

Children in Need Research: Volunteers Required - & other stories

The Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) has developed a research project to estimate the numbers of Children in Need, their expenditure and activity in Local Authorities in England.

This project was cleared by the Research Approvals Committee and Star Chamber earlier in 2007 and York Consulting were contracted to undertake this project in October 2007. As part of this research, we are undertaking two surveys.

Firstly, it is proposed that a basic survey will be sent to all Local Authorities asking for headline figures and qualitative data on Children in Need on a voluntary basis. Star Chamber are currently considering this research instrument and we will be in touch with you about this in due course.

Secondly, York Consulting will also be undertaking a more detailed, but still straightforward, survey of 15 authorities in the week commencing 11 February 2008 to gain an understanding of expenditure and activity of Children in Need. For further information please contact James Mahon
0131 270 6061 James.Mahon@yorkconsulting.co.uk
www.yorkconsulting.co.uk

(A letter with the full proposal has been sent to Children in Need contacts and Directors of Children's Services in each Local Authority)

Consultation on the draft Mental Health Act 1983 Code of Practice

The consultation document invites your comments on the draft revised Mental Health Act 1983 Code of Practice (in the light of the Mental Health Act 2007).

The Code provides guidance to registered medical practitioners ("doctors"), approved clinicians, managers and staff of hospitals and approved mental health practitioners (who have defined responsibilities under the provisions of the Act), on how they should proceed when undertaking duties under the Act. It should also be considered by others working in health and social services (including the independent and voluntary sectors).

Published on 25 October 2007
Closing date is 24 January 2008
www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Liveconsultations/DH_079842

Valuing people now: - a consultation on the next three years of learning disability policy

The white paper 'Valuing People' (2001) set out the Government's vision for people with a learning disability, across a range of services based on four key principles of rights, independence, choice, and inclusion.

The white paper's vision covered a range of issues including health, housing and employment. 'Valuing People Now' seeks people's views on the priorities for the learning disability agenda over the next three years. Published on 4th December 2007. Closing date is 11th March 2008
www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Liveconsultations/DH_081014

Council social care services improve for fifth year running

The Performance Ratings for Adult Social Services in England 2007 were published on 29th November. They show that star ratings improved for 24 councils, but deteriorated for 15

Councils that improved demonstrated a greater focus on outcomes for people, including good intermediate care that avoids admission to hospital, support for carers, and homecare services that help people remain in their own homes. www.csci.org.uk/about us/press releases/council social care services i.aspx

The Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE) is keen to work with these top performers to identify and share their best practice with the wider social care sector and will be contacting those who have moved up to a three-star rating to learn more about the improvements they have made.