

## **Key National Strategies and Documents**

**Every Child Matters** <http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/>

- Is a new approach to the well-being of children and young people from birth to age 19
- Is the programme of local and national action through which the whole system transformation of children's services is being implemented - to maximise opportunity and minimise risk.
- Is a shared programme of change to improve outcomes for all children and young people. It takes forward the Government's vision of radical reform for children, young people and families.
- About ECM: <http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/about/>
- ECM Strategy and Working Practice: <http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/strategy/>

 [Every Child Matters green paper](#) (819.7Kb)

This Government has invested heavily in policies designed to give all children the chance to succeed. There have already been significant improvements in educational achievement, and reductions in teenage pregnancy, re-offending and children living in low income households. Today's children and young people experience wider opportunities and benefit from rising prosperity, better health and education than those in previous generations.

 [Every Child Matters: Change for Children](#) (742.0Kb)

Every Child Matters: Change for Children sets out the national framework for local change programmes to build services around the needs of children and young people so that we maximise opportunity and minimise risk. The services that reach every child and young person have a crucial role to play in shifting the focus from dealing with the consequences of difficulties in children's lives to preventing things from going wrong in the first place. The transformation that we need can only be delivered through local leaders working together in strong partnership with local communities on a programme of change. That is why this document sets out what action needs to be taken locally and how Government will work with and support Local Authorities and their partners.

 [Choice for parents, the best start for children: A ten-year strategy for childcare](#) (480.0Kb)

The Government's vision is to ensure that every child gets the best start in life and to give parents more choice about how to balance work and family life.

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### **Children Act 2004: Guidance on the 'duty to cooperate'**

The Children Act 2004 provides the legal underpinning for the transformation of children's services as set out in the [Every Child Matters: Change for Children](#) programme. Section 10 of the Act provides the statutory basis for Children's Trusts (the duty to cooperate).

Revised Children's Trust (CT) guidance on the 'duty to cooperate' was published on 18 November 2008. The 'relevant partners' currently under the 'duty to cooperate' are: district councils, the police, the Probation Board, the Youth Offending Team, the Strategic Health Authority and Primary Care Trusts (PCTs), Connexions partnerships, and the Learning and Skills Council (LSC).

The relevant partners are placed under a 'duty to cooperate in the making of arrangements to improve well-being' and have a power to pool budgets and share other resources.

The Government is intending to add to this list of relevant partners other bodies including maintained schools, Academies, further education and sixth form colleges and Job Centre Plus, to bring key delivery partners into the strategic planning role of the CT.

For more information and guidance, go to the [Children's Trust page](#).

The [Children's Plan: building brighter futures](#) recognises the importance of CTs in forging collaborative partnerships, improving integration of services and delivering measurable improvements for all children and young people.

To help drive forward this ambition the Government is committed to considering whether CT arrangements need to be strengthened, including through further legislation. To this end, on 3 April 2008, the Secretary of State, Ed Balls, launched a consultation on the updated guidance, *Children's Trusts: Statutory guidance on inter-agency cooperation to improve the well-being of children, young people and their families*, which supplements the existing guidance issued in 2005.

### **Guidance on the Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP)**

A key element in the implementation of CTs is the development, by the LA and its partners, of a single, strategic, overarching plan for all services affecting children and young people – the Children and Young People's Plan (section 17 of the *Children Act 2004*).

Revised CYPP guidance should be available in December 2008. It will replace the previous guidance issued in 2005 and 2007; bring together the 2005 and 2007 CYPP regulations into one place, and reflect new performance management arrangements.

For more information and guidance, go to the [Children and Young People's Plan](#) page.

### **Guidance on the roles and responsibilities of the Lead Member (LM) for Children's Services and the Director of Children's Services (DCS)**

A consultation on revised *Statutory guidance on the roles and responsibilities of the Lead Member for Children's Services and the Director of Children's Services* was published on 18 November 2008. The consultation ran from 18 November to 10 February 2009. This guidance explains how the roles of the LM and DCS are distinct and complementary and how working together as a team, they can be most effective in driving clear improvements in outcomes for children and young people.

For more information, read the [2005 statutory guidance](#) along with the revised statutory guidance which is currently under consultation, and is available from [DCSF consultations](#).

### **Local Safeguarding Children Board Guidance**

The establishment of local safeguarding children boards (LSCBs) is an important element of the improved safeguards for children put in place by the Children Act 2004 – the creation of LSCBs fulfils sections 13–16 of the act. The LSCB and its activities are part of the wider context of CT arrangements. Each LA needs to have an LSCB in place by April 2006.

The LSCBs guidance forms chapter three of *Working together to safeguard children*.

Click to read the [Guidance on LSCBs](#) or to read more about [LSCBs](#) on this site.

### **Working Together to Safeguard Children**

*Working together to safeguard children* sets out how individuals and organisations should work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. The guidance has been updated since the previous version which was published in 1999. The new version reflects developments in legislation, policy and practice.

Click to read the [guidance](#).

### **Guidance on the Duty to Safeguard and Promote the Welfare of Children**

*Working together* and the *Guidance on the duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children* both deal with the key cross-cutting issue of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.

Click to read the [guidance](#).

### **Children Act 1989, Guidance and Regulations, Volume 1 Court Orders**

*Children Act guidance and regulations*, published originally in 1991, provided a suite of guidance, primarily addressed to LAs. Volume one addresses the court-related provisions set out in the Act. Following the *Review of the child care proceedings system in England and Wales*, published in May 2006, and public

consultation on draft guidance between June and September 2007, revised guidance has now been prepared, which is being published alongside this letter. This replaces the 1991 edition and came into effect from 1 April 2008.

 [Local Safeguarding Children Board Guidance](#) (187.2Kb)

 [Statutory guidance on making arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children](#) (379.2Kb)

 [Every Child Matters: Change for Children - An Overview of Cross Government Guidance](#) (212.6Kb)

 [Guidance on the roles and responsibilities of the Director of Children's Services and the Lead Member for Children's Services - new PDF version](#) (247.8Kb)

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## **Children and Young People's Plan** - *already in place on website*

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### **Children's Plan:** building brighter futures

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/about/childrensplan/childrensplan/>

- Introduced in December 2007, is a ten-year strategy to make England the best place in the world for children and young people to grow up.
  - Based around a series of ambitions which cover all areas of children's lives.
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### **Children's Rights** <http://www.crae.org.uk/>

- Protects the human rights of children by lobbying government and others who hold power, by bringing or supporting test cases and by using regional and international human rights mechanisms.
  - Provide free legal information and advice, raise awareness of children's human rights.
  - Undertake research about children's access to their rights.
  - Mobilise others, including children and young people, to take action to promote and protect children's human rights.
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### **Children's Participation** <http://www.participationworks.org.uk/>

- Online gateway for children and young people's participation.
  - Hub for information, resources, news and networking on the involvement of young people in dialogue, decision making and influence across a wide range of settings.
  - Use to explore issues and find resources organised by topic in the about participation section.
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### **Department for Children, Schools and Families** (<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/>)

The Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF), created in June 2007, aims to make this the best place in the world for children and young people to grow up.

For the first time, children, young people and their families have a voice at the heart of government.

The Department's role can be summed up as leading the whole network of people who work with or for children and young people.

To do this, we put the needs and views of families, children and young people at the centre of everything we do.

Parents tell us that there are more opportunities for children and young people than ever before, but that they want more support.

We know that children are doing better than ever in school, but we need to do more to ensure that every child gets a world-class education.

- Publications: <http://publications.dcsf.gov.uk/>
  - Consultations: <http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations/>
  - Every Child Matters: <http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/>
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**Role of Director Child Services (DCS)** The Children Act 2004 required every top-tier or unitary local authority in England to appoint a director of children's services (DCS) and to designate a lead member for children's services (LM).

The DCS is professionally accountable for the delivery of authorities' education and social-services functions for children, and any health functions for children delegated to the authority by an NHS body. The DCS, together with the LM, has a key role in driving the local children's trust arrangements and the provision of services for children and young people. The lead member exercises local political accountability for the same range of services as the director, and is expected to take a particular role in safeguarding.

The Act allows authorities flexibility over the organisational arrangements it makes below the DCS and LM. This enables authorities to have structures that meet local challenges and circumstances.

*Statutory guidance: The roles and responsibilities of the lead member for children's services and the director of children's services*

- Buckinghamshire DCS – Sue Imbriano
  - [http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/bcc/corporate\\_plan/childrens\\_services.page?](http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/bcc/corporate_plan/childrens_services.page?)
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**The Child Poverty Bill**, was introduced to the House of Commons on 11 June 2009. The Bill is jointly sponsored by the Department for Children, Schools and Families, the Department for Work and Pensions and Her Majesty's Treasury.

The Child Poverty Bill enshrines in legislation the commitment to eradicate child poverty by 2020. It defines success in eradicating child poverty and establishes an accountability framework to drive progress towards the 2020 goal at national and local level.

#### [Child Poverty Bill](#)

-  [Ending child poverty: Everybody's business](#) (1.3Kb)
  -  [Child Poverty Bill Consultation Report](#) (124.5Kb)
  -  [Child Poverty Bill Equality Impact Assessment](#) (70.0Kb)
  -  [Child Poverty Bill Impact Assessment](#) (92.4Kb)
  -  [Child Poverty Bill overview](#) (45.6Kb)
  -  [Take Up The Challenge](#) (637.3Kb)
  -  [Ending Child Poverty: Making it happen](#) (1.8Kb)
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**Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Bill 2008-09** was introduced into the House of Commons in February 2009. <http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/apprenticeshipsskillschildrenandlearningbill/>  
Key areas:

- Provides for a statutory framework for apprenticeships and creates a right to an apprenticeship for suitably qualified 16-18 year olds
- Introduces a right for employees to request time away from their duties to undertake training, and places a corresponding duty on employers to consider such requests seriously and to be able to refuse them only for specified business reasons

- Dissolves the Learning and Skills Council
  - Transfers the responsibility for funding education and training for 16-18-year-olds to local authorities
  - Makes provisions with respect to the education of offenders
  - Creates the Young Person's Learning Agency, the Skills Funding Agency, a new regulatory body for qualifications (Ofqual), and a new agency to carry out the non-regulatory functions currently performed by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority
  - Strengthens the accountability of children's services
  - Amends intervention powers in respect of schools which are causing concern
  - Establishes a new parental complaints service
  - Changes the school inspection arrangements
  - Creates a new negotiating body for pay and conditions for school support staff
  - Makes provisions in respect of pupil and student behaviour.
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### **Healthy lives, brighter futures: The strategy for children and young people's health**

To deliver our 2020 ambition of making England the best place for children to grow up, we need to support families in securing world-class health and wellbeing outcomes for their children. This means continuously driving up the quality of our services for all parents and children, and ensuring that those improvements are reflected in the experience of services for children, young people and their families. At the same time it means doing more for the most vulnerable, to reduce the persisting inequalities in health and wellbeing outcomes for different groups. Better support in the early years and through childhood and adolescence will lay the foundation for better health and life chances into adulthood, so this strategy sets out how we will build on progress through the achievement of:

- world-class health outcomes
  - services of the highest quality
  - excellent experiences in using services
  - minimising health inequalities
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### **Change 4 Life – eat well, move more, live longer**

- <http://www.nhs.uk/change4life/Pages/default.aspx>
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**Directgov** - public services all in one place <http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/index.htm>

- Education and Learning: <http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/EducationAndLearning/index.htm>
  - Health and Well-being: <http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/HealthAndWellBeing/index.htm>
  - Kids: <http://kids.direct.gov.uk/>
  - Young people: [http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/YoungPeople/DG\\_91](http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/YoungPeople/DG_91)
  - Disabled People: <http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/DisabledPeople/index.htm>
  - Parents: <http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/Parents/index.htm>
  - Employment: <http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/Employment/index.htm>
  - Schools, Learning and Development: <http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/Parents/Schoolslearninganddevelopment/index.htm>
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### **Children and Young Persons Bill 2007** <http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/childrenandyoungpersonsbill/>

The Children and Young Persons Bill (CYPB) introduced in the House of Lords on 14 November 2007 fulfils commitments made in the White Paper, *Care Matters: Time for Change*. The Bill passed from the Lords to the Commons on Tuesday 25 March 2008.

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**Children & Young People Now** <http://www.cypnow.co.uk/>

- Children Now and Young People Now have merged to become one comprehensive title covering all issues facing children and young people aged 0 – 19 years.
  - Children & Young People Now and its associated websites, [CYPNow.co.uk](http://www.cypnow.co.uk/) and [CYPNowJobs.co.uk](http://www.cypnow.co.uk/jobs), provide a unique service to managers and senior practitioners working with children, young people, and their families.
  - They bring together children's and youth professionals across health, social care, education, childcare, youth work, youth justice and advice & guidance for young people
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**National Youth Agency** (<http://www.nya.org.uk/>) supports those involved in young people's personal and social development and works to enable all young people to fulfill their potential within a just society.

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**National Children's Bureau** <http://www.ncb.org.uk/>

- Established in 1963, NCB is a charitable organisation that is dedicated to advancing the health and well-being of all children and young people across every aspect of their lives and providing them with a powerful and authoritative voice.
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