

## Children, Families and Maternity e-bulletin

October 2009  
Edition 55

The Children, Families and Maternity e-bulletin provides a monthly update of news and activities that support the delivery of the [National Service Framework for Children, Young People and Maternity Services](#) (NSF) and the [Child Health Strategy \(CHS\) – Healthy lives, brighter futures](#)

The CHS builds on the NSF and was developed in cross government partnership between the Department of Health (DH) and the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF). This Children, Families and Maternity e-bulletin reflects and supports many of the joint child health initiatives being delivered across England and is produced by DH with input from DCSF. It shows the many connections between the various programmes which together improve services for children, young people, pregnant women and their families. With policy updates, consultations, publications and key events, it offers managers and front line staff the chance to share information and areas of emerging practice.

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## General News

### Spotting the Sick Child now online

As reported in last month's bulletin, an updated version of the online educational tool 'Spotting the Sick Child' has been commissioned. This took place to build upon the existing core of educational material, including the NICE guideline on feverish illness in children, to include the presentation of swine flu, as well as other conditions with which it may be confused. It is intended that the updated version will become integral to the effective and rapid diagnosis of seriously ill children.

The updated version is now available online and features streaming video and audio, learner interaction, personalised performance tracking, improved security and ease of use. Click [here](#) to link through to the site.

To access the tool, a professional PIN number ID (GMC, NMC) is required to log on and only email addresses ending with .nhs.uk, .nhs.net and .ac.uk will be able to access the system in order to restrict access to healthcare professionals only.

### Critical care strategy: managing the H1N1 flu pandemic

Following a review of NHS critical care capacity and plans to increase this capacity if necessary during a pandemic, a critical care strategy was published by DH in September. The document sets out how the NHS will double ventilate critical care capacity during the peak of a potential second wave of the swine flu virus. It outlines a series of whole system measures that can be put in place, including measures to minimise demand for critical care.

To support the NHS with this work, a new Critical Care Clinical Group made up of a number of independent experts in delivering critical care has been formed. The group will be chaired by Dr Judith Hulf, President of the Royal College of Anaesthetists and will provide a dedicated, expert resource for the NHS for the duration of the swine flu pandemic.

For further information and to download the strategy click [here](#).

### Introduction of ContactPoint

ContactPoint is a nationally available online directory providing the quick way for authorised practitioners to find out who else is working with the same child or young person, making it easier to deliver more coordinated support. It is now undergoing an evaluation phase with 'early adopters', including some NHS professionals. PCTs and other NHS organisations have a statutory obligation to support the implementation of ContactPoint. Local authorities can advise on roll-out plans for their areas. Strategic leads for NHS organisations should contact the ContactPoint manager at their local authority for more information.

An NHS briefing and health Q&A are available on the [DH website](#).

## National Healthy Schools Programme

Public Health Minister Gillian Merron has announced the government's flagship scheme to make healthy living an integral part of a child's school life is to be expanded, following a decade of success.

The move comes as the Healthy Schools Programme celebrates its tenth anniversary, and has exceeded its target of having 75% of schools achieving Healthy School status by December 2009.

To date, 80% of all English schools have achieved National Healthy School status. This equates to nearly six million children and young people already benefitting from attending a Healthy School. So far, 99.1% of schools are taking part.

The scheme teaches children about every aspect of being healthy, including travelling to school, exercise, school meals, obesity and anti-bullying.

Speaking at the annual Healthy Schools conference, Gillian Merron outlined how the National Healthy Schools Programme will be widened to include closer working with local authorities, health services and the wider community. Ultimately, it will enable schools to identify and help those children who need it most in the community, addressing specific local issues such as bullying, teenage pregnancy and drugs.

For further information click [here](#).

## Care Quality Commission update

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) is responsible for the regulation of all health services, including maternity and those that work with children and young people in the NHS or independent sector. This includes registering and inspecting children's domiciliary (home) care and nursing agencies that include children's nurses.

CQC is consulting widely to seek views and comment as they develop a plan of work for the next few years. CQC will consider how their work as a regulator can drive the improvement of services and outcomes for children and young people. Comments and ideas will help to inform how CQC prioritises their engagement, inspection, monitoring and review work to ensure that services and organisations focus on the areas that matter the most to children and young people, their parents and carers.

The closing date is Friday 30<sup>th</sup> October. To view the consultation click [here](#).

## Taskforce on health aspects of violence against women and girls – have your say

This new taskforce aims to identify the role and response of health services in preventing, identifying and supporting women and girls who are victims of violence or abuse.

It will also make recommendations on what more could be done to meet their needs and forms part of a cross-government strategy on *Violence against Women and Girls*, joining up existing work across a number of government departments.

Themes covered by the taskforce include sexual violence against children, sexual violence against women, domestic violence and harmful traditional practices and trafficking. The taskforce is interested in hearing how professionals feel these areas can be improved and any examples of good practice:

- Service delivery (early identification, access to healthcare services, staff awareness and attitudes and maximising NHS resources)
- Service commissioning (needs assessment - including Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, NHS commissioning, joint commissioning and commissioning from non-NHS providers)
- Partnership working (information sharing, service level agreements and protocols and co-located/collaborative service delivery)

To comment on any of these areas, email your thoughts to [VAWGTaskforce@dh.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:VAWGTaskforce@dh.gsi.gov.uk) before Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> October. Feedback will help inform taskforce recommendations.

For further information on the taskforce click [here](#)

## **Change4Life**

This month, the Change4Life team have written directly to key healthcare professionals, including practice staff, midwives, nutritionists and health visitors. The letter was sent out with a booklet that points out where to find free resources, ways they can help and examples of how others are using Change4Life to support their work. The letter and booklet can be accessed from the [DH website](#) and the booklet (product code: C4L079) is available to order through the DH orderline service (Prolog). Click [here](#) for further information on how to place an order.

## **International awards for Children's Palliative Care**

Katrina McNamara-Goodger, Head of Policy and Practice at the Association for Children's Palliative Care (ACT), has received international recognition at the Children's Hospice International Congress in South Africa for her contribution to developing ACT's Care Pathways for children with life-limiting or life-threatening conditions. The award recognises Katrina's longstanding work in developing a dedicated care pathway approach which puts children and families at the centre of care planning and delivery.

Congratulations also go to Francis Edwards, consultant nurse in children's and young people's palliative care in Aberdeen and member of ACT's Policy and Practice Committee, who has also received an award for his concept of managing 'Soul pain'. The award is in recognition of his efforts to alleviate pain and to establish innovative programs to relieve suffering in children with life-limiting and life-threatening conditions. Francis' 'Soul pain' concept is used alongside traditional pain and symptom management to maximise the comfort of children receiving palliative care.

The awards were announced on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> September, when Children's Hospice International hosted the CHI Achievement Awards luncheon during the CHI 20th World Congress in Cape Town, South Africa. At each World Congress, CHI presents these awards to recognise the accomplishments of individuals and organisations within the various specialties of children's hospice and palliative care. The awards are named in honour of renowned individuals who have greatly contributed to past advancements in the field.

For more information about the Children's Hospice International 20<sup>th</sup> World Congress in Cape Town, South Africa and CHI Achievement Awards click [here](#).

For more information on the ACT click [here](#)

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## Publications and Consultations

### This month's publications and consultations

Please refer to individual portfolio areas to view full details on Publications and Consultations featured in this month's e-bulletin.

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## Maternity

### Revised government advice on consumption of peanuts during pregnancy, breastfeeding and early life

Following on from the August e-bulletin article on the above, the revised government advice on this topic has now been published in full and is available from the Food Standards Agency's [website](#).

The advice is also being incorporated into the general advice given to mothers about pregnancy and the development of their baby, including the Pregnancy Book and Birth to Five, which have recently been revised in England, and via appropriate dissemination routes in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

### Online feedback about local maternity services

People are increasingly sharing their experiences of health services, including maternity care, on the web. An online patient and carer feedback service covering the NHS in England is available through [NHS Choices](#), and covering the whole of the UK through [Patient Opinion](#), an independent site.

Patient Opinion is a not-for-profit social enterprise based in Sheffield. The Patient Opinion website brings together feedback submitted through NHS Choices with that

submitted through Patient Opinion, and the feedback is tagged to make it easy to search either locally or by topic.

For example, postings tagged with 'midwife' can be accessed [here](#) and feedback about maternity services near the middle of Sheffield [here](#)

Patient Opinion encourages both the NHS and voluntary sector organisations to engage with the feedback (automated email alerting is available) and respond online. Local NHS providers are able to use the site to show patients and relatives how they are making changes to services in the light of feedback.

Patient Opinion is now working in partnership with NHS Choices to explore how to realise the full potential of user feedback. In part, this work is looking at whether online patient feedback can be useful to policymakers at national level, as well as to service providers at local level.

For further information contact:

James Munro

Director of Research

Patient Opinion

[James.munro@patientopinion.org.uk](mailto:James.munro@patientopinion.org.uk)

Tel. 0114 281 6256

## **New tools available to help NHS trusts capture the views of maternity service users**

An online question bank has been launched which will allow NHS trusts to carry out their own maternity survey, using the same questions and approach as that employed in the NHS national patient survey programme. The question bank offers a choice of questions covering the entire maternity care pathway and uses many of the same questions as the 2007 national maternity survey. Understanding women's experience of maternity care is essential in making a complete assessment of service quality which can only be achieved by asking women themselves.

Trusts may want to carry out a local maternity survey to check how feedback on services has changed since the 2007 survey, or they may find it useful to:

- instigate or evaluate quality improvement initiatives
- focus on specific groups of women, for example, women giving birth in specific locations
- explore particular issues in greater depth and detail

The questionnaire tool and supporting guidance materials will be available on the ['local surveys' page](#).

Queries regarding the survey can be answered by the Coordination Centre team at 0186 520 8127 or emailed to [advice@pickereurope.ac.uk](mailto:advice@pickereurope.ac.uk)

In the future a 'menu' of surveys will be available for local use in addition to the maternity survey. A local 'A&E Department Survey' is currently available for use.

## Commissioning local breastfeeding support services - new guide published

DH has published a new national guide which aims to assist commissioners and PCTs in commissioning coherent sustained services that will promote the normalising of breastfeeding and reduce inequalities, as set out in *Healthy Lives - Brighter Futures* - the strategy for children and young people's health, and to work with local Children's Trust partners in delivering PSA 12.

Breastfeeding is one of the top ten health outcomes most frequently prioritised by PCTs in their strategic plans. The guide aims to:

- Consolidate the case for breastfeeding care and support as an integral part of local strategies to improve child health and reduce health inequalities
- Signpost commissioners to sources of policy, practice and evidence
- Set out some key considerations in relation to World Class Commissioning (WCC) competencies within the three phases of the commissioning cycle

Topics covered include policy priorities and performance drivers relevant to commissioning, leadership and collaboration, assessing need and strategic planning, shaping local breastfeeding services, improving performance and monitoring outcomes.

The guidance developed in line with WCC competencies will inform and support PCTs in developing their Operating Framework plans for 2010-11. It will also direct users to key sources of evidence and further information about breastfeeding.

The guide is available to download from the [DH website](#)

For further information contact:

Francesca Entwistle

Regional Infant Feeding Co-ordinator

[francesca.entwistle@dh.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:francesca.entwistle@dh.gsi.gov.uk)

Tel. 07798 588690

## New H1N1v ('Swine Flu') in pregnancy study

The UK Obstetric Surveillance System (UKOSS) and the UK Teratology Information Service have been funded to carry out a rapid study of H1N1v influenza ('swine flu') in pregnancy in the UK. Currently, there is limited information about the complications of H1N1v infection in pregnancy in the UK, but experience in other countries and from previous influenza pandemics suggests that pregnant women may be more susceptible to complications of infection. Rapid collection and analysis of information is needed in the course of the current pandemic to inform guidance for management.

This study will provide national information about women in hospital and in the community with H1N1v in pregnancy and rapid analysis of these data will be used to produce updated monthly guidance for clinicians.

Clinicians should report any pregnant woman admitted to hospital with H1N1v through the [UKOSS website](#) via the link '[Report a case of H1N1 influenza](#)'.

Pregnant women with confirmed or suspected H1N1v infection in the community but who are not admitted to hospital should be reported to the [UK Teratology Information Service](#)

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## **Healthy Child Programme (Child Health Promotion Programme) and Early Years**

### **Birth to Five online**

To coincide with the arrival of the updated Pregnancy Book and Birth to Five, a new interactive online Birth to Five tool has been launched. Birth to Five online is one of the latest additions to NHS Choices and features 150 pages of NHS-accredited information, videos and interactive tools, providing parents with information on becoming a parent, taking care of themselves and their child and how to access practical help and support.

To view Birth to Five online, click [here](#).

### **Sure Start Children's Centre Week**

The first ever Sure Start Children's Centre Week took place between 14 -18 September, with over 1,000 children's centres participating to encourage parents and families to discover more about their local centre.

The week kicked off a major campaign by DCSF to promote Sure Start Children's Centres to parents and their children. For further information about the campaign and to view the Sure Start Children's Centres communications toolkit, click [here](#).

### **Update on autumn cluster of Sure Start Children's Centre Leader Network Events**

The fourth round of CCLN events is underway, with the first of these held on Friday 25th September in Gateshead for delegates from the North East region. Another eight regional events are taking place over the next couple of months, finishing on the 8th December in Yorkshire and Humberside. These network events continue to be a mutual support network for all children's centre leaders to exchange ideas on best practice and to discuss some of the key challenges and triumphs of working with young families in local communities. The main themes are join-up with the health workforce, including exploring the role of the health visitor in children's centres, and an update on the national marketing campaign for children's centres.

The events are primarily for children's centre leaders to support the key role they are playing in improving outcomes for young children, narrowing gaps in opportunities

between those most disadvantaged in society and the rest of the early years population, and helping to reduce and eliminate child poverty. Local health workforce colleagues may wish to attend for part of the morning session, as this part of the event is likely to be of most interest to the wider health workforce community, and the multi agency dimension of children's centres.

For more information on these events click [here](#).

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## Child Health

### Child Health Strategy regional events update

Confirmed dates for upcoming Child Health Strategy regional events are as follows:

- Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> October – GO and South West SHA
- Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> October – GO and London SHA – please see below for further information
- Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October - GO and North West SHA
- Friday 6<sup>th</sup> November - GO and East Midlands SHA

#### East of England event

The East of England *Healthy lives, brighter futures* event, held in Cambridge, was well attended by a wide range of partners with presentations from the GO-East and the SHA. Key note speeches were delivered by Dr Sheila Shribman (DH) and Anne Jackson (DCSF). Workshops focused on the regional picture of child health and wellbeing, identifying areas of good practice and opportunities for improving outcomes for children and young people.

The next step is to produce a regional child health strategy setting out regional priorities. This work will be taken forward by the newly created joint GO-East and SHA Child Health and Wellbeing Team, in consultation with key regional partners. It is hoped that the strategy will be published by the end of November.

#### South East event

On Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> September, the South East region, covering Government Office for the South East, and the South Central and South East Coastal Strategic Health Authorities, jointly held the regional launch of *Healthy lives, brighter futures*. With over 150 delegates registered to attend, it was a lively day, held in central London.

The tone of the day was set by the keynote speaker, Dr Sheila Shribman, National Clinical Director for Children Young People and Maternity Services and the focus was on joint commissioning, workforce planning and the duty to cooperate. A series of workshops were held, facilitated by national and regional policy leads and supported with good practice examples provided from around the South East region. As part of

the final session, delegates were asked to list what they had learnt from the day and how they would take this forward.

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## Vulnerable Children

### Improving Safety, Reducing Harm: Children, Young People and Domestic Violence

#### - A Practical Toolkit for Front-line Practitioners

A new toolkit was launched on Tuesday 15th September to provide front-line professionals with a complete summary of information that will support them in effectively responding to children and young people affected by domestic and sexual violence and abuse. It aims to help commissioners and front-line workers to understand what the guidance and relevant legislation mean in practice. This practical resource provides guidance on best practice so that victims and their children receive the protection they need.

To order a copy of the toolkit, click [here](#) or phone 0300 123 1002 and quote 292071/Improving Safety, Reducing Harm: A Practical Toolkit for front-line Practitioners.

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## Ill and Disabled Children

### Disabled children's services national indicator survey for parents

A large-scale survey of parents for the second disabled children's services national indicator has been sent to parents across England. The indicator measures parental experiences of services (health, education and care & family support) for disabled children and young people aged 0 to 19 and the extent to which these services are delivered according to core offer standards. The indicator is a core part of performance management arrangements aimed at improving the quality of services for disabled children. Every local authority and PCT will be measured against the disabled children's services indicator. The indicator scores will be used for the local authority disabled children's services national indicator (NI 54) and the NHS Vital Sign on parents' experience of services for disabled children (VSC33).

Two leaflets have been produced, one for stakeholders and one for parents, explaining the background to indicator further.

To download the leaflets and for more information click [here](#)

### Asthma emergency admissions data toolkit relaunched

An online toolkit to increase the efficiency of services for children with long-term conditions has been updated and relaunched by ChiMat.

The Disease Management Information Toolkit (DMIT) for paediatric asthma has information at PCT level on emergency hospital admissions for patients aged under 19 with a primary diagnosis of asthma. The toolkit enables PCTs to compare their emergency admission rates, bed-days and lengths of stay with a range of different comparators. It is designed to highlight variations at PCT level and allow benchmarking to inform the commissioning decision-making process for children's services.

The toolkit uses data already in the public domain to present information in a user-friendly format. It also provides a summary report of key data and information on trends over time and potential cost savings.

The paediatric asthma module is the first in a series aimed at improving quality and increasing efficiency of services for children with long-term conditions. More modules will follow, including diabetes and epilepsy.

To access the paediatric asthma toolkit, click [here](#).

## **Short Breaks Marketplace launched**

The Commissioning Support Programme (CSP) and the Aiming High for Disabled Children (AHDC) programme have developed an entirely new system to support commissioners and providers of short breaks for children with disabilities.

The Short Breaks Marketplace was launched on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> September to help commissioners to:

- increase the range and response of short breaks solutions by submitting tenders and commissioning intentions
- know the market better by developing knowledge of and relationships with existing and new providers via My Marketplace
- easily communicate with providers to organise events and tender alerts via the search and email tool and understand more about the provision in the marketplace and
- easily keep on top of latest marketplace developments by subscribing to provider alerts

To access the marketplace click [here](#).

For further information about the CSP click [here](#) or email [info@commissioningsupport.org.uk](mailto:info@commissioningsupport.org.uk)

For further information about the AHDC short breaks strand click [here](#).

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<h2><b>Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) Update</b></h2>
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## **Children and Young Person's Psychological Wellbeing and Mental Health NST**

The Psychological wellbeing and mental health of children and young people will be the focus of a new National Support Team (NST) currently being established.

National support teams provide consultancy-style expert tailored support to health partnerships in England (PCTs, other NHS Trusts and Local Authorities). This is done, typically, through a three day visit to a partnership by a team of specialists and experts during which they have discussions with a range of key people, including senior managers and board members. The team's information is combined and transformed into a report of recommendations and offers of support that is then presented to the local stakeholders on the final day of the visit.

The approach is genuinely supportive but the team will challenge. The NST will collaborate closely with regional colleagues, the NCSS and other relevant field forces.

Areas offered support are identified principally on performance against National Indicators e.g. NI 50 and NI 51 for this new NST and the recommendations of SHA and GO colleagues regarding which areas in their region would benefit most from a visit.

The Children and Young Person's Psychological Wellbeing and Mental Health NST will conduct 20 visits between December 2010 and March 2011. Each region will have at least one visit and the remaining visits will be determined based on the criteria above.

For further information contact:

[Mary.Choiseul@dh.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Mary.Choiseul@dh.gsi.gov.uk)

Tel. 0779 530 7853

or

[Kate.Quail@dh.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Kate.Quail@dh.gsi.gov.uk)

Tel. 0777 646 3685

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## **Conferences and Events**

**Working to Meet the Short Breaks Full Service Offer**  
Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> October, London

This new course will enable short break service commissioners and providers to develop their understanding of Aiming High for Disabled Children's 'Full Service Offer' and how to meet it.

For further information click [here](#) or contact:

[training@ncb.org.uk](mailto:training@ncb.org.uk)

Tel. 020 7843 6084/1906

## **NCAS Conference**

**Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> – Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October, Harrogate**

The national children and adult services conference is an established event that sees an audience of approximately 1200 high-level attendees coming together for three days to discuss and debate the latest issues affecting children and adult services. This event is vital to councillors, senior officers, policymakers and service managers with responsibilities for children's and adult social care in the statutory, voluntary and private sector.

The theme for this year is 'Rising to the challenge: brighter futures for all' - with the conference addressing the challenges that arise in the children and adult sector and how the outcomes can predict a brighter future in the changing political landscape.

Heather Gwynn, Director, CNOD at DH will be speaking at 4pm on the 22<sup>nd</sup> October on the Healthy Lives, brighter futures. The session will aim to inform, share ambitions and aspirations, demonstrate a mutual agenda, share progress, identify next steps/challenges and to hear expert accounts/views on improvements and innovations in their local areas.

For further information on this event click [here](#).

## **Provision, Protection, Partnership – the launch of the Response to Sexual Violence National Support Team**

**Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> October, London**

This one-day conference aims to showcase the initial work of the Response to Sexual Violence National Support Team and its efforts to improve the response to sexual violence, including the national roll-out of Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs).

Ann Keen MP will give the keynote address and leading experts will discuss key areas relating to SARCs as well as key speakers from across Government and the third sector, contributing to a lively debate. Vera Baird QC MP will close the day.

The event is aimed at those who are responsible for taking this work forward at a strategic, policy and operational level as well as stakeholders from DH, other government departments, other national organisations, the third sector and the private sector.

The day will consist of speakers in the morning covering key areas relating to sexual violence policy, followed by parallel sessions in the afternoon that will look at the areas that are associated with the development of SARCs as part of the wide sexual violence agenda, provide a policy update and share examples of good practice. Updated guidance on SARCs will also be available.

For further information click [here](#) or contact the event office:  
[responsetosexualviolence@livegroup.co.uk](mailto:responsetosexualviolence@livegroup.co.uk)  
Tel. 020 8481 3339

## **Time and Decision Making: Right for Children–Fair to Parents?**

**Tuesday 27th October, Leeds**

Vulnerable babies need decisions. When deciding whether a child should remain at home or be taken in to care, it is important to make decisions based on the child's early development needs. This conference aims to look at how these decisions can be improved, and how the speed of the process can be enhanced for children, whilst also giving parents a chance to show that they are able to care for their children.

The one-day event aims to pull together cutting-edge research, and present views from different professional perspectives. The conference is aimed at all social work professionals and academics, CAFCASS staff, Children's Service Managers, family law solicitors, barristers, and judges, in addition to any other professionals that work with young children. All delegates will be able to develop their knowledge and understanding of topics across disciplines, with presentations from leading professionals in their field: Professor Harriet Ward (Director, Centre for Child and Family Research, University of Loughborough), Professor David Howe (Professor of Social Work, University of East Anglia), and Professor Judith Masson (Professor of Socio-Legal Studies, University of Bristol).

For further information click [here](#) or contact:  
Danny Woodworth  
[dwoodworth@browninghouse.org.uk](mailto:dwoodworth@browninghouse.org.uk)  
Tel. 0113 237 9933

## **Children and young people with learning disabilities and mental health needs**

The National CAMHS Support Service CAMHS/LD conference will take place on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> November at the Walker stadium Leicester

The Children's NSF 2004 and the Public Service Agreement 12 (2007), determined standards for the development of CAMHS services for children and young people with learning disabilities; and whilst progress has been made towards comprehensive provision there is still some way to go before fully commissioned services are available to meet the needs of this group of children and young people

The conference focus will be early intervention and prevention of mental health problems in children and young people who have learning disabilities and will be delivered using a workshop format with presentations from Key note speakers.

Further information will be made available nearer the conference date, in the interim, contact:

Ann Jones

CAMHS Regional Development Worker  
NHS Northwest  
Tel. 0161 625 7267

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## **Children and Young People's Emergency and Urgent Care for all PCT Children's Commissioners**

**Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> November, Coventry**

This event will provide delegates with an opportunity to consider how to improve the commissioning of emergency and urgent care for children and young people using the experiences and findings of national programmes.

Event chairs will include Dr Venkat Reddy, Consultant Paediatrician/Clinical Lead for the Children and Young People's Emergency and Urgent Care Programme, Sarbjit Purewal, Associate, NHS Institute for Innovation and Improvement and Hilary Samson-Barry, Deputy Director, DH.

To register for this event, email [Sheryl.cox@institute.nhs.uk](mailto:Sheryl.cox@institute.nhs.uk) with your name, role, trust and contact details.

### **NBO Training**

**2nd & 3rd November, London**

### **NBAS Training**

**25th & 26th January, Cambridge**

The Neonatal Behavioural Assessment Scale (NBAS) has been named in the CHPP 2008 by the Department of Health as a beneficial support for parents in the newborn period. The training involves practicing on over 20 babies aged from 37 weeks to 48 weeks gestation. It documents the baby's responses to stimulation, ability to self-soothe and self-regulate and produces a profile of the individual infant so that caretaking strategies around sleeping, crying and feeding can be established.

The Newborn Behavioural Observations Systems (NBO) is based on the NBAS using the same strength-based concepts, focusing on the infant, but is not as behaviourally detailed as the NBAS. It provides an introduction to infant behaviour, while establishing good relationships between clinician and parents and parents and baby. The training involves practice with 5 infants, anticipatory guidance and a parent questionnaire.

Both trainings aim to promote healthy parent-infant relationships, attachment and collaborative working with health professionals, and are especially effective with high-risk groups of babies, as well as maternal mental health and father involvement issues.

For registration and further information: [www.brazelton.co.uk](http://www.brazelton.co.uk)  
or email Helen Wells on [info@brazelton.co.uk](mailto:info@brazelton.co.uk)

## **Involving Disabled Children in Planning and Reviews**

## **Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> November, Manchester**

The aim of this course is to gain an understanding of the different ways in which disabled children communicate and to develop strategies for ensuring the involvement of disabled children in every aspect of their lives.

By the end of this course participants will:

- Understand the legislation and guidance relevant to the participation of disabled children
- Develop knowledge and awareness of the different ways in which disabled children communicate
- Examine strategies and ways in which professionals can work to ensure that the views of children are taken into account in all decisions affecting their lives
- Develop an action plan to change local practice.

This course will be of interest to managers and practitioners in all sectors-education, early years, social services and health who are working to develop a framework to ensure that all disabled children are included in services.

Click [here](#) for more information, or to book a place on this course.

## **Action for Sick Children – Past, Present, Future Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> November, Manchester**

It is now 50 years since the Platt Report was published on 2 February 1959 by the Ministry of Health. As Manchester is the city in which Sir Harry Platt lived and worked, the year will culminate in a Lord Mayor's Reception, visits to the new children's hospital and a conference at the University of Manchester.

The conference will be relevant to all those interested in the standards of health services for children and young people in their own area.

For more information and to register for the conference click [here](#).

## **The Sex Education Forum: Join a free network for professionals working in Sexual Health Services and SRE**

The Sex Education Forum (SEF) is the leading national authority on sex and relationships education. SEF is a unique collaboration of more than 50 member organisations working together to ensure that all children and young people receive their entitlement to good quality SRE. The Forum holds meetings for its members to explore research, policy and practice, provides advice to government, articulates a common voice on SRE to the media and prepares briefings and publications for professionals to promote best practice.

The SEF runs two free email networks for professionals. Members benefit from:

- Regular email bulletins with the latest policy, resources, training and news
- Network exchange facility to post questions and share innovative practice
- Practical tips for developing services

Over 500 professionals including school and college nurses, youth workers, healthy schools and teenage pregnancy coordinators are already sharing their expertise through these networks.

To join the email network contact:  
[sefnetworks@ncb.org.uk](mailto:sefnetworks@ncb.org.uk)

For further information about the Forum click [here](#).

## Sources of information

National Service Framework (NSF): [www.dh.gov.uk/childreansnf](http://www.dh.gov.uk/childreansnf)

Healthy lives, brighter futures ([Child Health Strategy](#))

Every Child Matters (ECM): [www.everychildmatters.gov.uk](http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk)

[DCSF Local Authorities](#) website - a 'one stop' shop for essential and relevant news, information and communications. [www.dcsf.gov.uk/localauthorities](http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/localauthorities).

This and all previous editions of the e-bulletin are available at the [Children's NSF area of the DH website](#)

## Feedback

Are there any other areas of interest that you feel are not being covered here? Please email [Elizabeth.Sleeman@dh.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Elizabeth.Sleeman@dh.gsi.gov.uk) with your suggestions.

Gateway Ref: 12708

## Join the Distribution List

Over 3,000 people receive the e-bulletin. If you'd like to join them, fill in the details below and either copy and paste them into an e-mail or add the sheet as an attachment and send to [MB-Childrens-NSF@dh.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:MB-Childrens-NSF@dh.gsi.gov.uk)

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