

Bulletin

New policy and practices affecting children

Partnership: Bolton Safeguarding Children Board

Date: November 2013

Improving children and young people's health and wellbeing

Title: Social and emotional wellbeing for children and young people

Description: This briefing summarises NICE's recommendations for local authorities and partner organisations on social and emotional wellbeing for children and young people, specifically, vulnerable children aged under 5 years and all children in primary and secondary education. Social and emotional wellbeing creates the foundations for healthy behaviours and educational attainment. It also helps prevent behavioural problems (including substance misuse) and mental health problems.

Source: NICE

Type of Document: Briefing

Date: 25th September 2013

Link: <http://publications.nice.org.uk/social-and-emotional-wellbeing-for-children-and-young-people-lgb12/introduction>

Title: Consultation on Draft 0-25 Special Educational Needs (SEN) Code of Practice, Draft Regulations and Transitional Arrangements

Description: The Children and Families Bill, currently in Parliament, will bring radical changes to the special educational needs (SEN) framework, subject to Royal Assent. The Government is consulting on a draft new 0-25 SEN Code of Practice. They are also consulting on associated draft Regulations. The Bill which, if agreed, will come into effect in September 2014 proposes replacing SEN statements (for schools) and Learning Difficulty Assessments (for young people in further education and training) with single 0-25 Education, Health and Care Plans. The suite of consultation documents also includes proposals for transitional arrangements to phase changes from the current system to the new one. Consultation closes on 9th December 2013.

Source: Department of Education

Type of Document: Consultation

Date: 4th October 2013

Link: <https://www.education.gov.uk/consultations/index.cfm?action=consultationDetails&consultationId=1914&external=no&menu=1>

Title: Health and Wellbeing Boards: one year on

Description: This study by the Kings Fund indicates that generally boards are making good progress. Overall there are good relationships between local authorities and CCGs; most boards are led by a senior councillor and many have vice chairs from CCGs. The highest priorities in most boards relate to public health and health inequalities, but as yet there is 'little sign as yet that boards have begun to grapple with the immediate and urgent strategic challenges facing their local health and care services'. Boards recognise that they need to up their game from partnership forums to local leaders. The report indicates that the HWB role in signing off local plans for the Integration Transformation Fund will be 'an important test of readiness'

Source: The King's Fund

Type of Document: Research Report

Date: 31st October 2013

Link: <http://www.kingsfund.org.uk/publications/health-and-wellbeing-boards-one-year-on>

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Title: Managing overweight and obesity amongst children and young people: lifestyle weight management services	
Description: This new NICE guidance advises commissioners of lifestyle weight management services for children and young people. It makes a number of recommendations such as including the range of relevant professionals such as dieticians, health promotion specialist or exercise psychologist and mental health specialist. Programmes should promote positive parent skills training, an emphasis on the importance of all family members eating healthily, individual planning, a range of enjoyable physical activities, and ongoing support and follow-up.	
Source: NICE	
Type of Document: Public Health Guidance	Date: October 2013
Link: http://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/index.jsp?action=byID&o=14298	

Keeping children safe

Title: Ofsted Social Care Annual Report 2012/13	
Description: Ofsted has published its first stand-alone Social Care Annual Report, covering the full range of local authority and other regulated social care services for children and young people. The report marks the end of the first full three-year cycle of inspections and its headline findings on the outcome of inspections of local authorities have generated significant media coverage. Ofsted's inspection evidence demonstrates that good LAs and their partners 'understand their area and the needs of the families who live there, and commission their services accordingly' whilst the weakest child protection services often struggle to secure effective collaboration. 'Local authorities must be good partners who create an environment where collaboration thrives. Equally, they must be able to rely on the highest quality response from health services, police, courts and schools. There can be no weak link in the chain.'	
Source: Ofsted	
Type of Document: Report	Date: 15 th October 2013
Link: http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/social-care-annual-report-201213	

Title: Framework and evaluation schedule for the inspection of services for children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers (single inspection framework) and reviews of Local Safeguarding Children Boards	
Description: This document sets out the framework for the new Ofsted single inspection. Inspections, starting in November 2013, will focus on the effectiveness of local authority services and arrangements to help and protect children, the experiences and progress of children looked after, including adoption, fostering, the use of residential care and children who return home. The framework also focuses on the arrangements for permanence for children who are looked after and the experiences and progress of care leavers. The leadership, management and governance judgement addresses the effectiveness of leaders and managers and the impact they have on the lives of children and young people and the quality of professional practice locally.	
Source: Ofsted	
Type of Document: Inspection framework	Date: 7 th November 2013
Link: http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/framework-and-evaluation-schedule-for-inspection-of-services-for-children-need-of-help-and-protectio	

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Raising attainment

Title: Early Years Outcomes	
Description: DfE have published this non-statutory guide for practitioners and inspectors, to help inform understanding of child development through the early years.	
Source: DfE	
Type of Document: Guidance	Date: 9 th September 2013
Link: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/early-years-outcomes	

Title: New National Curriculum	
Description: Full information on the new national curriculum has been published. This includes the complete framework and individual versions of the curriculum for primary and secondary key stages and Individual programmes of study and attainment targets for individual subjects at key stages 1 to 4.	
Source: DfE	
Type of Document: Statutory Guidance	Date: 14 th October 2013
Link: https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/national-curriculum	

Title: Too Young to Fail: Giving all children a fair start in life	
Description: This Save the Children report indicates that seven-year-old children from poor families are still consistently more likely to fall behind in critical skills such as reading. Amongst the findings is analysis to show that if a child from a poor family is already behind with their reading at the age of seven, they have just over a one in five chance of going on to achieve a C in English at GCSE. The report states that the impact on those children's life chances is huge, trapping many in a cycle of poverty. Modelling carried out for this report also shows the enduring cost to the nation's economy in wasted talent. The report calls for all political parties to build into their 2015 manifestos policies that will ensure that no child is left behind by the age of seven and that all children leave primary school with a fair chance of succeeding at secondary school and in their future lives.	
Source: Save the Children	
Type of Document: Research Report	Date: October 2013
Link: http://www.savethechildren.org.uk/resources/online-library/too-young-fail	

Title: Reforming the accountability system for secondary schools (Government response to consultation)	
Description: The Government's response shows that they intend to proceed with the policy direction set out in the consultation document, adapting some of the proposals in light of evidence gathered through the consultation. The response stresses that, before the consultation, there was considerable evidence that the current headline measure, the percentage of pupils achieving 5 or more A*-C grades at GCSE (or equivalent) including English and mathematics ' <i>was distorting teaching and qualifications</i> '.	

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Amongst other proposals, the Government will require schools to publish performance against the following indicators on their own websites:

- Progress across a suite of 8 subjects (Progress8) – the new floor standard indicator
- Attainment across 8 subjects (Attainment 8)
- % achieving a C grade or better in English and maths
- EBacc
- Destinations

Schools will now be held to account for (a) the attainment of their disadvantaged pupils, (b) the progress made by their disadvantaged pupils, and (c) the in-school gap in attainment between disadvantaged pupils and their peers.

Source: Department for Education

Type of Document: Consultation response

Date: October 2013

Link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/secondary-school-accountability-consultation>

Title: Future of apprenticeships in England: implementation plan

Description: The Future of Apprenticeships in England: Implementation Plan details the government's reforms to the Apprenticeship system, and outlines how they will be implemented.

The key elements of the reforms are introducing new employer-designed standards and assessment procedures; strengthening English and maths requirements; and mandating that Apprenticeships last for a minimum of 12 months. The new standards and assessment procedures will be designed over 2013/14 and 2014/15 by companies and professional bodies acting as 'trailblazers' for their sector. From 2017/18 all new Apprenticeship starts should be based on the new standards.

Guidance for trailblazers is also available using the same link below.

Source: DfE and BIS

Type of Document: Plan and guidance

Date: 7th November 2013

Link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/future-of-apprenticeships-in-england-richard-review-next-steps>

Reducing child poverty

Title: Free School Meals: Information for Schools

Description: Information for schools on government funding for free school meals for all children in reception, year 1 and year 2 in state primary schools from September 2014. At present, free meals are only available for eligible post-16 students in school sixth forms but from September 2014, free meals will be extended to disadvantaged students in further education and sixth-form colleges to mirror entitlement in school sixth forms. Schools should encourage parents to register their child for free school meals before the January census, to receive the maximum pupil premium allocation for that year. The amount you receive in financial year 2014 to 2015 will depend on how many eligible pupils you have on roll on the day of the school census and will not be affected by the introduction of free school meals for all infant school children.

Source: DfE

Type of Document: Information for Schools

Date: October 2013

Link: <http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/pupilsupport/pastoralcare/a00202841/fsmcriteria>

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Title: Free school meals toolkit	
Description: Produced by the Children's Food Trust, this toolkit contains information and practical resources to help schools increase the take up of free school meals. Key toolkit topics include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• why free school meals are so important – to pupils, to families and to your school• who qualifies for them• the Pupil Premium• easing the application journey for parents• removing stigma. The practical resources include a range of posters, parents' letters and leaflets, pupil, parent and staff surveys and a free school meals planner to help you track take up progress.	
Source: Children's Food Trust	
Type of Document: Toolkit for Schools	Date: October 2013
Link: http://www.childrensfoodtrust.org.uk/resources/fsm/free-school-meals-matter-toolkit	

Improving outcomes for Looked After Children

Title: Improving Permanence for Looked After Children	
Description: The Department for Education are consulting on a range of proposals designed to strengthen the team around the looked after child, improve the status, security and stability of long term foster care and to strengthen the requirements for returning children home from care. Proposals include the introduction of a requirement for local authorities to publish a permanence policy, setting out the approach to securing permanence, introducing a more flexible model of reviews for long term foster care placements and the introduction of a duty on local authorities to offer to visit children who had been voluntarily accommodated and have returned home. Consultation closes on 29 th November 2013.	
Source: DfE	
Type of Document: Consultation	Date: 30 th September 2013
Link: https://www.education.gov.uk/consultations/index.cfm?action=consultationDetails&consultationId=1932&external=no&menu=1	

Title: National Care Leaver Strategy	
Description: This new cross-departmental strategy document sets out the steps the government is taking - from housing to health services, from the justice system to educational institutions - to support care leavers to live independently once they have left their placement. The new strategy includes a range of commitments from government to improve the help and support available to young people leaving care across all areas of life. The strategy includes the government's intentions to strengthen statutory guidance on LAs to support care leavers in areas such as payment of Setting Up Home Allowances of at least £2,000 per care leaver and to support care leavers aged 21-24 who wish to return to education or training,	
Source: All Government Departments	
Type of Document: Government Strategy	Date: 29 th October 2013
Link: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/care-leaver-strategy	