

Weekly policy bulletin

This new policy bulletin for Children's Services staff and partners is a **trial** replacement for the longer and more detailed policy update that many of you will have received every other month or so.

The idea of the change is that every week you can keep up to date with the latest developments, following the blue links below to the policy stories that you may have missed. More in-depth briefings will still be issued on major policy changes such as Green and White Papers.

Please give me your feedback on this new format. Depending on what you tell me, and the availability of things for me to tell you, I aim to send this bulletin out every week.

News

This week Unicef have published a report into [Children's Wellbeing in the UK](#). This report investigates further the reasons behind the UK's low rating for child well-being in Unicef's 2007 report and finds that, in comparison with similar countries Sweden and Spain, children in the UK spend less time with their parents and that parents feel under pressure to buy (particularly branded) goods. Inequality also plays a part in restricting access to outdoor, sporting and creative activities in the UK.

The [Children's Workforce Development Council](#) is spending £8.5m to help local authorities implement recommendations from Professor Eileen Munro's review of child protection. The money will be available from 3 October and will be used to review and redesign social work delivery at a local level, improving co-ordination between professionals to provide early intervention services and support the strengthening of local safeguarding children boards. CWDC will be working closely with local authorities and LSCBs to implement funding and support packages.

Change4Life is teaming up with the popular children's TV show, LazyTown, and its superhero Sportacus, to encourage two to five year olds to be more active and eat healthier food such as fruit and vegetables (known as 'sports candy' in LazyTown). 3,600 Sure Start Children's Centres across the country will receive activity packs next week. You can also access them [here](#).

On 14th September the City Council's Executive will receive a [report](#) on proposals for changing the delivery of services children in the early years and their families. The key changes include withdrawing from the provision of day care as a phased and sequenced process over time, improving the number of children & families who can be effectively screened for more targeted interventions, commissioning interventions with proven success, re-positioning buildings as community assets within neighbourhoods. All proposals are subject to a 90 day consultation period.

Policy Consultations and legislation

The government's [Positive for Youth](#) consultation closes this week.

Manchester City Council is submitting a response on behalf of partners following a 50 strong workshop last week. This is a critical time for youth services and this event also helped us start discussions on developments in the City Council's own youth policy. Let me know if you would like to see our response.

Other consultations running until the end of September are:
[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](#)

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

The [Education Bill](#) is currently in the committee stage in the House of Lords. The Bill seeks to implement the proposals in the Department for Education's schools White Paper, 'The Importance of Teaching' and measures from the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills relating to skills and the reform of higher education funding.

The [Health and Social Care Bill](#) will receive its second reading in the House of Lords on 11.10.2011. The Bill proposes the creation of an independent NHS Board, increases GP commissioning powers and abolishes PCTs and Strategic Health Trusts.

I hope this bulletin has been useful to you. Please let me know what you think - good or bad.

Regards

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