

Weekly policy bulletin

I sent out the first edition of this new bulletin last week to over 400 subscribers. 4% say you like it, 96% are still undecided. Could this bulletin be improved, or do you already receive so many of these that it's just another email? Please let me know what you think. Follow the blue links to the stories you want to read more of.

News

On Monday this week the government [announced](#) that 16 children's centres and nurseries have been selected as 'early years teaching centres'. The centres will aim to raise standards and improve children's outcomes, working with foundation years providers within their local area. The DfE and the National College will work closely with Pen Green Research Base to ensure learning from these 16 centres is shared widely. One of the 16 is Manchester's Martenscroft Nursery and Children's Centre. The DfE also announced that a further 18 local authorities will trial payment by results in children's centres and that parents are to be given more freedoms to run their local children's centre.

19 service providers have been selected to run [National Citizen Service \(NCS\) pilots](#) in 2012, other providers will be announced shortly. The Cabinet Office has commissioned an evaluation of the 2011 pilots, meanwhile a survey by [Children and Young People Now](#) has reported a mixed picture from providers of the 2011 schemes, with high numbers of dropouts and high costs cited alongside some positive experiences for young people.

[The Leaders blog](#) last week reflected on the reports on adult social care and early years considered by the Executive on 14.9.2011.

Best Practice

Ofsted have published a report on [best practice in safeguarding](#), based on inspection evidence from the 19% of settings where safeguarding has been judged as outstanding.

DfE have published an [evaluation](#) of the Family and Young Carers Pathfinder programme working with families with multiple problems. Results showed significant improvement in outcomes for nearly half of families supported by the Family Pathfinders and nearly a third of the families supported by the Young Carer Pathfinders. Areas were also able to demonstrate that for every £1 spent, the Family Pathfinders generated a financial return of £1.90. Achieving improved and sustainable outcomes for families was dependent on the use of a key worker responsible for providing and coordinating effective support for families

Policy Consultations and legislation

Consultations open for the next 4 weeks:

[Establishing a new office of the Children's Commissioner for England](#)

[A Revised Early Years Foundation Stage](#)

[Qualifications for 14-16 year olds and Performance Tables](#)

[Arrangements for the inspection of local authority children's services](#)

[School funding reform: Proposals for a fairer system](#)
[Implementation of the 2010-11 review of capital education](#)
[Proposed changes to the disciplinary and induction regulations for teachers in England.](#)

Please let me know if you would like more information on any of these.

The [Education Bill](#) will be in the committee stage in the House of Lords until 4th October.

The [Health and Social Care Bill](#) will receive its second reading in the House of Lords on 11th October.

Finally, as the DfE quietly shelve Every Child Matters, this interesting [article](#) gives an insider's opinion on the future for local authority Children's Services.

Regards

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