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Safeguarding Children Newsletter for Healthcare Staff

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State of the nation's foster care



The Fostering Network has published a report looking at issues facing foster care across the UK.

Findings from a survey of 2,530 foster carers include:

- ⇒ 31% of respondents reported that they were rarely or never given all of the information about a fostered child prior to placement;
- ⇒ 49% had experienced a placement ending when they felt it was not in the child's best interests;
- ⇒ and 61% of foster carers who had experienced a placement ending said it had not been preceded by a review.

Steps to safety: supporting families living with domestic abuse



The NSPCC is piloting Steps to Safety, an early-intervention programme to help families living with domestic abuse. The pilots in Belfast, Southampton and Swansea focus on mood management with parents learning how to: control emotion; improve relationships; and reduce conflict.

Care for children with learning disabilities



The Department of Health (DoH) has published a review by Dame Christine Lenehan of the care and support for children and young people with complex needs involving mental health, learning disabilities and/or autism.

Recommendations include: Local Authorities should establish how to support children and young people from their area that are placed in inpatient settings outside their area, in order to ensure that there is clear accountability for these children and young people and that they are adequately safeguarded and supported.

This site is a free toolkit

It is provided by Lucy Faithfull Foundation - a child protection charity based in UK.

It is for everyone who cares about children – schools, police, social workers, NGOs and local and national governments.

It will help you prevent children from being sexually abused.

With this toolkit you can design a local plan that fits your needs.



Essex Safeguarding



Children Board Bulletin

Click the logo to view ESCB January 2017 bulletin it includes the following articles:

- Clare Livens Blog;
- Essex CSE Arrangement Papers;
- Push vs. Pull: Why young people go missing;
- Big White Wall—Wellbeing support for young people;
- CARE (Children at Risk of Exploitation) update;
- Essex Police update;
- Missing Education and Child Employment Services (MECES);
- Child Missing Out of Education Panel update (CMOEE).

Young people and domestic abuse



SafeLives has launched a spotlight on the experiences of 13-17 year olds affected by domestic abuse, and the professionals who support them. From the end of January to the middle of March, resources being made available will include:

- * research;
- * practical resources for professionals;
- * practitioner advice/guidance;
- * young people's testimonies; a webinar from 1-2pm on 03 March; a Twitter Q&A from 1-2pm on 15 March, using the hashtag #SafeYoungLives.

Court of Appeal ruling on section 20 arrangements (click title to open link)

The Court of Appeal has ruled that parental consent is not required to accommodate children under section 20 arrangements.

This overturns a High Court decision that Hackney Council breached the human rights of two parents by accommodating their children under section 20 arrangements without their consent.

Don't forget – you can send us items for inclusion at any time. Please click link: meccg.scn@nhs.net

BASPCAN is a registered charity and membership association providing education and professional development opportunities for child protection professionals, whilst also seeking to educate and inform the general public.



Membership is welcomed from the fields of social work, medicine, psychology, psychiatry, nursing, legal and law enforcement agencies, probation, education and academia, as well as related welfare and voluntary groups across England, Ireland, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales (click the logo the latest 2017 newsletter).

Child health



The Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (RCPH) has published a report on the state of child health in the UK.

Recommendations include:

- ◆ each UK Government should develop a child health and wellbeing strategy which is coordinated,
- ◆ implemented and evaluated across the nation.

Special guardianship: statutory guidance update



Department for Education

The Department for Education (DfE) has updated the statutory guidance on the special guardianship services local authorities need to provide in accordance with the Children Act 1989.

Using technology to help young people in care



Department for Education

The Department for Education (DfE) has published an evaluation of seven new technologies with the potential to support young people in care.

Findings show that the two most popular technologies with young people and carers were:

- * a virtual flat that teaches young people the skills they need to move into independence.

Female Genital Mutilation



Department for Education

[Early intervention model evaluation](#) (click text to open link)

The Department for Education (DfE) has published an evaluation of a female genital mutilation (FGM) early intervention pilot looking at ways of preventing new cases of FGM and supporting those affected by FGM.

Findings from the pilot run across 3 local authority areas in London include:

- * the clinic offered an effective, holistic service to women who have undergone FGM as well as the provision of health and mental health services and advice on safeguarding;
- * the model of co-working between health and social care professionals, therapists and community advocates enabled these professionals to develop working relationships and effective service protocols.

[National female genital mutilation centre evaluation](#) (click text to open link)

The Department for Education (DfE) has published an evaluation of the National Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) Centre and its role in providing professional expertise and social work services to girls and women affected by FGM in England.

Key findings include:

- * social work provision to girls and families affected by FGM was significantly improved through the intervention of the National FGM centre safeguarding team.

Improving the quality of serious case reviews



The Department for Education (DfE) has published an evaluation of the learning into practice project (LiPP) and its effectiveness in improving the quality of serious case reviews (SCRs) for England.

Findings from evaluation interviews and surveys, managed by the NSPCC and SCIE, include:

- * 88% of respondents agreed that national trends about practice problems revealed by SCRs should be routinely identified;
- * 81% agreed that trends could be better understood with input from multi-agency front-line practitioners.

Serious Case Reviews



Northamptonshire safeguarding children board (NSCB) has published the overview report of a serious case review into serious injuries sustained by a five week old child.

Key issues include: both parents, especially the father, had troubled childhoods and mental health problems, however there were several positive indicators pre-and post-birth that they were managing and devoted to their baby.

Recommendations include: ensure that practitioners understand the importance of seeking, collecting and sharing all available information about family and parental history.

The New Southend, Essex and Thurrock (SET) Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) Toolbox



The New 'SET CSE Toolbox' is now 'Live' and ready to use...

It features a range of guidance, resources and a new 'SET CSE Risk and Vulnerabilities Assessment' that can be used by staff working with children, young people and families when they have concerns about child sexual exploitation.

The SET CSE Toolbox replaces the SET CSE Risk Assessment Toolkit and has been created in consultation with the National CSE Response Unit (part of the National Working Group).

The new risk assessment is a sharper, more focused instrument and guides professionals through the complex network of young people's lives to gain a better insight into their vulnerabilities and indicators of CSE.

Within the CSE toolbox you can find:

- Guidance for professionals on how to use the toolbox, including the Risk and Vulnerabilities Assessment.
- Resources and useful web links for working with parents and carers, and young people
- Guidance on reporting CSE concerns to Essex Police
- Guidance on working with suspects or persons of concerns as well as hotspot management
- The new CSE Risk and Vulnerabilities Assessment

Essex Police Child Information Sharing Form

A launch event was held on 21st November 2016 with partners, to run through what the Toolbox looks like.

Click to open: [SET CSE Toolbox](#)

Serious Case Reviews



Croydon Safeguarding Children Board and Lewisham Safeguarding Children Board have published the overview report of the serious case review into the serious injury of a 6 month old baby, and siblings aged 1 year 6 months and 4 years 1 month.

Key issues include:

- ◇ history of domestic abuse;
- ◇ parental lack of engagement with children's services;
- ◇ alleged child sexual abuse; maternal mental health issues.

Recommendations include:

- ◇ reviewing training programmes to ensure the voice of the child is central to any contact or assessment;
- ◇ developing resources for practitioners to use when assessing children's needs.

Child sexual exploitation: definition and guide for practitioners



The Government has now agreed and published the new CSE Definition:

Child sexual exploitation: definition and guide for practitioners guidance (ctrl and click to open)

They have also published a progress report outlining how much progress the government has made to deal with child sexual exploitation since the report 'Tackling child sexual exploitation' was published in March 2015.

It outlines:

- the main objectives
- what progress the government has made to deal with child sexual exploitation next steps

Tackling child sexual exploitation: progress report (ctrl and click to open)