

Ebulletin April 2009

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consultations, surveys & calls for submissions

Children's Workforce Development Council (CWDC)

Safer recruitment guidance

The CWDC is seeking views on a draft version of their *Safer Recruitment Guidance*. CWDC is keen hear from those involved in the recruitment of staff and volunteers on whether the guidance is understandable to workers. An online questionnaire is available and CWDC is running a series of workshops in April 2009.

<http://www.cwdcouncil.org.uk/safeguarding/safer-recruitment/consultation-on-guidance>

Children's Workforce Development Council (CWDC)

The CWDC is working with partners (Association of Directors of Children's Services and National College of School Leadership) to design a training and development programme for Directors of Children's Services.

The CWDC wants to make sure that it get this programme right and is asking for help from the Third Sector in understanding what skills and qualities Directors of Children's Services need to make a real difference.

Views can be expressed via a brief online questionnaire

<http://www.cwdcouncil.org.uk/dcs-training-consultation/third-sector>

Children England and National Council for Voluntary Youth Service (NCVYS)

Health and well-being study

ECOTEC Research and Consulting is undertaking a scoping study on behalf of the Speaking Out project, a joint initiative between Children England and NCVYS, concerning health and well-being issues relating to children and young people.

The purpose of the research is to identify key child health policy issues that the Speaking Out project can engage with in the future. As part of the work ECOTEC will be talking to Children England's members to find out the type of policy areas they are working in and the services they provide and what is working particularly well. The areas of interest include:

- Diet, exercise and obesity
- Mental health and emotional well-being
- Support for family with a children that is disabled or has a long term condition.
- Substance misuse
- Sexual health
- Early years health

If you think you can help with this study please contact Rachel Gardner, Research Manager, rachel.gardner@ecotec.com or call 020 7921 3834.

events

- **local**

Hampshire County Council

Aiming High for Disabled Children: Better Support for Families

Consultation events (three in number) about the proposed 'eligibility criteria' to determine access to some specialist social care services.

Date: 7 May

Venue: Hampshire Rose Bowl

Time: 10:00 – 1:30

Cost: Free

Aimed at: Consultation event for parents and carers

Further details on Hantsfish website

http://www.hantsfish.org.uk/hantsfish/practitioners/ecm-2/aiming_high_for_disabled_children/hantsfish-aiminghigh-consultation.htm

Date: 14 May

Venue: Winchester Vineyard

Time: 9:30 – 3:30

Cost: Free

Aimed at: Consultation event for professionals

Further details on Hantsfish website

http://www.hantsfish.org.uk/hantsfish/practitioners/ecm-2/aiming_high_for_disabled_children/hantsfish-aiminghigh-consultation.htm

Date: 21 May
 Venue: Alton Maltings
 Time: 9:30 – 3:30
 Cost: Free

Aimed at: Consultation event for professionals

Further details on Hantsfish website

http://www.hantsfish.org.uk/hantsfish/practitioners/ecm-2/aiming_high_for_disabled_children/hantsfish-aiminghigh-consultation.htm

If you are unable to attend any of the above consultation events you can still have your say by completing an online questionnaire

http://www.hantsfish.org.uk/hantsfish/practitioners/ecm-2/aiming_high_for_disabled_children/hantsfish-aiminghigh-consultation.htm

<http://eforms-int.hants.gov.uk/AF3int/an/default.aspx/RenderForm/?ID=Mk8M6e8avU7&HideToolbar=0>

The Children's Society Include Project

County wide conference & training day on supporting young carers and their families

This is a multi-agency training event for those working in Adults and Children's Services, including Health, Education, Housing, Police, and Voluntary Organisations etc.

Date: Wednesday 20 May
 Venue: Westley Court, Sparsholt College, Winchester
 Cost: Free

For further details contact Jenny Hine jyh@childsoc.org.uk

Hampshire Autistic Society

help! 2 Seminar

Date: 8 June
 Time: 10:30 – 2:30
 Venue: Popley Fields Community Centre, Basingstoke
 Cost: Free

Aimed at parents/carers of people aged 3-18 years who have a diagnosis of Autism, Asperger syndrome or ASD. It offers a chance to explore the effect the world has on your child's senses and uses activities that can help them deal with this. Further details on the alliance website <http://www.hants-alliance.org.uk/web/node/236>



the alliance

Training & Information event 2009

Date: Thursday 16 July
 Venue: The University of Winchester
 Time: 9:30 – 3.30
 Cost: Free

Workshops, which will run from 1:30 – 3:30, will include Basic Child Protection, Information Sharing and Independent Safeguarding Authority

Further details will follow and will be posted on the alliance website. To reserve your place complete the form on the alliance website or simply email your details to ian.milsom@action.hants.org.uk

Support a local charity

The 3rd Great British Duck Race

This will be back on the water at Molesey Lock, near Hampton Court Palace on 6 September 2009.

The Hampshire Autistic Society is hoping people will join in the fun and adopt a duck with a donation to the Society. It costs a minimum of £3 to adopt a duck. There are 30 top prizes, 1st prize being £10,000.

To support Hampshire Autistic Society adopt a duck at:
www.thegreatbritishduckrace.co.uk/o/has

- **national**

Directory of Social Change

Charity Fair 2009

Date: Wednesday & Thursday 24th & 25th June

Venue: Central Hall, Westminster, London

Cost: Varies. Access to some areas is free. Training sessions range from £30-£20, areas covered include law, fundraising, managing money, leadership and strategy and human resources, IT. Further details/booking at www.charityfair.org.uk

grants, commissioning and funding

NHS Standard Contracts/Tendering for health services

Community Action Hampshire (CAH) provide useful information about the new NHS Standard Contract and tendering for health services on their website

<http://www.action.hants.org.uk/index.php?id=436>

Futurebuilders

Modernisation Fund

This £9.5m fund is to help organisations cover the costs of merging and collaboration, introducing new processes and systems, retraining and upskilling staff.

Futurebuilders is now inviting organisations to register for the fund. Organisations with income above £750k can apply for investments (loans) ranging from £30k-500k.

Although the wording is still being agreed with the Office of the Third Sector (OTS), ***the fund is being limited to organisations working in three areas: wellbeing and health; advice, information and guidance; and loss of income, training and skills.*** The criteria state that priority will be given to those serving people in deprived areas.

<http://www.futurebuilders-england.org.uk/our-products/product-menu/modernisation-fund/>

The Office of the Third Sector is running regional roadshows as part of the Real Help to Communities initiative to help charities thinking of working with other charities through collaboration or merger. They will include information on how to access loans and grants from the recently announced Modernisation Fund. The Charity Commission will also be present to give advice. Other funding streams will also be covered at the events.

The south east event is on 24 June, at Epsom Racecourse.

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/third_sector/news/news_stories/090330_roadshows.aspx

BT Community Connections

Extend your work with a laptop and a year's free broadband

BT Community Connections is an award scheme which enables community and charitable organisations to get online and make use of information and communications technology (ICT).

Organisations, working in any field of community benefit, located throughout the UK can apply for a laptop and a year's free broadband connection. There are more than 1,000 award packages available to groups who can demonstrate how an award will benefit their work and the local community.

Deadlines for Round 1 applications are postal 9 June, online 11 June
<http://www.btcommunityconnections.com/>

news

- **Local**

New website for Hampshire CVSs

Councils for Voluntary Service are organisations offering a range of services to local voluntary and community groups and organisations to enable them to carry out their work, achieve their aims and become more effective.

Across Hampshire there are 11 district level Councils for Voluntary Service (CVS) and the Hampshire-wide CVS Community Action Hampshire (CAH). CAH is also a Rural Community Council, supporting and enabling initiatives in rural communities.

The new Hampshire CVS website provides details of their services and how you can access them. <http://www.hantscvcs.org.uk/index.php?id=21>

Community Action Hampshire (CAH)

Building Healthy Partnerships Event

This event, held on 2 April 2009, continued the dialogue with NHS Hampshire (formerly Hampshire PCT) started at Towards a Healthy Partnership in October 2008.

Sue Dovey of CAH said the local 3rd sector was still seeking a new type of partnership with health which includes:

- recognition of the totality of the sector, not just service providers, but holders of knowledge and expertise to help shape and sharpen services
- more strategic engagement, early in the process
- a grant programme – less bureaucratic, easier way of funding than by big contracts. Small pots of money should also be offered for 3 years.
- a commissioning and procurement process that does not disadvantage the 3rd sector
- better communication – local groups still struggle to find the right person to talk to

For further information visit the CAH website
<http://www.action.hants.org.uk/index.php?id=434>

'Talking Together'

Phoenix Theatre Company and East Hampshire Domestic Violence Forum

Phoenix Theatre Company, based at The Phoenix Theatre & Arts Centre in Bordon, recently performed a short play for professionals who work with victims of domestic abuse.

The play 'Talking Together' is normally performed to pupils from years 9 and 10 in schools in North and East Hampshire as part of an ongoing project to raise awareness and give advice to young people who may be experiencing the effects of domestic violence at home.

Talking Together is written by local writer Susanna Gosney and professional actors Cindy Graves and Joanna Passmore play mother and daughter. The play is directed by Jane Dawes and explores the issues of domestic violence and the effects on the victim, Heather, and her fourteen year old daughter, Lizzie.

The play is usually followed by a talk by representatives from the police who get called to domestic violence incidents and also a representative from a refuge, or victim support. A counsellor is always on hand for young people to talk to after the project if necessary.

Jane Dawes says "Talking Together is a very emotive and powerful play, which has a strong impact on the audience. The play has been well received with excellent feedback and positive evaluation. We have performed extensively in the Rushmoor area and have performed at the Petersfield School so far in East Hampshire. I hope that we will now be able to develop the move into East Hampshire Schools. The young people are totally absorbed by watching the play, which shows how drama is an extremely effective medium for conveying key points and issues to an audience. The workshops re-enforce those points."

For further details contact Jane Dawes, Director, The Phoenix Theatre & Arts Centre 01420 472664, Email: info@phoenixarts.co.uk or visit the website: www.phoenixarts.co.uk

- **national**

The Budget

Mixed reception from voluntary sector

"Voluntary sector leaders greeted Alistair Darling's 2009 Budget with a mixture of enthusiasm and frustration".

<http://www.thirdsector.co.uk/News/DailyBulletin/900569/Budget-verdict-sector/13CB83204FCF47A5EB5EA34B5AA972ED/?DCMP=EMC-DailyBulletin>

Hardship pledge

A £20m Hardship Fund for charities delivering services to people affected by the recession was one of the measures announced in the recent Budget.

The fund will make grants to organisations suffering "cash flow difficulties" caused by increased demand and is in addition to the £42.5m third sector action plan launched in February.

<http://www.thirdsector.co.uk/News/DailyBulletin/900414/20m-Hardship-Fund-charities-announced-Budget/93E09DC732D30A6949EBC55269FC432E/?DCMP=EMC-DailyBulletin>

Youth employment boost

Chancellor Alistair Darling also pledged £260 million pounds to guarantee a job, or training, for young people who have been unemployed for a year or more. Funding will be available for local authorities and voluntary organisations to employ 100,000 young people in "socially useful activity", including social care.

<http://www.cypnow.co.uk/bulletins/Daily-Bulletin/news/900371/?DCMP=EMC-DailyBulletin>

Pension help for caring grandparents

Grandparents who give up work to care for their grandchildren will receive National Insurance credits to ensure they build up a full state pension.

Jeremy Todd, Chief Executive for Hampshire-based parenting support charity Parentline Plus, has welcomed the announcement that the caring role of grandparents will be recognised.

"The proposal that the work done by grandparents in providing childcare will be recognised is very welcome. Many families struggle with childcare, and grandparents are for many, an essential support. We look forward to looking at the details behind this initiative."

"While we note some welcome points in the budget, such as next year's £20 increase in the Child Tax Credit and the extra support for families with disabled children, overall we are disappointed that there is not more targeted support because things are incredibly hard for families in the current economic environment."

- **other national news**

'One third of public not aware of Gift Aid'

According to a report published by the Charities Aid Foundation (CAF), charities could be missing out on Gift Aid on donations as 32 per cent of people are not aware of the tax benefits in giving to charities.

<http://www.thirdsector.co.uk/News/DailyBulletin/900125/One-third-public-not-aware-Gift-Aid-CAF-report-finds/264FC40194629A182EFB97B9CEC7D9F4/?DCMP=EMC-DailyBulletin>

Entry to Employment (E2E) providers face funding shortfall

Children & Young People Now report that Charities and not-for-profit organisations, which provide the Entry to Employment (E2E) basic skills course, are experiencing unprecedented demand for places, because of the credit crunch.

But they are turning young people away because the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) has been unable to fund the rise in demand.

The Budget contained a pledge to provide enough funding to cover places on E2E in the next two academic years, but until then; learning providers could have to keep turning young people away. Further details at

<http://www.cypnow.co.uk/bulletins/Daily-Bulletin/news/900743/?DCMP=EMC-DailyBulletin>

Concerns about implementing Laming recommendations

The LGA (Local Government Association) and the ADCS (Association of Directors of Children's Services) have written to Children's Secretary Ed Balls highlighting some areas of concern around the implementation of Lord Laming's proposals to improve child protection.

<http://www.cypnow.co.uk/bulletins/Daily-Bulletin/news/899715/?DCMP=EMC-DailyBulletin>

ADCS suggests ways of aiding Laming recommendations.

The Association of Directors of Children's Services (ADCS) have put forward proposals which would see local authorities sharing skills and expertise in order to deliver Lord Laming's safeguarding recommendations.

One of the ADCS suggestions is that Directors from successful authorities would offer advice and guidance to poorer performing councils between scheduled Ofsted inspections as an alternative to government intervention.

The ADCS also wants directors or senior managers to chair neighbouring councils' local safeguarding children boards (LSCB).

<http://www.cypnow.co.uk/bulletins/Daily-Bulletin/news/899936/?DCMP=EMC-DailyBulletin>

The Coalition for Young People

Manifesto for young people

The Coalition for Young People, which launched at last year's party conferences, has published a manifesto for young people setting out demands to the main political parties. The manifesto is calling for more investment to create excellent facilities for young people in their community, subsidised public transport for under-18s and help, information and advice for all young people, with personalised support packages for those who need it.

<http://www.nya.org.uk/information/100131/100563/137756/coalitionforyoungpeople>

Parenting qualification

Pregnant teenagers and young parents in the UK are to have the opportunity to gain nationally recognised qualifications in parenting for the first time. The qualifications, which are roughly equivalent to a GCSE, will be offered at approved training centres around the country from September this year after being accredited nationally by the Edexcel exam board.

The course aims to educate young people about what to expect during pregnancy and the early years of a child's life.

The course is based on the template of two minor accredited courses that have been run successfully over the last six years by the Nationwide Community Learning Partnership (NCLP): Young Mums to Be (YMTB) and Parents with Prospects.

<http://www.nclp.org.uk/>

Criminal Records Bureau launches new electronic application system.

The Criminal Records Bureau has launched a new electronic application system. Customers who make more than 3,000 checks a year can now use e-Bulk to send multiple applications and receive the results electronically.

<http://www.crb.gov.uk/Default.aspx?page=5304>

resources

- briefings

Child Poverty

Child Poverty Action Group has published a briefing drawn from a new league table of child well-being in European countries. The report, produced by researchers from the University of York, ranks the UK 24th in a list of 29 European countries. The UK's position comes well below countries of similar affluence, with only Romania, Bulgaria, Latvia, Lithuania and Malta doing worse. <http://www.cpag.org.uk/press/2009/210409.htm>

- fact sheets

Children England

Children England has produced a range of **Why Sheets** covering a variety of topics.

Below is a link to the Why Sheet on Vetting and Barring (**please note that the reference to October 2009 in this particular Why Sheet is no longer current**)

<http://www.childrenengland.org.uk/upload/why%20vetting%20and%20barring%20March%202009%20CE.pdf>

The Children England website address is <http://www.childrenengland.org.uk>

- publications

Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF)

Anti-bullying guidance

The DCSF, together with 4Children, have published a series of eight guidance notes on preventing bullying aimed at different areas of work with young people. The notes provide advice for practitioners on: bullying in extended services; bullying during youth activities; bullying in children's homes; bullying during play and leisure; bullying on journeys; anti-bullying training resources; guidance for local authorities; and further education colleges.

<http://publications.dcsf.gov.uk/default.aspx?PageFunction=viewlatestadditionstocatalogue&PageMode=publications&Type=LatestAdditions&>

- reports/surveys

Every Disabled Child Matters (EDCM)

EDCM has published a report which finds that good practice on short breaks services for disabled children is emerging, but practice development is far from consistent. EDCM is calling for all Children's Trust Partnerships to take a leadership role in ensuring consistent delivery of the short breaks transformation programme introduced through the Government's 'Aiming High for Disabled Children' publication one year ago. The report shows that while some good models of practice are beginning to emerge from short breaks pathfinder areas, there is still a long way to go before a consistent, sustainable service is established that works for all disabled children, particularly those with the most complex needs. Key concerns raised in the report are that information on short breaks services may not be reaching all families that need it, and that eligibility criteria are still leading to confusion, with some areas having inconsistent systems.

http://www.edcm.org.uk/Page.asp?originx_2114lr_46686244972u36i_20094141241e

Office for National Statistics (ONS)

Social trends

The ONS has published an annual report on social trends. The underlying themes are households, **families and children**.

Figures show that since 2001 the number of young adults continuing to live in the family home has increased by 300,000. The statistics also find that the proportion of the UK population aged under 16 dropped below the proportion over state pension age for the first time in 2007.

Other findings include:

- Nearly a third of working mothers in Britain rely on informal childcare provision from the child's grandparents;
- 31 per cent of children in England are being brought up in 'non-decent' homes that do not meet a sufficient standard of upkeep, facilities, insulation and heating;
- Nearly a third of two to 15-year-olds in England in 2007 were overweight or obese;
- The number of boys counselled by Childline more than doubled from 24,115 calls and letters in 1997-98 to 58,311 in 2007-08; and
- One in four young people have been a victim of personal crime and children are the highest risk group for pedestrian and cycling accidents

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=13675>

The Family and Parenting Institute

Parenting services

The Family and Parenting Institute have published a report which maps the range and volume of parenting services across England. Based on a national survey of Directors of Children's Services in England, the study analyses how local authorities are assessing the population parenting support needs in their area, how resources are being distributed in parenting services and the degree to which parenting support needs are being met.

<http://www.familyandparenting.org/item/publication/61/1>

The House of Commons Children, Schools and Families Select Committee

Looked-after children

The Committee has published a report on looked-after children which calls for a major overhaul of the system that is supposed to support children in care.
<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm/cmchilsch.htm>

safeguarding

Safeguarding - the ISA Vetting and Barring Scheme

The overriding aim of the ISA (Independent Safeguarding Authority) will be to help avoid harm, or risk of harm, to children and vulnerable adults. It will aim to do this by preventing those who are deemed unsuitable to work with children and/or vulnerable adults from gaining access to them through their work.

The Scheme will also cover people who have access to sensitive information, not just those whose work means they have direct contact with children or vulnerable adults.

Increased safeguards will come into effect from 12 October. Around five million more jobs and voluntary positions – including most National Health Service (NHS) jobs, probation and prisons - will be covered by the barring arrangements, meaning that safeguarding protection is extended to many more people.

In October employers, social services and professional regulators will also have a duty to notify the ISA of 'relevant information' so that individuals who pose a threat can be identified and barred from working with vulnerable people. It will be an offence for any barred person to work in regulated activities, and for any employer to employ someone he knows to be barred, either paid or voluntary.

Each organisation should consider the need to update staff and review different roles/functions within their organisation in the light of the new scheme, including updating their policies and procedures. Go to the ISA website to find out more about the activities ("regulated" and "controlled" covered by the scheme). It is known that individuals sometimes seek access to vulnerable adults/children via employment or volunteering positions within the voluntary and community sector.

It is also important to note that an ISA check will only tell you if the person is barred from working with children / vulnerable adults. Agencies may still wish to consider carrying out a criminal background check themselves, to check for

convictions that are not of interest to ISA, e.g. driving offences which might be relevant to the work that the individual will be asked to undertake.

Hampshire County Council has acted as an umbrella body carrying out checks on behalf of voluntary and community organisations. It intends to continue this role under the new ISA Vetting and Barring Scheme.

Make sure you are fully up-to-date at <http://www.isa-gov.org.uk/>

Above information provided by Community Action Hampshire

(The above should be read in conjunction with The Office of the Third Sector Guidance on CRB checks for volunteers)

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/third_sector/news/news_stories/080604_crb.aspx

training/workforce development

Hampshire County Council/the alliance/The Treloar trust

'Skills to Work with Disabled Children (SWDC)'

At the end of 2008 the alliance was asked by Hampshire County Council to produce a brief for a project to identify, co-ordinate and meet, wherever possible, the training needs of people working with disabled children and young people in Hampshire.

The need for this project has grown out of the development of services for disabled children and young people and their families/carers under the Hampshire implementation of Aiming High for Disabled Children.

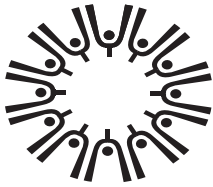
The alliance, on behalf of Hampshire County Council, invited applications from suitably experienced voluntary organisations to fulfil the requirements of the Skills to Work with Disabled Children Project.

The alliance is pleased to announce that The Treloar Trust were successful in their bid to deliver the project, and that this work is now well under way. We look forward to supporting the project and to working with our colleagues at Treloar, particularly Karen (Kaz) Lodge, SWDC Project Worker.

Kaz's contact details: **Kaz Lodge**, SWDC Project Worker, direct on **01420 547720** or email karen.lodge@treloar.org.uk

Harbourside Training

Their schedule of training programmes is available at www.farehamaction.org.uk/training



**Training Opportunities in 2009 –
Test valley community Services working together
with Sparsholt College Hampshire (Andover College)**

Health & Safety – Moving & Handling

Tuesday 12th May @ Longstock Village Hall – 9.30am – 12.30pm. Cost £15pp
Trainer – Alan Ashcroft

Equality & Diversity

Tuesday 16th June @ Longstock Village Hall – 1.30pm – 4.30pm. Cost £15pp
Trainer - TBA

Promoting your Organisation- using the Media

Tuesday 14th July @ Longstock Village Hall – 9.30am – 12.30pm. Cost £15pp
Trainer – Bob Wood

These training sessions are part of the Govt. Personal Community Development Learning programme and will be facilitated by tutors from Andover College. TVCS will be providing the administration for the sessions, so all bookings and payments through TVCS please.

If you, a member of your staff or a volunteer would like to attend any of the training sessions, please reserve a place by contacting –

Dawn Elson on 01264 362600 or dawn.elson@tvcs.org.uk



Training calendar can be accessed at
<http://www.roseroad.org.uk/?f=Training/Calendar.htm>

WACA Learning



WACA Learning

For details on latest courses <http://www.waca.org.uk/html/training.html>



Youth Clubs Hampshire and Isle of Wight

For details of forthcoming training programme events visit
<http://www.ychiow.org.uk/>



CELD offers the opportunity to gain nationally and internationally recognised awards across a variety of disciplines.
<http://www.action.hants.org.uk/index.php?id=358>