdown, and the contributing factors of alcohol and drug addiction, serious debt and related financial problems, and domestic violence. The report argues for a greater focus on prevention, including proposals for "whole family fostering" and a role for Family Services Hubs, and makes various proposals regarding support for care leavers.

The report shows that four out of ten foster carers think the care system has deteriorated in the past ten years. Iain Duncan Smith, Chair of the Centre for Social Justice, said 'Ironically, the plight of children in care is so dreadful that if they were living with their natural parents the state would insist on taking them into care'. Only 11 per cent of children in care gain five A*-C GCSEs, compared with 56 per cent of all children, and just 29 per cent of care leavers are in education, training or employment. About a third of homeless people were in care as children, and almost a third of care leavers start misusing drugs or alcohol within a year of leaving care.

A false economy: how failing to invest in the care system for children will cost us all

<http://www.neweconomics.org/gen/uploads/rx2bsk55ijm0d045q3v5rm4509092008085320.pdf>

This is the second in a series of research reports from the new economics foundation (nef) programme Measuring What Matters. It argues that, while good residential care services can still be found behind the dramatic headlines about 'failing' care homes, the best work in this area going unnoticed or has been undermined by a preoccupation with inappropriate performance targets and cost cutting. The study used the concept of Social Return on Investment (SROI) to examine closely how young people are benefiting from the work of two of the UK's well-regarded care homes – Bryn Melyn Care Ltd and Shaftesbury Young People. In applying this form of analysis to residential care, nef found that policy-makers are putting some of society's most vulnerable young people at even greater risk of exclusion because they are failing to grasp the benefits that high-quality care homes bring to children and to wider society.

Real meals: simple cooking that tastes great

<http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/wholeschool/healthyliving/schoolfoodanddrink/realmeals/>

The Government has published a free cookbook for all 11-year-olds, to help them learn healthy versions of old favourites. The cookbook features 32 recipes and sauces nominated by the public as the basic dishes every child should learn how to cook. The cookbook is available online and headteachers will be able to order copies for all their Year 7 pupils.

Scotland's care watchdog is calling for better food for looked-after children.

http://www.carecommission.com/images/stories/documents/publications/reviews/qualitycare/food_nutrition_for_children_young_people.pdf

The Care Commission has spent a year inspecting the quality and range of food on offer in special schools, children's homes and secure units across Scotland. It found a number of examples where better, healthier and more varied food was needed. In total one fifth of the 224 settings inspected needed to make improvements in areas including serving more fruit and vegetables, improving staff training and taking account of children's preferences.

Ronnie Hill, director of children's services regulation at the commission, said: "It is widely accepted young people who find themselves in care are more likely to have come from a background of deprivation and poor diet – while those who come out of care are more likely to suffer

NCERCC will have a practice document on this subject this Autumn and is applying for research funding to develop a substantial practice reference document later in 2009.

Cartoon characters criticized

<http://www.which.co.uk/news/2008/10/cartoon-characters-promote-less-healthy-foods-157678.jsp>

The consumer group Which? has identified 19 cartoon characters which are used to promote food high in fats, salt or sugar and has called for characters such as Coco the Monkey and Pom Bear to be used to advertise healthier food instead. Moo the Dairy Lea cow was named as the worst offender for advertising a cheese high in salt and fat, followed by Pom Bear crisps and Kellogg's Tony the Tiger. The report, 'Cartoon villains are still getting away with it', said the practice of using such characters is adding to childhood obesity. Julian Hunt, a spokesman for the Food and Drink Federation, said 'We're baffled as to why Which? want to take the fun out of food by banning popular characters...besides many of the products mentioned in this report have changed their recipes in recent years to be healthier'.

Ministerial changes

- Beverley Hughes remains as Minister for Children
- Baroness Delyth Morgan replaces Lord Adonis at the Department for Children, Schools and Families.
- Sarah McCarthy-Fry MP is now Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the DCSF replacing
- Kevin Brennan MP. She will take the special educational needs and disabled children brief - see: <http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/aboutus/whoswho/ministersinfo.shtml#mccarthy-fry>
- Jonathan Shaw has replaced Anne McGuire as Minister for Disabled People.
- Margaret Beckett replaces Caroline Flint as Minister of State for Housing

Restorative Justice trial in schools

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/education/education-news/restorative-justice-cuts-exclusions-948595.html>

The 'restorative justice' scheme that is being trialled in 20 failing schools and a number of academies has cut the number of pupil exclusions by as much as half. Under the scheme, bullies are made to confront their victims and pupils who are disruptive in other ways are forced to explain their actions. The scheme has led to a 27 per cent reduction in bullying. Sir Charles Pollard, former chief constable of Thames Valley region, who is leading the scheme, said 'There has been a 45 per cent reduction rate in exclusion...it has also improved behaviour in general in the schools'. Researchers at King's College London are carrying out an assessment of the pilot scheme in Bristol and Sefton, Merseyside, which will be presented to ministers early next year with a view to extending the scheme nationwide if successful.

Barnardo's report on rise in child and youth custody sentences.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2008/sep/22/ukcrime.prisonsandprobation>

More children aged between 10 and 14 are being locked up in England and Wales - increasingly for more minor offences - than in any western European country, the charity Barnardo's has warned. A fivefold surge in child and youth custody sentences over the past decade has created an "expensive and ineffective" criminal justice strategy, it says. The rise has come despite there being no significant increase in serious crime by children over the same period, and has resulted in youngsters "being written off" by the age of 12, Barnardo's says. "We are almost alone in western society in routinely incarcerating large numbers of children aged 10 to 14 who commit crime," according to a report on child custody by the charity. The study, 'Locking up or giving up - is custody for children always the right answer?', is based on the latest available data covering the years 1996 to 2006.

EDCM call for better ‘places to go and things to do’ for disabled children and young people

Going places: briefing and campaign tool

http://www.edcm.org.uk/Page.asp?originx_1459ih_366267040085m22n_20089185313p

http://www.edcm.org.uk/Page.asp?originx_5175bn_2888810122597t49o_20089184948s

In summer 2007 Every Disabled Child Matters asked disabled children and young people this question: “If you were Prime Minister for the day and could change one thing, what would it be?” The top answer was to ‘have more fun things to do’ - just like other young people. Then, in summer 2008, EDCM asked disabled children and young people this question: “What would more fun things to do and places to go look like for you?” This booklet sets out their answers, and makes recommendations about what needs to happen to ensure all disabled children and young people have the opportunity to be ‘going places’. Christine Lenehan, EDCM Board Member and Director of the Council for Disabled Children, comments: ‘Our Going Places! report shows that disabled children just want the same chance as other children to play, go out, and be with their friends. Good practice examples across the country show that this is not too much to ask. We urge the government, and all play and youth workers, to have high expectations for disabled children to enjoy the same childhood and teenage experiences as their non-disabled peers.’

Burnham unveils scheme to give a million free theatre tickets to young people

http://www.culture.gov.uk/reference_library/media_releases/5479.aspx

A new scheme to encourage young people to experience live theatre has been announced by Culture Secretary Andy Burnham. A £2.5 million programme – funded by Arts Council England, who will manage the scheme – will be focused on some 95 venues throughout England. The scheme will start in February 2009 with an initial goal of providing a million free tickets by March 2011. Theatres taking part will have to guarantee free seats for young people across the whole two-year period

5. Sheffield Hallam introduces new childcare degree

<http://www.cypnow.co.uk/bulletins/InPractice/news/846030/?DCMP=EMC-InPractice>

http://prospectus.shu.ac.uk/op_pglookup1.cfm?id_num=148&Status=TN

A new degree-level qualification for professionals working with vulnerable children, young people and their families has been developed by Sheffield Hallam University and the British Association for Adoption and Fostering. The BA in Safeguarding and Caring for Children and Young People has been devised with the help of foster carers and care leavers so students can learn first-hand about children’s rights and their need to have a say in planning their own care. Course leader Pete Nelson said: “It is designed to be work based, part-time and flexible so that people can take individual modules to meet specific learning and development needs. The theory and research can continually be applied to work practice so it’s also practical.”

The course, which will be taught at one of BAAF’s regional centres, will enable students to update their knowledge of legal and policy developments and be trained in producing reports for use in court or to present to adoption panels. Social workers with a diploma who successfully complete the course will gain a full honours degree. Those who already have a degree will receive a graduate certificate or a graduate diploma in Safeguarding and Caring for Children and Young People.

6. Resources

Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder: diagnosis and management of ADHD in children, young people and adults

<http://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/index.jsp?action=byID&o=12061>

This clinical guidance covers the care, treatment and support that children, young people and adults with ADHD should be offered, and how families and carers can support people with ADHD. It does not look specifically at the treatment of children under 3 years or the treatment of conditions other than ADHD.

Help is at hand: a resource for people bereaved by suicide and other sudden, traumatic death

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_087031

A guide aimed at people who are affected by suicide or other sudden, traumatic death. It gives information about practical matters as well as about the grieving process and advice to specific groups including children and young people and parents who have lost a child. It lists sources of support and further reading and also provides information for healthcare and other professionals who come into contact with bereaved people, to assist them in providing help and to suggest how they themselves may find support if they need it.

Gangs: you and your child

http://direct.gov.uk/en/Parents/Yourchildshealthandsafety/WorriedAbout/DG_171325

An eight-page Home Office booklet detailing the practical steps parents and carers can take if they suspect their child may be involved with gangs, and who to contact for help and support.

Bullying involving children with SEN and disabilities

Safe to Learn: embedding anti-bullying work in schools

<http://publications.teachernet.gov.uk/eOrderingDownload/Bullying-SEN.pdf>

Safe To Learn is a suite of guidance materials for mainstream and special schools. This document forms the supplementary guidance on identifying and dealing with bullying involving children and young people with SEN and disabilities and provides practical guidance on dealing with allegations of bullying.

A Multidisciplinary Handbook of Child and Adolescent Mental Health for Front-line Professionals.

<http://www.jkp.com/new/9781843106449>

This fully updated edition of A Multidisciplinary Handbook of Child and Adolescent Mental Health for Front-line Professionals is an accessible introduction to child mental health, covering the nature, prevalence, treatment and management of mental health problems in children and young people. The authors explore issues such as assessing and meeting the mental health needs of young people, specific mental health problems such as attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) and learning difficulties, and legal aspects of working with child mental health. They also assess diversity issues as an integral part of practice, and highlight practice issues for readers. The book contains illustrative case studies and self-directed exercises, and outlines the services available to children with mental health problems. This second edition also includes additional material on working with culture and diversity, plus the latest clinical guidelines and current medication.

The Red Beast - Controlling Anger in Children with Asperger's Syndrome

<http://www.jkp.com/catalogue/book.php/isbn/9781843109433>

Deep inside everyone, a red beast lies sleeping. When it is asleep, the red beast is quite small, but when it wakes up, it begins to grow and grow. This is the story of a red beast that was awakened.

Rufus is in the school playground when his friend John kicks a ball that hit him in the stomach, and wakes up the sleeping red beast: 'I hate you - I'm gonna sort you out!'. The red beast doesn't hear the teacher asking if he's okay. It doesn't see that John is sorry - how can Rufus tame the red beast?

This vibrant fully illustrated children's storybook is written for children aged 5+, and is an accessible, fun way to talk about anger, with useful tips about how to 'tame the red beast' and guidance for parents on how anger affects children with Asperger's Syndrome.

SCIE Knowledge review 22: Working with challenging and disruptive situations in residential child care: Sharing effective practice

<http://www.scie.org.uk/publications/knowledgereviews/kr22.asp>

Residential care for children should be a positive resource. Homes providing a strong nurturing culture give children the care they need at certain times in their lives. Residential care which meets the personal, social, health and educational needs of children are much more likely to be safe places for children. This downloadable knowledge review examines a particular aspect of keeping children safe and promoting their well-being: managing challenging and disruptive situations.

Coming to the UK

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

Visiting a country that you have never visited before can be a daunting experience for many. For unaccompanied asylum-seeking and refugee children and young people, being sent alone to the UK, for reasons of safety, is not only daunting but can be bewildering, even frightening. Where will they live? Will they go to school or not? What happens if they are ill? What will they hope to find once they get here?

This informative – almost a short introductory “rough guide” – to the UK – contains much information that these children and young people will find helpful. Illustrated throughout with photographs, the guide provides much needed information on a number of topics, including: housing, schooling and higher education, health issues, food, staying safe, public transport, leisure time, and offers a glimpse of what UK society is like. Whereas other guides aimed at unaccompanied asylum-seeking children and young people focus on their legal status, immigration rules and their rights, this guide deliberately concentrates on societal and lifestyle issues, providing a handy introduction to what young people can expect to find once they get here.

The Social Worker's Guide to Children and Families Law

<http://www.jkp.com/new/9781843106531>

The Social Worker's Guide to Children and Families Law is an accessible, jargon-free guide to the key elements of the law that concern practising social workers in children and families teams. This resource for everyday practice includes explanations of the fundamental concepts of parental responsibility and human rights, and the detailed provisions of private and public law, including adoption. The legal issues raised by atypical families (such as those in gay relationships, of mixed heritage or with children or parents with disabilities) are also covered throughout the text. It includes bullet lists, checklists and charts for quick and easy reference, as well as highlighted points for practice and illustrative case scenarios to put the law into context. This guide will be an invaluable resource for practising social workers, as well as trainees, students and those studying for post-qualifying awards.

Personalisation: The Seven Steps of Self-Directed Support

This is a new commissioning model, published today by In Control and the DCSF's Commissioning Support Unit. The document sets out a commonly-used process of self-directed support. The paper is based on work with 22 Children's Services focused on developing personal budgets and addressing the wider personalisation agenda for children and young people across social care, health and education. The work in each site is being supported by In Control (<http://www.in-control.org.uk/>); development in the first eight Children's Services began in autumn 2007.

This Commissioning tool is the latest in a range of resources produced by the DCSF. For further information on commissioning and market development, including other case studies & resources, please see: www.ecm.gov.uk/strategy/planningandcommissioning.

Young people's specialist substance misuse treatment: Needs assessment good practice guidance

http://www.nta.nhs.uk/areas/young_people/young_people_treatment_planning.aspx

This good practice guidance focuses on the process to identify the needs of young people requiring specialist substance misuse treatment. The guidance has been issued by the NHS's National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse and offers advice on carrying out an assessment of local needs. It emphasises the importance of trusts and councils working in partnership to ensure that hard-to-reach young people with drugs problems are pinpointed and targeted with support. The guidance outlines proposed submission and assessment arrangements for young people's commissioners to use in their planning processes in partnership with NTA regional teams and other local and regional partners. Example templates are provided for the three parts of the submission.

Racist Incidents and Bullying in Schools: how to prevent them and how to respond to them when they happen - principles, guidance and practice

http://www.trentham-books.co.uk/cgi-bin/sh000001.pl?REFPAGE=http%3a%2f%2fwww%2etrentham%2dbooks%2eco%2euk%2f&WD=racist%20incidents&PN=Racist_Incidents_and_Bullying_in_Schools%2html%23a9781858564289#a9781858564289

The authors are Robin Richardson and Berenice Miles, both prominent in the fields of social justice and education. The book gives very clear advice and guidance about recognising, preventing and responding to racist bullying, it also allows space for the young people themselves to discuss the emotional damage of racist bullying and suggest solutions. It is relevant from pre-school through to secondary school.

Interconnections Electronic Bulletin

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

The October edition of the Interconnections Electronic Bulletin is now available.

7. Conferences/Training/Events – in date order

Happiness and its causes

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

Happiness & Its Causes is a conference like-no-other bringing together 40+ leading speakers to debate the underlying causes of happiness and wellbeing for you as an individual, your workplace and society at large. What is happiness? Is it possible? What holds us back from it? How to find happiness in the midst of suffering and sadness? How to forgive? How to bring happiness to others? Over four days — the two-day conference and two days of pre- and post-conference workshops — 40 of the best minds in psychology, philosophy, science, education, business, the arts, medicine, and politics will provide answers to these fundamental questions and explore techniques for achieving happiness and well-being, for ourselves and others.
9-10 October, London

Reframing child sexual abuse

www.mwisaccs.com

The resourceful practitioners guide to achieving good outcomes for children

The Mary Walsh Institute is working with NSPCC Fresh Start to deliver a series of 6 one day conferences and workshops across the UK. The aim of the conference is to raise the profile and

understanding of child sexual abuse by introducing the notion of the resourceful professional and presenting a new framework to promote prevention, afford protection and assure recovery.
3 November 2008: London
24 November 2008: Liverpool
8 December 2008: Cardiff
12 January 2009: Shrewsbury, Shropshire
2 February 2009: Newry, Co.Down, Northern Ireland
Leicester (date to be confirmed).

Unlocking the Talent of Children and Young People: The Culture and Creativity Challenge

<http://www.neilstewartassociates.com/kd170/>

This national conference will focus on the government's "Find Your Talent" scheme and other policy initiatives which seek to unlock children's talent through culture, creativity and the arts. In bringing together schools, children's services, cultural services and the creative and cultural sector, this major event will look at how to deliver the government's ambitions to provide children and young people with 5 hours high quality culture and creativity per week, in and out of school. Delegates will explore how to commission and coordinate networks which ensure schools and young people have access to creative resources and cultural institutions. The event will explore the implications for the curriculum and for teaching in order to improve learning outcomes.

16 October, Liverpool

Child Neglect

http://www.nspcc.org.uk/Inform/trainingandconsultancy/Training/TrainingCourses/childneglect_wda57565.html

A training course to help professionals consider the issue of neglect and its impact upon children. Drawing on contemporary research, the workshop aims to enhance participants' knowledge of neglect in order to aid effective multi-agency assessments and interventions with neglected children and neglectful families.

20 - 21 October 2008

PSHE: Developing practical strategies for assessment and evaluation

www.ncb.org.uk/training

This course enables participants encourages you to demonstrate how PSHE education assessment activities can contribute towards the five Every Child Matters outcomes. Participants will examine models of assessment and evaluation, and practice techniques for direct impact on practice. The course uses a range of presentation, discussion and small group work to explore the why, what and how of both assessment and evaluation and offers practical approaches and activities.

21 October, London

10 February 2009, Manchester

Child Care, the need for history, the importance of the past and planning for the future

Child Care History Network Founding AGM & Inaugural Conference

http://www.ihwte.org.uk/index.php?title=CCHN_Conference

Bringing together professional archivists, librarians, and oral historians with practitioners, administrators, former children, authors and academic researchers, in a unique event, to create an organisation and address essential themes in the history and future of child care

23 October, Cheltenham

Increasing Take-up of Quality Food

<http://neilstewart.msgfocus.com/q/14rujsIdbEUps5/wv>

The government has announced £650m ring-fenced funding for school lunches by 2011 to subsidise healthy ingredients and invest in training and in improving kitchens. In the face of challenges of rising food costs, this unique conference, now in its fourth year, will provide practical insights into achieving the new standards and how to increase take-up of school meals - effectively engaging parents; reaching BME children and families and how to develop a whole school approach to provision and learning.
29 October, London

CWDC Creative Consultation Events

<http://www.cwdcouncil.org.uk/participation/consultation-events>

CWDC are holding three one day events for children and young people to say what they think about CWDC's work and what they need from the people that work with them.

CWDC are inviting groups of children and young people to attend an all-day event to take part in creative workshops, including drama, multi-media, arts, video, puppetry and music. The events are suitable for 9-17 year olds and there will also be an opportunity for accompanying adult workers to voice their opinions.

31 October, Birmingham

22 November, Manchester

29 November, London

Transitions Seminar,

SIRCC and SCCYP

<http://www.sircc.strath.ac.uk/conferences/transitions.html>.

Turning 16 should be a sweet and exciting prospect, not a source of anxiety. It should not be the end of "care". Looking at the implementation of the SCCYP report "Sweet 16?", http://www.sccyp.org.uk/admin/04policy/files/spo_252134Leaving%20Care%20Summary%20for%20Web%20200803.pdf this event is particularly relevant to providers of services to young people approaching care-leaving. It is also relevant to disability and short break services as well as others. It will consider both policy and practical issues.

31 October, Glasgow

Assessment of Children's Services: Progress and Good Practice

<http://www.ssrg.org.uk/events/2008.asp#acs>

This event aims to look at developments in the performance management/performance information agenda-particularly outcomes; links to CAA etc - and consider work in progress (for example NIS2) as well as examples of good practice

3 November, Birmingham

Supporting Minority Ethnic Families

http://www.cesi.org.uk/training/course_pages/supporting_minority_ethnic_families.htm

This workshop has been developed for front-line staff who wish to develop a more "family focus" in their work with clients of diverse ethnic backgrounds. This session covers legislation and research evidence and will take participants through developments in supporting minority ethnic service users and will discuss ways of developing communication and work-based skills that are more culturally competent. It will explore cultural and faith based issues impacting family life and child rearing practices through case studies and will outline ways working effectively with families from minority ethnic communities.

4 November, London

NCERCC Annual Conference

http://www.ncb.org.uk/Page.asp?originx_4473tj_16524062400442n70a_20088264940b

This year's themes reflect the priorities for the year ahead, including leadership, management and outcomes. This conference offers the opportunity to hear positive developments in some of the most challenging areas to RCC.

5 November, Manchester

Making connections: how communities can collaborate for children and young peoples lifelong wellbeing and learning

Children in Scotland Annual Conference 2008 in association with Fife Council

<http://www.childreninscotland.org.uk/html/trashshow.php?ref=1092>

Making connections: how communities can collaborate for children and young people's lifelong wellbeing and learning. Children in Scotland's annual conference will look at how those working in the children's sector can share learning experiences in a way that sets the mood for continued collaboration, getting beyond basic information sharing and moving towards deeper cross-professional understanding and what impact local communities can have on their children's wellbeing.

6-7 November, St Andrews

Design, Develop, Deliver - Young Leaders in Practice' Conference

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

This conference is a unique opportunity to find out more about children and young people's empowerment and leadership. Delegates will also be able to discuss specific participation issues through a range of interactive discussion tables.

13 November, Birmingham

Children and Young People's Health and Wellbeing Conference

<http://www.haymarketevents.com/conferenceDetail/293/children-young-peoples-health-wellbeing?aid=EMMM&cid=17162URL1>

We all understand the importance of our contribution to the wellbeing of our children and young people, but it's easy to become overwhelmed by the tidal wave of issues about children's health service provision. The inaugural *Children and Young People Now* conference on children's health looks beyond the theory to provide you with practical ways of implementing strategies to improve the health and wellbeing of children and young people.

17 November, London

Transition Challenges: Young People with Asperger Syndrome - Delivering the best care and support from adolescence into adulthood

<http://www.conferencesandtraining.com/aspergers>

With the recent government launch of a national autism strategy and the appointment of a new autism champion, the profile of this invisible disability is set to rise dramatically. In addition, a study on the needs of those in transition from children's to adult services has also been commissioned by the Department for Children, Schools and Families and the Department of Health.

This Brookdale Care conference focuses specifically on Asperger syndrome and the transition between children's and adult services. Establish how to overcome the professional challenges of helping young people through transition. Gain expert guidance from our first rate speakers on best practice transition planning and how to implement successful strategies.

25 November, London

Improving the life chances of children in care

<http://www.capitaconferences.co.uk/NR/rdonlyres/2C0009AF-DA83-4646-A575-D6C99E83E73B/0/TSDEChildreninCare.pdf>

With the forthcoming introduction of the Children and Young Person's Bill and the recent publication of the White Paper 'Care Matters: Time for Change', the Government continues to

put the welfare of children in care at the top of its agenda. With constant targets for academic achievement and health outcomes, it is imperative that local authorities and key stakeholders share best practice and learn from leading practitioners in these areas. Capita's 4th National Improving the Life Chances of Children in Care Conference will bring together expert speakers, key organisations and young people to address the following issues: Effective corporate parenting; Improving the health and wellbeing of children in care; Addressing risk-taking behaviours; Raising educational attainment and support for children in care; Developing successful multi-agency partnerships; Improving the life chances of care leavers.

25 November, London

Practical Group Work Skills: Promoting emotional and social skills in young people

www.ncb.org.uk/training

This innovative training programme aims to develop the group work and active learning skills of all those who work in settings such as the classroom, youth clubs, Connexions services, PSHE work and alternative curriculum providers. The 2-day course enables participants to develop skills, directly applicable to group work activities in their settings. The focus is on supporting emotional and social skills development in young people.

25-26 November, London

Children's right to know their origins - too far, too fast?

Open Lecture - 5th annual Allan Levy Memorial Lecture

Professor Jane Fortin is Professor of Law at Sussex University. She writes widely on issues relating to child and family law. Her special interest in child law and children's rights led to her book *Children's Rights and the Developing Law* and to a variety of other publications considering the impact of legal principles on children and their families.

All welcome - the lecture is linked to the Institute of Education's MA Sociology of Childhood and Children's Rights course and the module 'Theories of Childhood and Children's Rights'.

For details see www.ioe.ac.uk/courses/macs

To book a place email Ginny Morrow: v.morrow@ioe.ac.uk

Thursday, 27th November 2007, 5:30—7pm, Institute of Education, University of London

"Therapeutic Communities: A natural impulse or evolving technology?"

Lecture by David Kennard, Consultant Clinical Psychologist and Group Analyst, former editor of the journal *Therapeutic Communities*, author of *An Introduction to Therapeutic Communities* and chair of ISPS UK.

7.00 p.m. on 28 November 2008 at Henderson Hospital 2 Homeland Drive Sutton Surrey SM2 5LT

Tickets £10 (Limited Availability)

For further information contact Henderson@swlstg-tr.nhs.uk