Welcome to the latest tri.x Information Circular for Children's Social Care and Safeguarding

A collection of some of the latest information in relation to consultations, research, statutory guidance, government policy, tools for families and children, with links to related sources.
Working Together to Safeguard Children statutory guidance sets out new requirements for improved partnerships to protect children. Senior police, council and health leaders will jointly be responsible for setting out local plans to keep children safe and will be accountable for how well agencies work together to protect children from abuse and neglect. The new safeguarding arrangements will replace existing Local Safeguarding Children boards.

For further information click here

[Working together to safeguard children statutory guidance](#)
Social care commentary: multi-agency safeguarding arrangements (Ofsted)

Ofsted's National Director of Social Care, Yvette Stanley, discusses the important ingredients for multi-agency safeguarding arrangements to improve the response to children in need of help and protection.

To view [click here](#)

What works centre for children's social care - 21 local partners to work with the new Centre

The new What Works Centre for Children's Social Care has announced the names of 21 local authorities and trusts that it will work with to co-develop research, and co-design and test products and services to support the use of evidence, as its 'wave 1' partners - initially to December 2018.

For further information [click here](#)

Relationships (and sex) education and health education - open consultation

The DfE is seeking views on draft regulations, statutory guidance and a regulatory impact assessment for relationships and sex education and health education. The DfE is proposing that schools are required to teach relationships education at primary school, relationships and sex education at
secondary school and health education at all state-funded schools. The draft regulations and associated statutory guidance build on the findings from the call for evidence and DfE's engagement with a wide range of expert organisations and interested parties. The responses to the consultation will help inform any further refining of the draft regulations and statutory guidance before the regulations are put before Parliament and the guidance finally published.

Closing date: 11.45pm on 7 November 2018

Click here to complete the online survey and to view the related guidance documents.

Information sharing advice for safeguarding practitioners 2018

Guidance on information sharing for people who provide safeguarding services to children, young people, parents and carers. This government advice supersedes the 2015 version and has been updated to reflect the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) and Data Protection Act 2018.

To view click here

Harmful sexual behaviour - key messages from research (Centre of expertise on child sexual abuse)

The Centre of expertise on child sexual abuse has published a new report. It brings together the existing research on children and young people who display...
harmful sexual behaviour. It is part of the Centre's series of 'Key messages' to provide succinct, relevant information for frontline practitioners and commissioners.

**Children affected by domestic abuse fund**

The Home Office are looking to award £8 million over the next 2 financial years to organisations in England and Wales to support children who are exposed to domestic abuse. The guidance 'The Children affected by domestic abuse fund: prospectus document.' explains the objectives of the fund, who can apply, how to apply and the high-level outcomes that the Home Office are seeking.

To view all the information click [here](#)

**Growing up neglected: a multi-agency response to older children**

This report covers the third joint targeted area inspection programme which began in May 2017 and examines 'the multi-agency response to older children who are living with neglect'. The report highlights that the presenting factors of long-term neglect of older children "may not be recognised as being the result of neglect". It calls for a greater awareness of the neglect of older children and a focus on trauma-based approaches to tackling it. The Executive Summary lists the following:

1. Neglect of older children sometimes goes unseen.
2. Work with parents to address the neglect of older children does not always
3. Adult services in most areas are not effective in identifying potential neglect of older children.
4. The behaviour of older children must be understood in the context of trauma.
5. Tackling neglect of older children requires a coordinated strategic approach across all agencies.

To read the report click [here](#).

Letters that provide an overview of all the findings have been published for each inspection. To view [click here](#).

See also: Blog by Jenny Coles, Chair of the ADCS Families, Communities and Young People Policy Committee "Harnessing our collective responsibilities to young people" [Click here](#)

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**Therapeutic interventions after abuse and neglect**

A quick guide for practitioners and managers supporting children, young people and families.

The quick guide gives an overview of evidence-based interventions that may be effective when working with children and young people who have experienced physical abuse, emotional abuse or neglect. It includes information about the types of therapy that are appropriate for different age groups and describes the aims of each therapy. The guide also covers the principles that children and young people identified as being most important for people who work with them following abuse and neglect.

To view click [here](#).
The relationship between family violence and youth offending (LGA)

Councils only want the best for the children and young people in their communities, but many children struggle to cope with the challenges they experience. Facing continuous family violence and without recourse to adequate help when they need it, we know that some young people go on to be involved in the youth justice system. By understanding the risk factors and commissioning interventions that support the protective factors, the link between family violence and youth offending can be broken.

To view the report click here
Source: Local Government Association

The State of Children’s Services 2018-19 Report

This report calls for service commissioning to be based on meeting the needs of children, rather than other factors. It says funding constraints and increasing demand on children’s services mean that decisions are too often based on short-term costs rather than the needs of young people for better outcomes in the long-term. One of the proposals is the development of a ‘national outcome framework’ which would “allow commissioners and providers to make strategic use of data to ensure better placements for children, and afford them the time to make well-thought through placement decisions” the report stated. Other recommendations include a team around the child approach so that support covers their care and education needs.
To read the full report click here
The report estimates that 2.1 million of England's 11.8 million children – one in six – are living in families with risks so serious that they need some level of help. The study also warns that for 1.6 million of those vulnerable children, the support is effectively 'invisible' – we don't know if they are actually getting any coordinated help, despite the difficulties they are growing up with. Some of the risks these children face include parents with mental health problems or parents who are alcoholics or have substance abuse problems.

To view the report click here

Help at Hand service from the Children's Commissioner

If you are in care, leaving care, living away from home or working with children's services Help at Hand will give you confidential advice and information about your situation and answer any questions you have, and make sure your rights are being upheld.

The Help at Hand website can be accessed here
Children and Families Minister announces plans to launch Care Leaver Covenant in October

Nadhim Zahawi has said in his speech at the ADCS conference in Manchester, that he wants local councils, the school system, the health service, the local leisure centre and companies, and government departments to cater for the needs of care leavers and offer more support, and will be launching the Care Leaver Covenant this Autumn. "The covenant is a pledge from organisations across our society, in which they make concrete commitments to help improve outcomes for care leavers. They might offer training, job opportunities, services or anything else they can offer to help young people move from care to independence" he said.

To read the full speech click here.

Distress signals: unaccompanied young people's struggle for mental health care

The Children's Society's report states that child refugees in this country suffer mental health problems long after they get here. They don't get the mental health care they need and it's making their pain worse. With proper mental health care, child refugees can recover and
rebuild their lives. The Government must give child refugees the long-term mental health care they desperately need. To view the report click here

**New support for homeless children**

The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government has established [National Homelessness Advice Service](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/homelessness-act-2002) to Local Authorities, to prevent homelessness. It provides free expert advice, training and support to housing professionals working in local councils, voluntary advice agencies, local Citizens Advice and public authorities in England

See also [Homelessness code of guidance for local authorities](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/homelessness-code-of-guidance-for-local-authorities) (Gov.uk)

**Plans to help children in foster care experience loving and stable homes**

As part of the government response to two fostering reviews - Foster Care in England by Sir Martin Narey and Mark Owers and the Education Select Committee's report, foster families are to receive clearer advice on physical affection so that they can feel more confident to hug and comfort the children in their care.


The government has published its response to the independent review of the fostering system in England carried out by Sir
Marting Narey and Mark Owers. The response sets out the steps they are taking to improve the outcomes and well-being of children in care. It also responds to the recommendations from the Education Select Committee. It is accompanied by a young people's version which describes how they are responding to their calls for improvements to fostering services.

Click here to view the Government response document 'Fostering Better Outcomes'

**Supreme Court to hear case on 16-17 year-olds, capacity and confinement**

On 20th July 2018 the Supreme Court granted permission for the Official Solicitor to appeal a ruling made earlier in the year that a person with parental responsibility can consent to the deprivation of liberty of a 16/17 year old lacking capacity (*D (A Child)* [2017] EWCA Civ 1695)

It is argued that this decision is not in line with the Mental Capacity Act which applies from 16 and makes no reference to a person with parental responsibility being able to provide consent.

This is the first time a case relating to this issue will have been heard by the Supreme Court and the implications are vast. If the original judgement is overturned it will mean that all deprivations of liberty
relating to 16/17 year olds will need to be authorised through the relevant legal framework. Currently, this is the Court of Protection, but, under the Mental Capacity (Amendment) Bill it would be the Local Authority or NHS depending on the setting.

The hearing is listed for the 3rd and 4th October.

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New guidelines for social workers around Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease

The new guidance is specifically for social workers who are working with people with CJD and their families. Lyn Romeo chief social worker for adults recognises that most social workers would never work with anyone with CJD but the guidelines aim to empower practitioners working with people "whose health conditions require specialist consideration". It points out the need for a rapid response to cases where people are affected by CJD, where often diagnosis is not made until an advanced stage and whose cognitive and other functions will decline rapidly.

To read the guidelines [click here](#)

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How to talk to your child about social media and the internet (Young Minds)
This short guide gives ten tips for talking to your child about their use of social media and the internet.

Click here to view

**Alcohol & Families Alliance Resources**

The Alcohol and Families Alliance is a health alliance between Adfam and Alcohol Concern working in partnership to establish, support and lead an Alliance of organisations with an interest in the issues surrounding children and families affected by the use of alcohol. The Resources section provides a range of useful resources including studies, research and policy documents and Good Practice Toolkits.

Click here to view

**Did you know we also produce an Information Circular for adult social care?**

To subscribe click here