
Report of Sean Barry, Strategy and Development Officer, LSCB

Purpose of the report

1. To advise the LSCB on current national and local policy updates; Government reports, relevant research, consultation and legal developments.

Summary of key updates presented in this report

2. This report covers the period of February 2016 to April 2016

In summary this report includes:

- £200 million to transform life chances of vulnerable young people
 - Multi-agency statutory guidance on female genital mutilation
 - Tri-borough demonstrates outstanding leadership and social work
 - New plans for adoption
 - Child Health Profiles 2016 published by Public Health England
 - Strategy to end violence against women and girls: 2016 to 2020
 - Ofsted to directly manage early years inspections
 - Consultation – 30-hour free childcare offer
3. Appendix 1 provides information on news items for information only.

Policy updates

4. **£200 million to transform life chances of vulnerable young people**
The Department of Education unveils new £200 million investment to overhaul services for the most vulnerable children and young people.

The government's Children's Social Care Innovation programme aims to revolutionise support for the way in which vulnerable families are supported. This is backed by funding totalling £200 million and will kick-start the most promising proposals for new ways of delivering vital help for troubled children and young people.

Councils and charities are invited to come forward with bids for innovative and creative ideas to improve life chances for young people in their local area.

The full update can be viewed here

www.gov.uk/government/news/200-million-to-transform-life-chances-of-vulnerable-young-people

DfE 03 April 2016

5. Multi-agency statutory guidance on female genital mutilation

The Government has published its multi-agency guidelines on FGM for those with statutory duties to safeguard children and vulnerable adults.

The full update can be viewed here

www.gov.uk/government/publications/multi-agency-statutory-guidance-on-female-genital-mutilation

Home Office / DfE / DoH 01 April 2016

Durham LSCB and Safe Durham Partnership has produced a Draft FGM, HBV and FM Practice Guidance and is currently going through relevant sub groups and then onto the LSCB Board and SDP Board.

6. Tri-borough demonstrates outstanding leadership and social work

Two London children's services departments in the capital have been awarded Ofsted's top inspection grade. Westminster, and Royal Borough Kensington and Chelsea, are the first to be judged 'outstanding' under Ofsted's tough single inspection framework.

The full update can be viewed here

www.gov.uk/government/news/tri-borough-demonstrates-outstanding-leadership-and-social-work

Ofsted 29 March 201

7. New plans for adoption

A brand-new strategy to transform the life chances of those children who spend up to 18 months in care waiting to be adopted has been launched. The plans will see more children placed in loving, stable homes by ensuring adoption is always pursued where it is in a child's best interest..

The full update can be viewed here

www.gov.uk/government/news/education-secretary-unveils-a-new-blueprint-for-adoption

DfE 27 March 2016

8. Child Health Profiles 2016 published by Public Health England

The profiles provide a snapshot of children and young people's health by local authority and CCG in England. The Child Health Profiles 2016, present data across 32 key health indicators of child health and wellbeing. The data will help local organisations work in partnership to improve health in their local area.

The full update can be viewed here

www.gov.uk/government/news/child-health-profiles-2016-published-by-public-health-england

Public Health England 15 March 2016

9. Strategy to end violence against women and girls: 2016 to 2020

The government has launched the new strategy to end violence against women and girls: 2016 to 2020. This lists the actions the government will be taking towards its strategy of ending violence against women and girls...

The full update can be viewed here

www.gov.uk/government/publications/strategy-to-end-violence-against-women-and-girls-2016-to-2020

Home Office 08 March 2016

10. Ofsted to directly manage early years inspections

Ofsted's early years inspections and regulatory work will be managed directly from April 2017, when the current contracts end. At present 2 companies, Tribal and Prospects, undertake early years inspections on Ofsted's behalf. These contracts run until 31 March 2017. Bringing early years inspection under direct management means that Ofsted will have full control over the selection, training and management of inspectors, and complete oversight of the quality of inspection..

The full update can be viewed here

www.gov.uk/government/news/ofsted-to-directly-manage-early-years-inspections

Ofsted 01 March 2016

Research and Consultation Papers

11. Consultation – 30-hour free childcare offer

Consultation Period: 03/04/16 to 06/06/2016

The Department of Education launched a consultation and expression of interest to gather evidence about the 30-hour free childcare offer. The 9-week consultation sets out plans to broaden the types of hours offered to cover 6am to 8pm and extending the minimum length of childcare sessions.

The consultation is being launched alongside a review into ways of reducing red tape within the sector, so that childcare providers are freed from the burdens this can place on their time and resources, giving them more contact time with the children they look after.

The full update can be viewed here

www.gov.uk/government/consultations/30-hour-free-childcare-entitlement

DfE 03 April 2016

Recommendations

12. Durham LSCB is recommended to:
 - (a) Note the contents of the report

Contact: Sean Barry, Strategy and Development Officer, LSCB
Tel: 03000 265 434

Appendix 1

News items of interest

Why babies all over the world are now sleeping in boxes (Finnish baby box)

The Finnish baby box is a starter kit of clothes, sheets and toys the state gives to expectant mothers. Every new mother, regardless of background or income, gets a baby box from the government. The box contains supplies such as bibs, bodysuits, nappies, a sleeping bag, outdoor gear, bathing products - as well as a small mattress. Putting the mattress in the bottom of the box creates the baby's first bed.

The full article can be viewed here

www.bbc.co.uk/news/magazine-35834370

04 April 2016

Inquiry 'will cover false abuse claims'

The public inquiry into child sexual abuse will not ignore the damage done to prominent people who were falsely accused, Justice Lowell Goddard says. The judge, who chairs the inquiry, said in an article in the Observer it must strike a balance between the rights of accusers and the accused.

The full article can be viewed here

www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-35952862

03 April 2016

Pupils 'come to school hungry'

Increasing numbers of pupils are coming to school hungry, anxious and unable to concentrate because of family financial pressures, a teachers' union has said. The NASUWT union said growing numbers of teachers and schools were providing food, equipment and clothes for pupils. Others were offering financial advice and referring struggling families to external support services.

The full article can be viewed here

www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-35873541

27 March 2016

Goddard Inquiry: Children were abused 'on industrial scale' at Lambeth Council-run homes

"Physical and sexual abuse on an industrial scale" went "unchecked for decades" at children's homes in a south London borough, a victims' report says. The report detailing claims by 600 people will go before the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse

The full article can be viewed here

www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-35889595

24 March 2016

Adam Johnson jailed for six years

Footballer Adam Johnson has been jailed for six years for grooming and sexual activity with a girl aged 15.

Sentencing the ex-Sunderland player, Judge Jonathan Rose told him he had abused a position of trust and caused his victim "severe psychological harm".

The full article can be viewed here

www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-35891143

24 March 2016

Missing children 'failed by police'

Children in England and Wales who go missing are being left at risk of serious harm because of "unacceptable inconsistencies" in the way police respond, the police watchdog has said. Nearly 67,000 children reportedly went missing once or more last year. Some forces wrongly recorded children as "absent", and saw those who went missing repeatedly as "time-wasters", HM Inspectorate of Constabulary found.

The full article can be viewed here

www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-35877810

23 March 2016

Heads warn on child mental health care

More young people are suffering from mental health issues but the care on offer outside schools is not keeping pace, say head teachers. In total, 55% of 338 school leaders surveyed by the Association of School and College Leaders reported a large rise in pupils with anxiety and stress. Almost 65% said they struggled to get mental health services for pupils..

The full article can be viewed here

www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-35730625

05 March 2016