



## In this issue:

### Child poverty

The first national child poverty strategy, a presentation on child poverty from Cambridgeshire, Buckinghamshire's findings from a needs assessment consultation, a report from North East Lincolnshire's conference on reducing child poverty and a research report on the child poverty pilots.

### Safeguarding

An event report from Lambeth on safe environments and activities for children and young people.

### Disability

A presentation on a survey carried out to evaluate the short break programme in Bolton, an evaluation of the Aiming High for Disabled Children programme in Leeds, and a communication toolkit from Stoke-on-Trent.

### Looked after children

Placement strategies and delivery plans from Cambridgeshire, North Tyneside and South Gloucestershire.

### Inclusion

Staffordshire's inclusion and well-being strategy.

### Early years

An executive summary of the childcare sufficiency assessment from Leeds and the resultant action plan.

### Looked after children

A strategy and a summary report on the participation of children in care in their looked after children reviews from Luton.

## Child poverty

### [A New Approach to Child Poverty: Tackling the Causes of Disadvantage and Transforming Families' Lives](#)

DWP/DfE, April 2011

In April, the Government published its first national child poverty strategy, setting out a new approach to tackling poverty up to 2020. Its central principles are strengthening families, encouraging responsibility, promoting work, guaranteeing fairness and providing support to the most vulnerable.



### [Ending Child Poverty: Everybody's Business](#)

Cambridgeshire, February 2011

A presentation made to the Children's Trust Board on child poverty in Cambridgeshire.

### [Child Poverty Needs Assessment Consultation 2010: Consultation Findings and Recommendations Report](#)

Buckinghamshire, January 2011

The Children and Young People's Trust Participation Team carried out a consultation in October 2010 on behalf of Buckinghamshire Children and Young People's Trust. The aim of the consultation was to gain the views of children and young people on the proposed priorities of the child poverty strategy 2011. These priorities had been identified through a child poverty needs assessment and the child poverty workshop hosted by Buckinghamshire County Council. This report gives details on the consultation exercise and its findings.

### [Children's Trust Conference 2011](#)

North East Lincolnshire, 16 February 2011

North East Lincolnshire's second Children's Trust conference was attended by approximately 200 people, including staff from across the Council and its partner agencies, parents, carers, the voluntary sector and young people. The theme of the conference was reducing child poverty. The workshop notes are available [here](#).

### [CPU Child Poverty Pilots: Interim Synthesis Report](#)

DWP, March 2011

This report brings together information from each of the child poverty pilots, and draws out early findings from across the evaluation evidence to help inform practitioners and policy makers at national and local level. It focuses on implementation and delivery evidence and explores the following cross-cutting themes:

- pilot participants
- developing tailored, innovative and localised solutions
- early indications, experiences and perceptions of pilot services.



## Safeguarding

### [Safe Environments and Safe Activities for Children and Young People in Lambeth](#)

Lambeth, 13 January 2011

The key objectives of this event were to enable voluntary and community sector organisations to learn about the local safeguarding agenda and the most up-to-date safeguarding requirements for their sector, and to have the opportunity to share their views and expertise on how to better protect and safeguard children across the borough.

Three interactive workshops were held on: how to assess and improve an organisation's safeguarding arrangements; working together and sharing information to safeguard children; and safer recruitment and managing allegations against professionals working with children and young people. Issues and challenges that emerged from the workshops included partnership working with statutory organisations, support for staff when making a referral, and the need for clear protocols and procedures. The presentations and other relevant documents distributed or discussed at the event are available to download.

## Disability

### [Short Breaks Survey 2010](#)

Bolton, January 2011

This presentation reports on a postal survey carried out to evaluate the Aiming High for Disabled Children short break programme in Bolton. The aims were:

- to evaluate the impact the programme has had on the support families have received
- in light of the significantly reduced budget, to evaluate what is working well and what sorts of breaks provide the essential support to enable parents to keep caring for their child
- to ensure that if difficult choices need to be made about funding, services which work well for children and families who need them most continue to be provided.



[Making the Difference: AHDC - Programme Evaluation](#)

Leeds, December 2010

This report outlines the emerging outputs and outcomes in Leeds from the Aiming High for Disabled Children programme. It is based on monitoring information collected throughout the programme to identify achievements, suggest the future direction of travel and identify lessons learned, paying particular attention to user feedback from children, young people, parents and carers, and service providers.

Amongst the lessons learned are that:

- early assessment and intervention increases capacity and resilience and reduces the level of support needed
- all children, whatever their impairment, are able to express their views if other people pay attention to their communication
- personalisation can enable better access to both universal and specialist services
- many children with complex needs can be included in mainstream settings if the workforce has the right training and equipment
- close monitoring of contracts helps providers focus on outcomes.

[Communication Toolkit: Listening to the Voices of Young People who have Disabilities and/or Communication Difficulties](#)

Stoke-on-Trent, September 2010

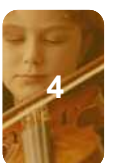
The overall objective of this toolkit is to help the voices of all children and young people with a disability to be heard effectively, despite any difficulty with communication they may have. It outlines techniques and resources that are available and aims to increase awareness of alternative methods of communication.

## Looked after children

[Placement Strategy for Looked After Children 2011-15](#)

Cambridgeshire, March 2011

This strategy describes the placements to be provided and commissioned for looked after children. The scope is not restricted to just making good quality placements, but also to bringing together the range of activity across Children's Services at all stages of the care journey, including a clear focus on supporting families to stay together, wherever it is safe to do so. This is the first time Children's Services has attempted a 'whole system', cross-directorate approach to supporting looked after children and keeping families together.



### Looked After Children Delivery Plan 2010-14

North Tyneside, October 2010

Sets out the strategic vision for delivering sustainable improvements in the lives of looked after children, to ensure they are able to fulfil their potential. The delivery plan is organised around North Tyneside's Children, Young People and Learning Partnership's four priority objectives:

- shared responsibility for looked after children
- looked after children with acute needs lead full lives within their local community
- looked after children's life chances are improved
- looked after children feel part of their community.

### Placement Strategy 2010

South Gloucestershire, March 2011

The aim of this strategy is to bring about a greater cohesiveness to the planning and placement of children who cannot remain in the care of their birth families, to ensure they are securely attached to a main carer. Successful implementation will reduce the numbers of looked after children through securing their futures in family-based placements, with support services as appropriate to their needs.

To achieve this, the following actions will be employed:

- effective diversion from care through earlier intervention
- increased multi-agency/multi-disciplinary support to the child and the family
- increased placement choice
- strong case planning and tracking.

## Inclusion

### Inclusion and Well-Being Strategy 2010-20

Staffordshire, October 2010

Equal opportunities for all children and young people, whatever their age, gender, ethnicity, attainment and background, are fundamental to inclusion and well-being. This strategy pays particular attention to the provision made for, and the achievement of, different groups of children and young people. It is intended that all Children, Young People and Families colleagues, schools and settings need to reflect this strategy within their development and service plans, and have regard to it when introducing new policies or provision.



## Early years

### [Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2011-14: Executive Summary](#)

Leeds, March 2011

This document focuses on an audit of the current childcare market (supply) and the most recent consultation with parents and carers (demand). The information collected and consulted on as part of this assessment is the first stage in securing sufficient childcare provision. This report outlines the priorities the authority plans to set in order to address identified gaps and to meet the needs of parents and children in Leeds.

### [Childcare Sufficiency Action Plan 2011](#)

Leeds, March 2011

The action plan which accompanies the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment.

