



Department
of Health

Children, Families and Maternity e-bulletin

December 2014
Edition 83

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SEASON'S GREETINGS TO ALL OUR READERS!

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Maternity

Online learning resource ahead of the expansion of newborn screening

A new online learning module has been launched to help health professionals prepare for the expansion of the NHS Newborn Blood Spot Screening Programme. Newborn blood spot screening aims to identify babies who are at risk of having rare but serious conditions, such as cystic fibrosis.

The module provides information on the four additional rare genetic disorders that will be part of the programme in England from early 2015. The new module is available [here](#)

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Healthy Child Programme (HCP) and Early Years

CANparent - Quality Marked Parenting Classes

Making parenting classes an accessible, normal part of family life continues to be a high priority for ministers. New, evidence-based, high quality CANparent classes will be starting in January, and can be done face-to-face or online. They offer a range of support and guidance for parents to help improve outcomes for children and families. 94% parents say they would recommend CANparent classes to another parent.

To learn more about commissioning classes or recommending them to parents click [here](#)

Integrated Review of Health and Education reviews at age 2

On 21st November the Department of Health and Department for Education jointly announced the publication of the pilot report (click [here](#)) on the Integrated Review alongside supporting materials produced by the National Children's Bureau. Ministers asked all local authorities to prepare for implementation by September 2015.

Integrating reviews will give a more complete picture of child development and will draw on the expertise of healthcare and education professionals.

A population measure of child development at age 2-2½ and ASQ-3™

From April 2015 health visiting teams will be using the Ages & Stages Questionnaire (ASQ-3™) as part of 2-2 ½ year health reviews, or integrated reviews where in place. The ASQ-3 data will feed into a population measure of child development at age 2, to

be included in the Public Health Outcomes Framework from April 2015. The measure will help build a picture of children's development at age 2 at local and national level, supporting service evaluation and planning. The ASQ tool will also inform individual children's health reviews. The Department of Health is funding one set of ASQ-3 British English materials per health visiting provider, to be distributed in early 2015. E-learning to support health professionals using ASQ-3 as part of two year reviews is available [here](#).

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Child Health

Child Death Overview Panels (CDOP): Data Collection

The Healthcare Quality Improvement Partnership has commissioned a project to develop the specification for a child death review information system on behalf of NHS England and the Health Department of the Scottish Government. Led by Professor Kurinczuk at The National Perinatal Epidemiology Unit, University of Oxford in collaboration with Professors Draper and Field at the University of Leicester, the project will report by autumn 2016.

The project is designed to specify the key elements required to develop a 'national' database for England and Scotland to collect information from the Child Death Reviews which are carried out in England by CDOPs and from the Child Death Review process which is currently being developed in Scotland. An extensive consultation with stakeholders across England and Scotland will be undertaken in Spring and Summer next year to inform the development of a specification for a sustainable, national information system which can support on-going information management requirements and facilitate the collection, analysis, interpretation and benchmarked reporting of data at a national and local level.

For further information click [here](#)

The Children's Health and Wellbeing Partnership – Takeover Day

As part of the Children's Commissioner's Takeover Day, nine young people "took over" the Partnership's meeting on 19 November. Young people from the Association for Young People's Health, National Children's Bureau and Together for Short Lives led discussions about how mental health services; GPs; school nurses and integrated care could improve young people's health and wellbeing. The Partnership will discuss what it can do to meet the identified challenges at its next meeting on the 29th January.

Information about the Children's Commissioner's Takeover Day is available [here](#)

Week of action in supporting families to give children and young people the best start

In November the Department of Health and Public Health England nursing team ran a successful week of action on supporting families and giving children and young people the best start to life, generating over 6000 Tweets. With contributions from parents, young people, frontline professionals and other experts, the week covered a wide range of important topics and celebrated the contribution of health visitors, school nurses and other healthcare practitioners and connected with children's charities, parent groups, local government organisations and those working with CYP.

To read the week's blogs and a personal message from the Prime Minister click [here](#) or check out some photos on Twitter with the hashtag #PHPCYPWeek

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Vulnerable Children

Child Protection – Information Sharing (CP-IS) project

The Department of Health announced on 28 November that CP-IS had successfully gone live in its first wave sites, Lancashire Teaching Hospitals and Homerton University Hospital NHS Foundation Trusts and Lancashire and Tower Hamlets local authorities. Other local authorities and NHS Trusts are following close behind. More information on CP-IS is on the Health & Social Care Information Centre website [here](#)

Interface between health and social care project

The Department of Health has commissioned researchers from Warwick, Sussex and Loughborough Universities, and the Colebrooke Centre for Evidence and Implementation, to identify and evaluate innovative models of working that improve the interface between both primary and acute sectors of the NHS and children's social care. The objective of the study is to support the spread and sustainability of innovations in working practices that are effective in safeguarding children.

For more information about this study, contact Samantha McDermid, Senior Research Associate at the Centre for Child and Family Research, Loughborough University, [here](#) or by calling 01509 228 365.

To participate in a short online survey (which should only take about ten minutes to complete), click [here](#)

Promoting the health and welfare of looked-after children

The Department for Education and the Department of Health launched a six-week consultation on 27 November on draft revised statutory guidance on *Promoting the health and welfare of looked-after children*. The consultation will close on 9 January 2015. The final guidance will be published in March 2015. To view the draft guidance on the Government consultations website, click [here](#)

The Peter Wanless and Richard Whittam QC review

On 11th November, an independent review looking at information held in connection with child abuse from 1979-1999 was published. In response to public concern, Peter Wanless and Richard Whittam QC were asked to lead this work to address the allegation that, in the 1980s, the Home Office failed to act on information received in respect of child sexual abuse. While the Review hasn't uncovered any evidence of organised attempts to conceal child abuse, it makes three recommendations, all of which have been accepted. Publication of this review is an important step in ensuring that institutions take seriously their duty to protect children from abuse and to learn lessons from any failures. For further information click [here](#)

Information Sharing to Tackle Violence

The Health and Social Care Information Centre published a new Standard on Information Sharing to Tackle Violence (ISTV) on 19 September. The Standard enables NHS Accident and Emergency departments in England to collect and share non-confidential data with Community Safety Partnerships about attendances involving violent crime. This will help the police to target crime hotspots with stop-and-search measures.

For more information click [here](#)

UN Elimination of Violence against Women

On 25 November, the Department of Health, Royal College of General Practitioners and Public Health England published a tripartite statement to mark the UN International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women.

For a full copy of the Statement click [here](#)

Adoption support

The Department for Education issued a press release on 15 November about the Adoption Support Fund, which will help pay for essential therapy services for adoptive families as and when they need it. The Fund is to be rolled out nationally from May 2015, following successful pilots in ten local authorities. To view the press release, click [here](#)

FGM training and support materials launched

The first of five e-learning training sessions on the e-Learning for Healthcare [website](#) has been launched. This training is free of charge to NHS staff.

A [documentary on the NHS Choices](#) website about holding sensitive FGM discussions, as well as an updated FGM web resource are now available.

Department of Health and NHS England have published a [statement outlining current requirements on staff](#), in relation to FGM, to use in training and events.

Please make your staff aware of and use these materials. Further materials will be released in early 2015.

Troubled Families Programme: Supporting health needs

The 'health offer' for the Troubled Families Expanded Programme was launched on 5 November.

51 'early starter' local authorities have begun work on this expanded programme, which will be rolled out nationally from April 2015 for up to 400,000 families. Addressing the mental and physical health needs of families is one of six themes of this programme, alongside other themes of domestic violence and vulnerable children.

The 'health offer' will help you work with local authority Troubled Families teams to develop plans for the health theme in the new programme. It includes a leadership statement with examples of good practice, interim guidance on information sharing to help identify eligible families, and guidance on health training and skills for Troubled Families teams. For further details click [here](#)

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Children and Young People's Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing

Children and Young People's Mental Health and Wellbeing Taskforce

The members of the CYPMH Taskforce have been continuing to develop their proposals, due to feed into a Government report to be published in Spring 2015, to improve children and young people's mental health and wellbeing and services for those with mental health difficulties. They are currently working on the four Task and Finish Group reports on Access and Prevention; A Co-ordinated System; Vulnerable Groups and Inequalities; and Data and Standards.

The Taskforce has also sought the views and solutions of cross-sector professionals and, working with Young Minds, of children, young people (up to age 25) and their families/carers. Over 600 professionals took part in either three workshops or an online survey, and over 700 children, young people, parents and carers participated in the engagement activity.

For more information on the Taskforce please [here](#) or follow #CYPMHTaskforce or #youngmentalhealth on Twitter.

Health Select Committee report on children and adolescent mental health services

On 5th November, the Health Select Committee (HSC) published the final report of its enquiry into child and adolescent mental health services. The report identifies a number of key issues including:

- Variation in the provision of services
- Problems with access to services and bed shortages
- Children being referred for treatment far from their homes
- Frozen or reduced budgets in some areas
- Poor provision of education for children in inpatient units

The report has 23 recommendations, many of which are aimed at the Children and Young People's Mental Health & Wellbeing Taskforce. The Department welcomes the report and will respond to the committee in due course.

The HSC report can be found [here](#)

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Conferences and Events

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Sources of Information

Unless otherwise stated, guidance referred to in the bulletin has not been commissioned or endorsed by the Department of Health - it is evidence that organisations and professionals may find helpful in improving practice. The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence is the Department's provider of accredited evidence and guidance, which can be found on the Institute's website at www.nice.org.uk

Department of Health Publications

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- 2) Text up to 100 words with main message to start, followed by relevant key messages
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