

tri.x Information Circular August 2017

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1. Impact of Child Sexual Abuse - The Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse(IISCA) has published a rapid evidence assessment summarising the existing evidence for the impact of child sexual abuse (CSA) and identifying gaps in the evidence. The report found evidence that CSA is associated with an increased risk of adverse outcomes in almost every sphere of victims and survivors’ lives, and that this risk can persist across their lifespan. Gaps in evidence include the impact of CSA on: younger victims (pre-adolescent) and older survivors (65 plus); black and minority ethnic, lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender and disabled people; male victims and survivors; the non-abusing fathers, siblings, partners and children of victims and survivors. To view the report go to <https://www.iicsa.org.uk/document/iicsa-impacts-child-sexual-abuse-rapid-evidence-assessment-summary-english>

2. Child protection - a review of the literature on current systems and practice (Research in Practice, Rebecca Godar, Dez Holmes, June 2017). An online report which identifies systems, interventions and practice in child protection and work with vulnerable children that have been presented as good practice. Part of a wider project on improving outcomes within the child protection system, commissioned by the Early Intervention Foundation (EIF) in collaboration with the Local Government Association (LGA) and supported by the NSPCC, Research in Practice and the University of Oxford. A review of the literature found a range of approaches to systems and practices across local authorities in England, including: the use of assessment tools and frameworks; commissioning and delivering a range of interventions and approaches; strategies to develop staff skills and capacity; development of a clear organisational vision and culture. View the report [here](#)

3. The use of research evidence regarding ‘what works’ in local authority child protection systems and practice - an analysis of five local authorities (Research in Practice et al, June 2017). An online report explores how local authorities engage with and utilise evidence on what works in child protection work. Part of wider research on improving outcomes within the child protection system, commissioned by the Early Intervention Foundation (EIF) in collaboration with the Local Government Association (LGA) and supported by the NSPCC, Research in Practice and the University of Oxford. Interviews and focus groups with employees at various levels within five local authorities in England found: decisions about how to keep children safe are complex and are made using a range of knowledge sources; research evidence is one of the tools used to design and deliver effective services, but the extent to which it is used varies and is influenced by a range of other factors. View the report [here](#)

4. Withdrawn - Family court agreement between ADCS and Cafcass which gave guidance to court guardians and social workers to work more collaboratively to speed up cases and where possible divert them from court. The rationale for the agreement stemmed from fears about rising care applications and continuing delays in care proceedings. Nagalro and the National Association of Independent Reviewing Officers challenged the agreement, Nagalro stating it was unlawful and hindered the statutory duties of children’s guardians. In a joint statement ADCS and Cafcass said “... due to concerns raised by some stakeholders we

took the decision to withdraw the document in question". For more information see [Nagalro](#) and [National Association of Independent Reviewing Officers](#).

5. Gypsy, Roma & Traveller children - Child Sexual Exploitation resources from The Children's Society. This includes an animated film 'Stay safe, don't send' made by Gypsy and Traveller young people to raise awareness amongst their peers about how to safe online. See also a guide to accompany the film and activity book Stay Safe. Helps practitioners to engage with young people from the Gypsy and Traveller community on topics including online safety; grooming; relationships; child sexual exploitation and identity <https://www.childrensociety.org.uk/what-we-do/helping-children/gypsy-roma-traveller-children-cse-resources>

6. Safeguarding and radicalisation - Small scale study (DfE). Small scale study into the social care response to radicalisation. The research included case studies of 10 local authorities, looking at how existing social care practice responds to radicalisation. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/safeguarding-and-radicalisation>

7. Impact of excluding separated and migrant children from legal aid - a report from the Children's Society. The Children's Society in partnership with the University of Bedfordshire has published a report looking at the impact of excluding separated and migrant children from legal aid. The report finds that the safety net Emergency Case Funding is not working. Recommendations to the government include: reinstating legal aid for all unaccompanied and separated migrant children; and formalising the role of local authorities in relation to immigration advice for unaccompanied and separated children. Further information [Cut off from Justice: the impact of excluding separated and migrant children from legal aid \(PDF\)](#)

8. School report - the experiences of lesbian, gay, bi and trans young people in Britain's schools in 2017. Stonewall and University of Cambridge. Further information http://www.stonewall.org.uk/sites/default/files/the_school_report_2017.pdf

9. Small-scale research project: summaries (DfE). The DfE has published a summary of small-scale research projects it has commissioned over the past three months. The studies, most of which cost £150,000 or less, cover a range of key policy issues affecting children and family services <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/analytical-associate-pool-summary-of-projects>

10. The Children's Commissioner's Stability Index is a new measure of stability for looked after children, bringing together data on care placements, schools and social workers. Researchers at the Children's Commissioner's office have combined this data to understand the type and scale of instability - such as changes in placement, school or social

worker - among children in care. For further information go to Children's Commissioner Stability Index: Initial Findings and Technical Report

<https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/publication/stability-index-initial-findings-and-technical-report/>

11. Adoption support fund: evaluation (DfE). Results of an independent 2 year evaluation of the adoption support fund (ASF). The Adoption Support Fund launched in England in May 2015 pays for care that helps children settle in with their adoptive families which can include cognitive therapy, play and music therapy; and parenting skills training. The government has increased the fund to £28 million in 2017/18. The report states 'Staff across all areas reported continued increases in their workloads as they had more and more families already receiving support as well as new families coming forward for assessments, leading to an increased total, even if demand itself was steady'. Despite concerns 'Local authority staff and therapeutic service providers overwhelmingly agreed that quality of provision had improved since the launch of the [Adoption Support Fund], and families viewed the [Adoption Support Fund]-funded support as appropriate and generally of high quality'. View the report here <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/adoption-support-fund-evaluation> See also: Press release (DfE and Robert Goodwill MP, Part of Looked-after children and adoption) <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/multi-million-fund-reaches-record-number-of-adoptive-families>

Tools for Children and Families, Parents and Carers

12. Online Safety - Digital 5 a Day campaign (The Children's Commissioner for England). A campaign aimed at parents and carers to help them to encourage their children to enjoy the online world without being totally consumed by it. The campaign, Digital 5 A Day, is based on the NHS's evidence-based five steps to mental well-being, and gives children and parents practical steps to achieve a balanced digital diet. The five elements of a good digital diet are: connect, be active, get creative, give to others, and be mindful. Further information [Digital 5 A Day](#)

13. Internet safety - advice and resources for parents. The UK Safer Internet Centre has published a blog offering advice and links to resources for parents and carers facing challenges around their children's internet use. Further information <https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/blog/online-challenges-advice-parents>

14. Institute of Health Visiting (iHV) resource to support families and children after traumatic events. 10-30% of children, who have experienced a traumatic event, go on to develop post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) which can have adverse long-term effects on child development and adjustment. Includes Parent Tips to provide information to parents to help them to support their children after such an event. Further information <http://ihv.org.uk/news-and-views/news/new-ihv-resources-support-families-children->

[traumatic-events/](#)

15. Ambitious about Autism is the national charity for children and young people with autism. Young people with autism have been reclaiming the word 'normal' for World Autism Awareness Month. They want to remind people that everyone's normal is different and that those quirks and idiosyncrasies that everyone has are what makes them who they are. And that is the same for people with autism.

<https://www.ambitiousaboutautism.org.uk/know-your-normal>. For a recent report on Young people with autism's experience of mental health see

<https://www.ambitiousaboutautism.org.uk/sites/default/files/Know%20your%20normal%20research%20report.pdf>