

Getting it Right for Children and Young People - Achieving Equity and Excellence for Children

Fiona Campbell from the Local Government Information Unit (LGIU) has produced two excellent briefing papers that cover the report of Sir Ian Kennedy and the Government's response to it.

Sir Ian Kennedy was asked by the previous government to review health and wellbeing services for children and young people. His report *Getting it Right for Children and Young People* raises a number of concerns about cross-agency co-operation, the sharing of information, the role of GPs and the culture of the NHS which creates obstacles to a holistic and proactive approach to the healthy and safe development and the welfare of children and young people.

In a series of recommendations, Sir Ian makes proposals for newly-constituted local partnerships and children's and young people's plans, with a strong emphasis on the active involvement of children and young people.

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_119445

The government response to Sir Ian Kennedy's report 'Achieving Equity and Excellence for Children' makes it clear that no new policies are being created. Instead, the document indicates how the proposals in the recent NHS White Paper, Equity and Excellence, might impact for the better on children and young people and on the serious concerns raised by Sir Ian.

Although the document contains no new policy, it does shed additional light on some of the NHS White Paper's proposals, including the role of local authorities,

schools and Children's Trusts.

It appears to reject all of Sir Ian's recommendations and does little to address his particular concerns about GPs' lack of paediatric expertise, likely to be a significant issue in relation to the proposed central role of GP commissioning.

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_119449

This article is abstracted from the two LGIU briefing papers. To access these and other policy briefings, please visit:

<https://member.lgiu.org.uk/csn/briefings/2010/Pages/201000717.aspx>

Government Offices: Cessation of DfE Functions

On 22 September 2010 Tim Loughton wrote to DCSs and LSCB chairs to inform them of a change to the statutory guidance set out in Working Together to Safeguard Children (2010) insofar as it relates to Government Offices. This change came into effect on 1 October 2010.

The Secretary of state for Education has decided to end virtually all DfE functions delivered by the Government Offices (GOs) Children and Learners teams, to terminate the contract for the Children and Learners Strategic Advisers, and to end the contract of other GO-based advisers, including safeguarding advisers.

Information on serious child care incidents and Serious Case Reviews currently collected GOs will be centralised. This is part of the Coalition's commitment to

- bring 'field forces' to an end
- invest in sector-led models of support

- Free up local authorities to focus on their own improvement priorities
- Allow authorities to determine for themselves the best way of achieving positive outcomes for children and young people

As a consequence of these changes, the statutory 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' guidance to local authorities and their board partners will be changed so that references to GOs are omitted (eg paragraphs 8.24 and 8.51)

For more information, please visit

<http://publications.education.gov.uk/default.aspx?PageFunction=productdetails&PageMode=publications&ProductId=DCSF-00305-2010>