

# E-LINKS

ISSUE 4

Dear Member

News bulletin is produced fortnightly and is designed to keep you up-to-date with the latest developments in children and family policy.



In this edition you will find the following:

- ISA Update
- Equality and Human Rights Commission (useful links)
- Disability and SEN
- The Communication Trust
- Common Assessment Framework
- ChildLine; What are children worried about?
- DCSF; Sure Start Children's Centre Performance, Achievement and Outcomes review
- NCB; Stay informed on play
- Playing it safe
- Early Years Resources
- Tune in the Power of music
- Action for Children
- Forthcoming Events

If you have any news or information that you would like to share in the E-Bulletin please email [membership@childrenslinks.org.uk](mailto:membership@childrenslinks.org.uk)

**Committed to improving the quality of children's, young people's and families' life experiences**



**The communications team at the Vetting and Barring Scheme are pleased to announce that full guidance about the Scheme is available for free download**

[http://www.isa.homeoffice.gov.uk/pdf/VBS\\_guidance\\_ed1\\_2010.pdf](http://www.isa.homeoffice.gov.uk/pdf/VBS_guidance_ed1_2010.pdf)

This document contains details on:

- The scope of the Scheme;
- Barring arrangements;
- Responsibilities and duties for both employers and volunteer organisers, and the duties for those individuals you take on;
- Timescales for the phased implementation of the Scheme;
- Explanation of transitional arrangements around Scheme introduction.

This full guidance release will be followed by a suite of 'sector specific' guidance documents, which will show how the Scheme will be applied in different areas of work and volunteering activities and will be published by our partners from the appropriate government departments.

## **Safeguarding**

The Home Office is to roll out a child protection scheme which gives members of the public a formal mechanism to make enquiries about people who are in contact with children. After a 12 month pilot, The Child Sex Offender

Disclosure scheme is to be rolled out to 18 more police forces across the country. Further information is available at: <http://nds.coi.gov.uk/content/detail.aspx?NewsArealD=2&ReleaseID=411748&SubjectId=2>



## **Equality and Human Rights Commission**

### **What is Equality?**

- NOT treating everybody the same
- Treating everybody EQUALLY according to their needs
- About creating a fairer society
- Backed by legislation

### **What is Diversity?**

- Recognising and valuing differences

### **There are six core strands or 'protected characteristics'**

- Race, Gender, Disability, Sexual orientation, Age, Religion/belief

### **Not exhaustive**

- Rurality, Deprivation

The **Equality and Human Rights Commission** works with organisations in the public, private and voluntary sectors to reduce discrimination and promote equal opportunities for all employees, customers and the users of services.

The commission provides help and advice on equal opportunities policy and practice to many organisations and companies, large and small; and liaises with government departments and representative organisations from all sectors. Their helpline is there to give you information and guidance on discrimination and human rights issues. All of their helpline staff have been specially trained to provide these services. <http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/>

Paul Elliott takes on his new position as Chief Executive Lincs Equality & Human Rights Council (as from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2010) the website is currently under development c/o Lincolnshire YMCA , [www.lincsymca.co.uk](http://www.lincsymca.co.uk)

**JUST Lincolnshire** is the new Lincolnshire Equality and Human Rights Council.

### **Other resources & useful contacts:**

Stonewall  
[www.stonewall.org.uk](http://www.stonewall.org.uk)

CALL Advocacy  
[www.calladvocacy.org.uk](http://www.calladvocacy.org.uk)

Lincolnshire Association of People with Disabilities  
[www.lapd.uk.com](http://www.lapd.uk.com)

East Midlands Race Equality Consortium  
[www.equalitiesem.org](http://www.equalitiesem.org)

The Gender Trust  
[www.gendertrust.org.uk](http://www.gendertrust.org.uk)

The Gender Agenda  
[www.gender-agenda.co.uk](http://www.gender-agenda.co.uk)



## Disability and SEN

The Common Core of skills and knowledge for the children and young people's workforce has been refreshed and will be published later this month. The refresh looked at disability and whether it was fully embedded in the Common Core.

As part of the consultation process [The Communication Trust](http://www.thecomcommunicationtrust.org.uk) asked disabled children and young people what skills and knowledge a person needs in order to work with them. <http://enewsletters.tictocfamily.com/T/ViewEmail/r/A0729AD9A07D3FA9>



The purpose of The Communication Trust is to raise awareness of the importance of speech, language and communication across the children's workforce and to enable practitioners to access the best training and expertise **to support the communication needs of all children.**

We work with over 35 voluntary and community groups who deliver services to help children communicate. Together we are working to ensure that all practitioners are able to communicate with all children and young people. To find out more about the work they are doing visit: <http://www.ican.org.uk/Communication%20Trust/Home.aspx>

CWDC have produced a series of resources to help explain the **Common Assessment Framework (CAF)** process and the role of the lead professional (LP) to children, young people and their families.

The resources have been developed with groups of young people and aim to describe the process in a way that is easy to understand - they are available to all practitioners working with young people.

There are three sets of resources available to help explain the CAF process:

- The first set of resources explains the CAF to children and includes a poster and leaflet plus accompanying guidance for practitioners using the resources.
- The second leaflet explains the CAF process to young people who are deemed able to give their own consent.
- The third takes parents and carers through the process their family will travel.

All the resources have full approval from the information commissioners office (ICO), who are pleased that practitioners can use them to talk through consent and information sharing with those beginning the CAF process.

All can be downloaded on: <http://www.cwdcouncil.org.uk/caf/explaining-caf-to-children-young-people>



## What are children worried about?

Last year ChildLine counselled over 700,000 calls from children and young people. How do they feel about bullying, sexual abuse and suicide, and what are the ways forward.

A conference is being held on Friday 21st May 2010 .

This NSPCC conference will consider trends in calls made to ChildLine and the broader social policy and practice implications. Discussion will particularly focus on bullying, sexual abuse and suicidal feelings.

## For more information visit:

[www.nspcc.org.uk](http://www.nspcc.org.uk) and in the search engine type 'What are children worried about'.

## Who should attend:

Policy makers, professionals and practitioners within the statutory, voluntary and community sectors including: teachers, youth workers, social workers, police, youth justice workers, primary health care workers .....



The DCSF has updated and renamed the self evaluation form recommended as part of performance management guidance for children's centres. The new form, *Sure Start Children's Centre Performance, Achievement and Outcomes Review*, provides a greater focus on recording evidence and evaluation. Download from: [www.dcsf.gov.uk/ecm/ssccplanningandperformance](http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/ecm/ssccplanningandperformance)



### Stay informed on play

The website of the Children's Play information Service (CPIS) has been revamped to make it easier to navigate

and locate essential resources on play. The site, developed by the National Children's Bureau (NCB), is designed as a first port of call for anyone looking for information on children's play. The website also features factsheets on different play topics, including the recently published *What is Playwork?* As well as providing access to local area play strategies for England. [www.ncb.org.uk/cpis](http://www.ncb.org.uk/cpis)



### PLAYING IT SAFE

- Get signed parental permissions for all photos of children, detailing how and where images will be used.
- Use photos appropriately – for example, to record children's achievements, or to engage parents in their learning.
- When publishing images externally, such as on your setting's website, use pseudonyms or initials, not a child's name.
- Ensure your internet connection is secure, and no parent or child has unsupervised access to it.
- Visit the Click Clever; Click Safe website for more tips on helping children to enjoy the Internet safely:

<http://clickcleverclicksafe.direct.gov.uk>



### Early Years RESOURCES

Your resources online. Find all National Resources at [www.standards.dcsf.gov.uk/nationalstrategies](http://www.standards.dcsf.gov.uk/nationalstrategies) or better still register online. For special features and services, updates and e-learning courses.

### Tune in to the power of music.

Taking part in a music-related activity, like singing, dancing or playing an instrument, can help a young child's development in many ways. TUNE IN is a National Initiative, running throughout the academic year 2009/2010, spreading the message of the power of music. To find out more, visit [www.dcsf.gov.uk/tunein](http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/tunein)

## Action for Children

Action for Children has published research which claims that cycles of deprivation and neglect that trap many vulnerable families for generations can be broken if families, and particularly children, are supported early enough by the right services.

The report examines how inequality, health and wellbeing, education, housing and social mobility influence social deprivation.

Action for Children argues that what's needed is much easier intervention, particularly with very young children, not least because children living in deprived families have less support and fewer resources from outside the family and struggle to build up resilience and self-esteem.

Visit: [http://www.actionforchildren.org.uk/news\\_detail.aspx?ID=395](http://www.actionforchildren.org.uk/news_detail.aspx?ID=395)



**Safeguarding Training, Third Sector  
Information Event.**

**Forthcoming Events:**

**Monday 26th April**

10.30 -13.00

At Greens Norton Community Centre, Towcester  
Road, Greens Norton, **NN12 8BL**

**BISHOP GROSSETESTE**

**Free information event on Foundation  
Degrees**

Whether you are working with Early Years or Youth Work, Bishop Grosseteste University Foundation Degree in Children's Services offers you the perfect pathway for continuing your education, while still remaining at work. Go along to the Free Taster Event on the Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> April at Bishop Grosseteste University College Lincoln.

To book a place or for more information, contact Veronica Oxley or Bev Tomblin on 01522 583737

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