

Munro Report update continued

“ Professor Munro writes

This is the final report of my review of child protection.

The first report, published in October 2010, analysed why problems had come about in the child protection system and why previous reforms had unforeseen consequences.

My second report, published in February this year, considered the child's journey through the protection system – from needing to receiving help – to show how the system could be improved.

This, my final report, is called 'A child-centred system' and reflects the fact that the effectiveness of help and the experiences of children, young people and families are central to my recommendations for reform.

The report makes 15 recommendations which, taken together, I believe will help shift the child protection system from being over-bureaucratised and concerned with compliance to one that keeps a focus on whether children are being effectively helped and protected.

This move from compliance to a learning culture will require those working in child protection to be given more scope to exercise professional judgment in deciding how best to help children and their families. It will require more determined and robust management at the front line to support the development of professional confidence.

Given the considerable interest in the review, and the feedback I have received, I am confident that there are many people working in the sector who are capable and eager to take on this responsibility.

My ambition is for the child protection system to become truly child-centred.

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[Read the full report online on the Department for Education website](#)

National eCAF update

National eCAF is now operational, with over 1000 users and nearly 200 CAF episodes on the system which have been initiated by early adopter local authorities such as Cambridgeshire, Northamptonshire and Suffolk.

Richmond has now been accredited and will be one of the first authorities to have access to National eCAF in London. Wandsworth, Sutton, Croydon and Merton will also be using National eCAF, and a number of other London local authorities have also shown interest in the system.

Initially we would like to offer training to practitioners in the Council's Protective & Preventative Service who regularly use the CAF. Wider access and training will then gradually become available for those in partner agencies who are accredited and actively involved either as CAF Lead Professionals or as part of a Team Around the Child.

If you have any queries please contact one of the Richmond eCAF team:

Tom Chapman, Project Manager, t.chapman@richmond.gov.uk

Daniela Acosta-Pagliari, CAF Co-ordinator, daniela.acosta-pagliari@richmond.gov.uk

Cathy Reynolds, Integrated Working Trainer, cathy.reynolds@richmond.gov.uk

For more information, read the [eCAF briefing](#)

Vetting and Barring Scheme review

The government has published a review of the Vetting and Barring Scheme.

Key recommendations from the review include:

- The merging of the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) and Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA) to form a streamlined new body providing a proportionate barring and criminal records checking service.
- A large reduction of the number of positions requiring checks to just those working most closely and regularly with children and vulnerable adults.
- Portability of criminal records checks between jobs to cut down on needless bureaucracy.
- An end to a requirement for those working or volunteering with vulnerable groups to register with the VBS.
- Stopping employers who knowingly request criminal records checks on individuals who are not entitled to them.

The government has confirmed that until all the appropriate legislation has been introduced and the new arrangements are established, the existing responsibilities of employers and the ISA will remain. These include:

- A person who is barred from working with children or vulnerable adults will be breaking the law if they work or volunteer, or try to work or volunteer with those groups.
- An organisation which knowingly employs someone who is barred to work with those groups will also be breaking the law.
- If your organisation works with children or vulnerable adults and you dismiss or remove a member of staff or a volunteer because they have harmed a child or vulnerable adult, or you would have done so if they had not left, you must tell the Independent Safeguarding Authority.

You can read the report at www.homeoffice.gov.uk/crime/vetting-barring-scheme

The Guidance document is also available online

Ofsted analysis of serious case reviews

Ofsted has published an analysis of 67 serious case reviews that it evaluated between 1 April and 30 September 2010. The main focus of its report is on the importance of listening to the voice of the child. Previous Ofsted reports have analysed serious case reviews and identified this as a recurrent theme which is considered in greater detail here.

The report includes five main messages with regard to the voice of the child. In too many cases:

- The child was not seen frequently enough by the professionals involved, or was not asked about their views and feelings
- Agencies did not listen to adults who tried to speak on behalf of the child and who had important information to contribute
- Parents and carers prevented professionals from seeing and listening to the child
- Practitioners focused too much on the needs of the parents, especially on vulnerable parents, and overlooked the implications for the child
- Agencies did not interpret their findings well enough to protect the child

Available on the [Ofsted website](#)

Training update

Bright Eyes programme

The Educational Psychology Service (EPS) is running a 12 week programme for 4-5 year olds supporting emotional resiliency, development of self esteem and confidence, and supporting recognising feelings in themselves and others.

The Bright Eyes programme works with small groups of children and is targeted at families who may have experienced domestic violence or may have other challenging life situations, and who feel their children could benefit from this programme.

The programme will be run for 12 weeks at Greenacres – The Den, and at Heathfield Children's Centre/Heathfield Infant School.

Using the initial information regarding families identified by children's services, six children have been selected for each programme to take part. These children will attend a 45 minute session each week and their parents will attend a one hour session every three weeks involving a discussion about the group activities and child participation, a question and answer session regarding any parental issues, and a formal psycho-educational segment targeting particular areas (e.g. self-esteem).

When this 12 week programme has finished another programme (Wave 2 Bright Eyes) will be

running for 12 more children (around September) and then Wave 3 up until March 2012.

In September, EPS will also be starting the bespoke DOVE project currently being designed. This will be aimed at 0-2 year olds and will focus on families who have previously experienced high levels of domestic violence (where the perpetrator has left the family home).

Parents will be supported in a small group (six participants) for 1½-2 hours weekly. The weekly session will be broken into two parts, the first part involving working with the mothers to understand the effects of domestic violence in relation to their child and ways they can support their children (parental self-esteem is also a focus).

The second part involves the parents and children together focusing on the positive parent-child attachment. This will also support 12 families per week for 12 weeks.

EPS will be circulating more information In the next few weeks, or you can contact them direct:

Clare Inman, clare.inman@richmond.gov.uk
Priscilla Stent, priscilla.stent@richmond.gov.uk
Susana Goncalves, s.goncalves@richmond.gov.uk

Understanding the possible impact of parental mental illness on children and families

This workshop is designed to provide you with an awareness of the prevalence of mental illness amongst the adult population. During the session, you will be able to gain knowledge about what is mental illness and the affects of child development when exposed to parental mental health.

The training will explore case studies to help embed the understanding of mental illness and assist professional in recognising their roles and responsibilities to provide support, and to practice a model framework for assessment, analysis, planning of intervention and measuring outcomes.

Who would benefit from attending this training?	Professionals involved in mental illness or those that would like an introduction to parental mental health
Date	21 June 2011
Time	9.30am to 3.30pm
Facilitator	Carla Thomas
Venue	Curriculum and Training Centre, Clifden Road, Twickenham, TW1 4LT
Booking	Book online at www.richmond.gov.uk
Cost	See terms, conditions and charges

Strengthening Families, Strengthening Communities

A twelve week parenting programme called Strengthening Families, Strengthening Communities finished on 17 May.

Five parents completed this course which offers much needed support to parents who are referred from either Youth Offending Team or Targeted Youth Support.

The programme was facilitated by Lisa Turner, Police Officer within the YOT and Vicky Fraser, Specialist Nurse for YOT and Looked After Children. On Tuesday 17 May completion certificates were handed out, and feedback from the group was extremely positive.

Strengthening Families, Strengthening Communities is an inclusive evidence-based parenting programme, designed to promote protective factors which are associated with good parenting and better outcomes for children.

The programme uses a strength-based model to build or re-build relationships in the family; encourage children to work with parents not against them; improve parent knowledge of child development and its impact on behaviour, establishing tools for becoming more involved with the community around them.

Each week combines learning new strategies, the whole group sharing their ideas and experience and everyone practicing the techniques together.

This group offers peer support from the earliest weeks. Referrals for this group are parents and carers whose children are working with the Youth Offending Team or Targeted Youth Support.

Below are some of the key areas that are discussed over the programme:

- How we can get the best possible relationships with our children
- New strategies for getting our children to get them to work with us, not against us
- How to manage anger and other strong feelings
- How children's minds work
- How we were brought up and how that affects how we feel about our families
- The pressures our children are under today

Two guest speakers attend during the Contact for more information: Lisa Turner, Youth Offending Team and Safer Schools, lisa.turner@met.police.uk

Guidance for supporting childminders

The National Childminding Association (NCMA), in partnership with the Department for Education, has developed advice on improving safeguarding support for childminders.

The guidance encourages LSCBs to spend time establishing relationships with registered childminders and provide accessible training that relates to the local authority's policy and procedures.

It also advises LSCBs to publicise up to date information and support, share information and provide clear contact points for childminders.

Read the full guidance on the [NCMA website](#).

New CDOP Chair

The last meeting for the current independent Chair of the Child Death Overview Panel, Lynda Crellin, will be 6 June.

Under a new arrangement the public health representatives from the three boroughs that are members of the panel will act as chair on a rotational basis, with each borough's representative chairing for a year at a time.

The first year's chair will be Hounslow's public health representative **Dr Catherine Heffernan**, Consultant in Children's Public Health, NHS Hounslow and London Borough of Hounslow.

Strategic quality assurance framework

Local Government Improvement and Development and the London Safeguarding Children Board have published *Improving local safeguarding outcomes – Developing a Strategic Quality Assurance Framework to Safeguard Children*, a new framework, and are working together to pilot the model.

The framework supports those in leadership and senior management roles in strategic partnerships and individual organisations in assessing whether they are effective in keeping children safe.

It enables organisations and partnership bodies to develop a quality assurance framework for defined safeguarding priorities, and ensure that a comprehensive range of local information is used to evaluate the quality of local activity and outcomes.

It aims to support a better understanding of how safe children are locally and how well local services are carrying out their safeguarding responsibilities in a way which focuses on improved outcomes for children and young people.

The Framework includes guidance on:

- The types of performance information (quantitative, qualitative and outcomes based information) which can be used locally, with examples
- The different sources of information and methods of obtaining information (from children, parents and carers, front line staff and managers, case records and other organisational and management information) with examples
- Implementing a local safeguarding quality assurance framework, both for single agencies and for partnership bodies such as LSCBs
- Governance frameworks and learning and improvement cycles

[Read the framework document online](#)

Annual Safeguarding Children Conference

Protecting children from the hidden harm of drug and alcohol

8 June 2011, Twickenham Stadium

More details on the LSCB website: www.richmond.gov.uk/lscb



If you have any queries about any of the items in this newsletter contact:
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