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March 2017

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1. Care of unaccompanied and trafficked children (03/03/17)

Since Summer 2016, the DfE has consulted and collaborated with a range of LAs, NGOs and other government departments to identify the required revisions and produce a revised draft of the 2014 statutory guidance on the care of unaccompanied asylum seeking and trafficked children.

This consultation now seeks views as to whether the revised guidance provides sufficient advice to LAs in England looking after unaccompanied migrant children and child victims of modern slavery.

The statutory guidance on the care of unaccompanied asylum seeking and trafficked children was originally published in 2014. Recent legislative changes such as the Modern Slavery Act 2015, policy developments such as the National Transfer Scheme for unaccompanied asylum seeking children and events around the recent migration crisis have meant that it is necessary to update the guidance so that it is of best use to local authorities.

Closing date: 17th March 2017

<https://consult.education.gov.uk/children-in-care/care-of-unaccompanied-and-trafficked-children/>
<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/care-of-unaccompanied-and-trafficked-children>

2. Open Consultation - School exclusion guidance: proposed revisions (14 March 2017)

Views are being sought on planned changes to statutory guidance for local-authority maintained schools, academies and pupil referral units. The Open Consultation runs until 25th April 2017.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/school-exclusion-guidance-proposed-revisions>

3. Child Abuse and Neglect: early help, recognition, assessment and response to abuse and neglect of children and young people. Draft guidance consultation (NICE, February 2017). Closing date: 19/4/17.

The DoH and DfE asked NICE to produce this guideline on child abuse and neglect. The guideline will be particularly aimed at social workers, healthcare professionals, people in lead professional roles in services such as education, and local safeguarding children boards. It covers physical, emotional and sexual abuse, and neglect. It aims to build on the recommendations in the NICE guideline 'child maltreatment' and 'children's attachment'. It covers particular safeguarding issues including CSE, FGM, Forced Marriage and Child Trafficking.

<https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/indevelopment/gid-scwave0708/consultation/html-content-2>

4. Supporting Safeguarding - Contributing to the safety and welfare of children and young people (Youth Justice Board for England and Wales 2016)

This document describes how the Youth Justice Board (YJB) undertakes this responsibility – using their good practice and oversight role to support the youth justice section in the delivery of its safeguarding duties.

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/579736/201612_Supporting_Safeguarding_Statement.pdf

5. Government launches major new drive on internet safety (February 2017)

Ministers have begun work on a new Internet Safety Strategy aimed at making Britain the safest country in the world for children and young people to be online.

Culture Secretary Karen Bradley is leading the new cross-Government drive on behalf of the Prime Minister – with a green paper expected in the summer.

A report has been commissioned to provide up to date evidence of how young people are using the internet, the dangers they face, and the gaps that exist in keeping them safe. Sonia Livingstone is leading this work together with Professor Julia Davidson and Dr Jo Bryce, on behalf of the UK's Council for Child Internet Safety (UKCCIS) Evidence Group.

Ministers will also hold a series of round tables in the coming weeks with social media companies, technology firms, young people, charities and mental health experts to examine online risks and how to tackle them.

The work is expected to centre on four main priorities: how to help young people help themselves; helping parents face up the dangers and discuss them with children; industry's responsibilities to society; and how technology can help provide solutions.

It comes amid growing fears that the threat from online dangers has grown far more quickly than society's response to them, and worries that tech-savvy young people are being exposed to risks that their parents never were and might not know how to confront – like sexting, cyber bullying, and content which promotes self-harm, suicide and eating disorders.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-launches-major-new-drive-on-internet-safety>

6. A new agreement launched by ADCS and Cafcass aims to strengthen the ways in which social workers work together for children facing the care system. (February 2017)

At a time when demand levels for care proceedings remain high, ADCS and Cafcass have agreed how social workers in both local authorities and those acting as guardians in family proceedings can better work together during care proceedings and pre-proceedings in the family courts.

The agreement, which was launched on 10th February, confirms a 'culture of urgency' for children and young people. It acknowledges the pressure on the care system and sets out how local authorities and Cafcass aim to work together to secure swift outcomes for children, young people and their families. It also recognises the distinct role social workers and guardians play and provides a framework for resolving disputes between professionals.

<https://www.cafcass.gov.uk/news/2017/february/high-demand-requires-exceptional-collaboration-between-local-authorities-and-cafcass.aspx>

7. Association of Lawyers for Children hits out at Cafcass/ADCS agreement

The Association of Lawyers for Children (ALC) has said it is “deeply concerned” by a recent agreement entered into by Cafcass and the Association of Directors of Children’s Services.

http://www.localgovernmentlawyer.co.uk/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=30295%3Aassociation-of-lawyers-for-children-hits-out-at-cafcassadcs-agreement&catid=54&Itemid=22

8. Request for Literature: Characteristics and vulnerabilities of victims of online-facilitated CSA and exploitation (23/02/17)

IICSA and Lancaster University are asking organisations to let them know about any unpublished literature or ongoing research in this area by the 28 April.

The Inquiry has commissioned the Department of Sociology at Lancaster University to provide a review of the most up to date research on the characteristics and vulnerabilities of victims of online-facilitated CSA.

The findings will help pinpoint areas where further research is needed and help inform IICSA's investigations. They may also inform recommendations for policy and practice.

<https://www.iicsa.org.uk/news/request-literature-characteristics-and-vulnerabilities-victims-online-facilitated-child-sexual>

9. Press Release - Prime Minister announced plans for a major programme of work leading towards bringing forward a Domestic Violence and Abuse Act. (17 February 2017)

The programme of work will look at what more can be done to improve support for victims especially in the way the law, and legal procedures, currently work for such victims. Experts in this area will be invited to contribute ideas and proposals for improving the way the system works which is likely to lead to legislation – making it much easier for law enforcement bodies to find and use more consistently the measures at their disposal. The Prime Minister will also ask for any potential ‘quick wins’ in the intervening period to be identified and acted upon. The Prime Minister will directly oversee this work, which will be truly cross-governmental – but co-ordinated by the Home Office and the Ministry of Justice.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/prime-ministers-plans-to-transform-the-way-we-tackle-domestic-violence-and-abuse>

10. Violence against women and girls: service transformation fund - Guidance on the application process for the service transformation fund, which offers £15 million for local service that address violence against women and girls. The formal application process has been extended until 1st March 2017.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/violence-against-women-and-girls-service-transformation-fund>

11. Coercive Control website (RIPFA)

The Serious Crime Act 2015 creates a new offence of controlling or coercive behaviour in intimate or familial relationships (section 76). This website is for social workers and other health and social care practitioners to develop their knowledge and skills in working with situations of coercive control (Research in Practice for Adults and Women's Aid). This resource was commissioned by the Chief Social Workers' Office at the Dept of Health.

<http://coercivecontrol.ripfa.org.uk/>

12. Care Act Statutory guidance - updated (Dept. of Health, 24/02/17)

Statutory guidance to support implementation of part 1 of the Care Act 2014 by LAs. Updated to reflect changes in the law on charging armed forces veterans for care and support from 10 April 2017.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/care-act-statutory-guidance>

13. Decision Making Toolkit - SEND

This decision making toolkit is a practical guide to support social workers, health practitioners, school and college staff, parent carers, families and anyone working directly with children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). It is designed to be used in partnership with young people to support them to make their own decisions and to participate as fully as possible in decisions made on their behalf.

The toolkit has been developed based on feedback from practitioners who attended Council for Disabled Children 'It's My Life! Decisions, capacity and EHC plans' training in July 2016 and it includes a template practitioners can use to support a young person who lacks capacity to go through a best interests decision making process based on the best interests checklist in the Mental Capacity Act 2005 code of practice.

https://councilfordisabledchildren.org.uk/help-resources/resources/decision-making-toolkit-0?mc_cid=7bda96c920&mc_eid=05ad7c480f#163961_20170301092611

14. Contact after adoption (Research in Practice)

Research in Practice (RiP) has launched the Contact after adoption website containing open access resources for practitioners. The website draws on research by Professor Beth Neil at University of East Anglia, and includes research briefings and practical tools for training and working with families, case studies and video and audio resources. Topics covered include: planning and reviewing contact plans; supporting birth relatives; listening to children; and letterbox contact.

<http://contact.rip.org.uk/>

15. Article from Local Government Lawyer on Secure Accommodation - English local authorities looking to place children in secure accommodation in Scotland have faced significant legal hurdles.

Lucia Clark and Anna Forsyth explain how they have been overcome. (9 March, Local Government Lawyer)

http://www.localgovernmentlawyer.co.uk/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=30365%3Asecure-accommodation-orders-children-or-young-people-placed-in-scotland&catid=54&Itemid=22

16. Harmful Sexual Behaviour - NSPCC research report looking at the characteristics of young children who display HSB - particularly younger children, children with a learning difficulty and girls who use the Turn the Page service. Looks at their needs and highlights learning from practitioners about what works to support them. Also Turn the Page final evaluation - Adolescent boys who display HSB.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/services-and-resources/research-and-resources/2017/characteristics-children-who-display-harmful-sexual-behaviour/>

Harmful Sexual Behaviour (NSPCC) features a blog by Simon Hackett to identify potential benefits of the HSB framework (27 Feb)

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/services-and-resources/impact-evidence-evaluation-child-protection/impact-and-evidence-insights/developed-harmful-sexual-behaviour-framework/>

17. NICE Transition from children's to adults' services (Quality Standard, December 2016)

This quality standard covers all young people (aged up to 25) using children's health and social care services who are due to make the transition to adults' services. It includes young people: with mental health problems; with disabilities; with long-term, life-limiting or complex needs; in secure settings; under the care of local authorities.

<https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/qs140>

18. Country report England: Responding to Child to Parent Violence: European Perspective

Authors: Responding to Child to Parent Violence (RCPV), Paula Wilcox, Michelle Pooley, Alexandria Papamichail

Format: Online report

Summary: Report compiling information on child to parent violence (CPV) in England. Covers: statistics on CPV; legislation and policies; referral pathways when CPV is reported; details of response to CPV from the Home Office, the health and youth justice sectors, local authorities, the police and non-governmental organisations (NGOs).

Publication details: [Brighton]: Responding to Child to Parent Violence (RCPV), 2016

<http://www.rcpv.eu/63-rcpv-england-country-report/file>

Information and Tools for Children and Families, Parents and Carers

AGENDA: a young people's guide to making positive relationships matter - AGENDA is a free online toolkit developed with young people, for young people. Supporting young people to raise awareness of gender inequalities, sexual harassment and violence. (Cardiff University, Children's Commissioner for Wales, NSPCC Cymru, Welsh Government, Welsh Women's Aid, 2016) <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/services-and-resources/research-and-resources/2016/agenda-young-peoples-guide-positive-relationships/>

Young Parents Advice - Supporting young parents whose children are in need, deemed at risk, in care or adopted. This website has been developed by Family Rights Group to share legal and practical information to help more young mothers and fathers and young parents-to-be to keep their children safely with them. <https://www.frg.org.uk/ypa/>

Ofsted New Inspection Framework from April 2017

Ofsted launches new social care common inspection framework (22/02/17)

A range of children's social care settings will be subject to the same SCCIF from 1 April 2017, Ofsted has announced.

Last year Ofsted published a consultation on the principles for children's social care inspections, with a new common inspection framework and proposals for a new approach to the inspection of LA children's services.

From 1 April, the following 3 principles will link all our inspections of children's social care providers:

- to focus on the things that matter most to children's lives
- to be consistent in our expectations of providers
- to prioritise our work where improvement is needed most

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ofsted-launches-new-social-care-common-inspection-framework>

The social care common inspection framework: questions and answers (22/02/17)

Further information on the social care common inspection framework.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-social-care-common-inspection-framework-questions-and-answers>

The following is a list of updated Ofsted inspection documents to help Ofsted staff in their work, for the new inspection arrangements from 1 April 2017:

- **Regulated childcare in women's refuges: guidance for Ofsted.** (2/3/17)
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-regulating-childcare-in-womens-refuges>
- **Complaint and compliance action summaries: guidance for inspectors** (02/03/17) Guidance for Ofsted inspectors writing outcome summaries for providers on the Early Years and/or Childcare Registers.
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ofsted-writing-complaint-and-compliance-action-summaries>
- **Inspecting registered childcare providers: framework** (02/03/17) How Ofsted regulates providers registered only on the Childcare Register and applicants to this register.
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/framework-for-the-regulation-of-provision-on-the-childcare-register>
- **Early years provider non-compliance: action by Ofsted** (02/03/17) What Ofsted does when a childminder or childcare provider does not comply with regulations.
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/early-years-provider-non-compliance-action-by-ofsted>
- **Inspecting registered early years providers: guidance for inspectors** (02/03/17) Ofsted inspectors use this handbook when inspecting early years providers.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/early-years-inspection-handbook-from-september-2015>

- **Boarding schools and residential special schools: inspection documents** (22/02/17) For inspection from 1 April 2017. The letter of notice, letter to parents and Annex A for boarding school and residential special school inspections.
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/boarding-schools-and-residential-special-schools-inspection-documents>
- **Residential family centres: inspection documents** (22/02/17) For inspection from 1 April 2017. Annex A for residential family centre inspections.
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/residential-family-centres-inspection-documents>
- **Residential holiday schemes for disabled children: inspection documents** (22/02/17) For inspection from 1 April 2017. The letter of notice and Annex A for residential holiday schemes for disabled children inspections.
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/residential-holiday-schemes-for-disabled-children-inspection-documents>
- **Voluntary adoption agencies: inspection documents** (22/02/17) For inspection from 1 April 2017. The letter of notice and case list form for voluntary adoption agency inspections.
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/voluntary-adoption-agencies-inspection-documents>
- **Residential provision of further education colleges: inspection documents** (22/02/17) For inspection from 1 April 2017. The letter of notice and form for further education college residential provision inspections.
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/residential-provision-of-further-education-colleges-inspection-documents>
- **Children's homes: inspection documents** (22/02/17) For inspection from 1 April 2017. Annex A and inspection guidance for secure children's homes.
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/childrens-homes-inspection-documents>
- **Adoption support agencies: inspection documents** (22/02/17). For inspection from 1 April 2017. The letter of notice, pre-inspection form and case list form for adoption support agencies inspections.
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/adoption-support-agencies-inspection-documents>
- **Independent fostering agencies: inspection documents** (22/02/17). For inspection from 1 April 2017. Letter of notice for independent fostering agencies inspections.
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/independent-fostering-agencies-inspection-documents>

Inspecting local authority children's services: guidance for inspectors (10/02/17)

Ofsted's inspector handbook and information to help children and young people contribute to the inspection. Updated with New Annexes E and F; additional guidance on 'information about the local authority' within Annex A.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/inspecting-services-for-children-in-need-of-help-and-protection-children-looked-after-and-care-leavers-and-reviews-of-local-safeguarding-children-boa--2>

Inspecting secure training centres: framework (06/02/17)

The framework and evaluation schedule for inspection of secure training centres.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/inspecting-secure-training-centres-framework>