

# Safeguarding Children Newsletter for Healthcare Staff

MARCH 2017 EDITION NO. 14

## Working with Families Who Display Disguised Compliance



Disguised compliance, whereby parents and carers give the appearance of cooperating with agencies, is challenging for professionals and undermines efforts to safeguard children.

This briefing explains what is meant by disguised compliance, looks at how it harms children, and ends with tips for practice when working with families who display disguised compliance.

### Findings include:

- ◆ abuse or neglect was the main social care need for 18% of children in need with a disability needing support;
- ◆ 2,250 children and young people were looked after due to their disability at March 2015;
- ◆ and during the year ending February 2016 there were 430 mental health inpatients with learning disabilities and/or autistic spectrum disorders aged under 18 years.

## Decision making toolkit: a practical guide to supporting young people with special educational needs and disabilities to make their own decisions and to be engaged in the best interests decision making process



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 CDC's '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.

## Wellbeing of children in care



Coram Voice and the University of Bristol have published a report looking at the views of children in care on their wellbeing.

A survey of 611 children aged 4-18 years, across six local authority areas in England finds that:

- ◆ 83% said that being in care had improved their lives;
- ◆ 14% of children in care had scores that suggested low well-being;
- ◆ and girls were five times more likely to have low well-being in comparison with boys.

## Understanding the needs of disabled children with complex needs or life-limiting conditions



The Council for Disabled Children and the True Colours Trust have published a report looking at the needs of the estimated 73,000 school children with complex needs in England.

## Deprivation of Liberty safeguards replacement



The Law Commission has published its final report and draft legislation for a new system to replace the Deprivation of Liberty safeguards for England and Wales.

### Recommendations include:

widening the scope to cover 16 and 17 year olds and planned moves between settings.

## At a glance...

To open links click logo's

- ◆ *DoH Domestic Abuse Resource;*
- ◆ *The Prime Minister announced support for domestic abuse victims;*
- ◆ *Controlling behaviour in relationships research;*
- ◆ *CSE re-launch of 'I Didn't Know Campaign';*
- ◆ *NSPCC report characteristics of children who display sexual behaviour;*
- ◆ *ChildLine campaign 'Tough to Talk';*
- ◆ *Home Affairs Committee report on unaccompanied child migrants;*
- ◆ *NHS Digital report on FGM;*
- ◆ *NICE is consulting on draft guidelines about child abuse and neglect;*
- ◆ *Working with families who display disguised compliance;*
- ◆ *Wellbeing of children in care;*
- ◆ *Understanding the needs of Council for Disabled Children;*

Don't forget – you can send us items for inclusion at any time.

Please click link:

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## Domestic abuse resource for health professionals



Department of Health

The Department of Health (DoH) has published a resource looking at how health professionals in England can support adults and young people aged over 16 who are experiencing domestic abuse, and dependent children in their households.

### The resource covers:

- ◆ the legal and policy contexts of domestic abuse;
- ◆ information for commissioners and service providers;
- ◆ and what health practitioners need to know.

### Annexes include:

- ◆ examples of domestic abuse behaviours;
- ◆ and risk identification tools for adults and dependent children and young people.

## Support for victims of domestic abuse

GOV.UK



The Prime Minister has announced plans for a support for victims of domestic abuse, especially through the law and legal procedures.

This will be coordinated by the Home Office Minister, leading towards a Domestic Violence and Abuse Act.

## Controlling behaviour in relationships

Refuge  
For women and children.  
Against domestic violence.

Research carried out by Avon in partnership with Refuge looking at young people's experience of controlling behaviour in relationships finds that:

- ◆ 56% of 16-25 year olds said they have experienced controlling behaviours from a partner;
- ◆ 49% of said that experiencing these ongoing behaviours made them feel intimidated, humiliated, or worthless; girls felt most significantly affected (63% in comparison to 34% of boys);
- ◆ and 39% of 16-21 year-old girls think coercive and controlling behaviours in relationships have become normalised because of the amount of abuse they see in society and media.

## I Didn't Know Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) Campaign



The award-winning I Didn't Know Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) Campaign is re-launching for 2017.

It shines a spotlight on how grooming and sexual exploitation can be a part of the wider exploitation of children, such as trafficking, criminal exploitation by gangs and organised crime networks.

### How to support the campaign on Social Media?

Follow ESCB on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) and follow Essex Police on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

## Characteristics of children who display harmful sexual behaviour

NSPCC

The NSPCC has published a research report looking at the characteristics of younger children, children with learning difficulties and girls who used the Turn the Page harmful sexual behaviour (HSB) service developed for these groups.

### Findings from a study of 198 children and young people who received the intervention include:

- ◆ in more than 85% of cases HSB was directed towards one specific person;
- ◆ when compared to adolescent boys with HSB, these children displayed HSB more often towards family members and less often towards children younger than themselves;
- ◆ and a study of a subsection of 74 children or young people found that they had a range of emotional, behavioural and peer related difficulties alongside their HSB.

## Learning from serious case reviews on harmful sexual behaviour

NSPCC

The NSPCC has published a summary of the risk factors and learning from serious case reviews involving harmful sexual behaviour (HSB). **Learning identified includes:**

- ◆ HSB should be recognised as a potential indicator that the child has experienced abuse.

## Supporting boys who have suicidal feelings



The NSPCC reports on the number of boys who are experiencing suicidal feelings. Although boys are 6 times less likely than girls to talk to Childline counsellors about suicidal thoughts, the suicide rate for boys aged 10-19 was more than double that for girls in 2015.

A new Childline campaign, Tough to Talk, aims to reassure boys that they aren't alone and encourage them to speak out about problems. The short film Things guys don't talk about has been launched to promote the campaign.

## Separated children joining families in the UK



There are a great many children who have come to the UK to join family members through the Dublin III regulation, many of whom are in need of support.

CCLC has written a new fact sheet detailing many issues that might come up regarding this group of children. CCLC also has a project to help these children get legal representation for their asylum claims, whether or not they are entitled to legal aid.

If you are working with or know of a child who has been transferred through Dublin III who does not have legal representation, please email [dublinchildren@coramclc.org.uk](mailto:dublinchildren@coramclc.org.uk) so that we can try to help to find pro-bono representation.

## Transition from paediatric to adult services - stories from data and young people



Young people with long term health conditions are 55% more likely to be admitted to hospital after they make the transition to care by adult services.

This animation was developed by the National Children's Bureau's Young Research Advisors. It shares experiences of transition and examines what data tells us about the needs of these young people.

## Unaccompanied child migrants



The Home Affairs Committee has published an interim report on unaccompanied child migrants, in response to the Government's announcement that it intends to limit the number of children who will be accepted into Britain under section 67 of the Immigration Act (the Dubs Amendment).

Recommendations for Government to carry out before any changes are made to the Dubs scheme include:

- ◆ consult the Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner on his assessment of the likely impact of the proposed changes on the scale of trafficking of unaccompanied children;
- ◆ clarify the capacity of local authorities to take further unaccompanied asylum-seeking children in the 2017–18 financial year.

## Female genital mutilation statistics



NHS Digital has published an experimental statistics report on female genital mutilation (FGM) in England for the period October – December 2016.

### Figures show that:

- ◆ there were 2,332 attendances reported at NHS trusts and GP practices where FGM was identified or a procedure for FGM was undertaken;
- ◆ 1,268 women and girls had their FGM information collected in the dataset for the first time.

## Draft guidance on child abuse and neglect



NICE is consulting on draft guidelines about child abuse and neglect.

These aim to help practitioners working with children and young people to recognise abuse and neglect, carry out an assessment and provide early help and interventions to children and families. The deadline for responses is 19 April 2017.

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