

Welcome to the Keynotes email update. It is designed to bring you news of consultation documents, publications, and other developments in between the full editions of Keynotes, which appear every four months.

This issue features an update on *From Care2Work*, the new employability programme for care leavers which was launched on 7 July.

In this issue

News	page 1
Consultations	page 2
Featured article: <i>From Care2Work: Creating Opportunities and Raising Aspirations</i>	page 3
Featured event: Leaving care conference – Capita	page 5
Recent publications	page 5
Funding opportunities	page 7
Contact details	page 8

News

Showcasing young people's creative talents – call for submissions

Voice wants to celebrate the talents and creativity of all care experienced young people by inviting them to submit their work for an event to celebrate national care leavers' week.

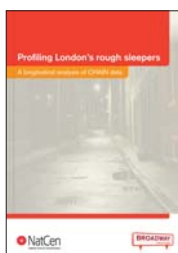
Contact: careleaversweek@voiceyp.org and www.voiceyp.org/ngen_public/default.asp?id=99



New forum for Children in Care Councils established

A Children in Care Councils Consortium has been set up – aiming to support and coordinate developments of the councils in each local authority and across the country.

Contact: kamna@croa.org.uk and www.croa.org.uk



Report finds fewer care leavers sleep rough

A report by the homelessness charity Broadway has found that the proportion of first-time rough sleepers with a care background has dropped from a high of 17% to 7% between 2001/02 and 2007/08. The report states that “although some of those represented will have left care many years ago, the findings do suggest an improvement in the way young people and children in care are provided with skills for independent living and advice and support with housing when they become adults”.

www.broadwaylondon.org/ResearchInformation/Research/ProfilingLondonsRoughSleepers

Ombudsman rewards care leaver £5,000 for inadequate support

According to the ombudsman Lambeth council failed to take into account the care leaver's vulnerability and bouts of depression when assessing and supporting him. For more details about the ombudsman and the report about Lambeth, go to:

www.lgo.org.uk/news/2009/may/council-failed-vulnerable-care-leaver/

NOTE: *Complaints to the Ombudsman are free and no solicitor is needed. Complaints will generally only be considered if the relevant complaints procedure has been exhausted and the complaint is brought within 12 months. However, the Ombudsman can use his/her discretion to accept the complaint before the procedure has been exhausted or if there are good reasons for the complaint being out of time.*

Case law update – Age assessments

In a recent case looking at age assessments of unaccompanied asylum seeking children, the high court found that there were no reliable medical or dental assessment of age and that assessments undertaken by social services departments were more holistic. Following this judgment, local authorities have the power to decide how much weight should be given to medical reports.

<http://tinyurl.com/lpkpkr>

Practice guidelines for age assessment of young unaccompanied asylum seekers and a proforma for how to conduct them are available from the Children's Legal Centre.



www.childrenslegalcentre.com/Refugee+and+Asylum+Seeking+Children/Resources/ageassessment.htm

Consultations

Official consultations are an opportunity for the public to feed back to government around proposed changes in policy and legislation. Here is a list of currently open consultations.

Review of the Children, Young People and Families (CYPF) Grant Programme

The CYPF grant programme provides funding to third sector organisations for activities which support delivery of the every child matters agenda and the department's children's plan. This consultation seeks the views of the third sector and any other interested parties on the future approach and shape of the grant programme.

Closing date: 5 October

www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations/index.cfm?action=consultationDetails&consultationId=1612&external=no&menu=1

Promoting the Health and Wellbeing of Looked After Children

This guidance is a revised version of the existing guidance, which was published by the Department of Health in 2002. The revised guidance will be statutory for primary care trusts and strategic health authorities as well as local authorities.

Closing Date: 3 August

www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations/index.cfm?action=consultationDetails&consultationId=1610&external=no&menu=1

Featured article

From Care2Work: *Creating Opportunities and Raising Aspirations*

From Care2Work, a new national employability scheme, is managed and delivered by NCAS on behalf of the Department for Children, Schools and Families. Three regional project managers have been appointed to drive the project across the nine government office regions in England.

With a clear focus on creating opportunity at local, regional and national levels, From Care2Work will add value and impetus to the range of current work focusing on making sure young people experience a successful transition to adulthood with improved outcomes and an increase in social mobility.

Read more on the project here:

www.leavingcare.org/data/tmp/5622-11534.pdf

National Launch Event

The project was officially launched at an event in early July 2009 at Tate Modern hosted by Ed Balls, Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families.

The launch was attended by a mix of young people, local authority representatives, national employers, third sector organisations and staff from government departments and regional government offices.

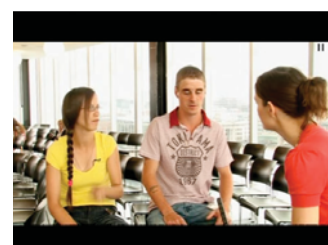
In her opening remarks, Baroness Delyth Morgan, Parliamentary Under Secretary for Children, Young People and Families stressed:

“... the importance of partnerships to the success of the programme cannot be overstated. That is partnerships between Government, employers, local authorities and the voluntary sector.”

Angela Smith, Minister for the Third Sector at the Cabinet Office, went on to thank everyone for being drawn together by the unifying goals of fairness and equality. She concluded by saying:

“I am proud to be associated with this initiative, for the work that went into it, for the impact it will have and for the lives it will change.”

(continued)



Images © Channel 4 News



We're off to a good start and already growing

So far there has been an overwhelming demand from local authorities to be part of this initiative – all are keen to develop their own local work plans that respond to the needs of their young people leaving care, now and in the future.

The DCSF has increased the funding available to NCAS, enabling the project team to expand and recruit three new regional employability project workers who will link in with the three regional employability project managers. This will enable the team to work with over 120 local authorities by the end of the year.

The advertisement for the posts can be found on the Catch22 website – closing date Friday 31st July.

www.catch-22.org.uk/

Employers – Showing their commitment to care

One of the sustainable outcomes from this project will be an employer register, which will hold information on employers and the opportunities they offer in different areas of the country. This database will be accessible to young people and education, training and employment practitioners. Over 30 national employers have already committed to supporting the project and meetings will now take place to agree with them what opportunities will be offered through the project.

Young people shape the project

On 21st July, 25 young people from local authorities across the country will come to London, each accompanied by a member of staff. This one day workshop will be an opportunity for the young people and staff to contribute to shaping a second project outcome – the quality care mark. This 'badge of honour' will be awarded to employers who meet the standards set by our young people. It will recognise the quality of the opportunities and support on offer.

The first two employers to show their commitment and agree the specific opportunities they will offer are Catch22 and the DCSF. Catch22 will create four traineeships within NCAS and the Positive Futures programme. The DCSF are also keen for care leavers to be amongst those recruited to apprenticeships across the country.

Support that works – watch this space

In each edition of Keynotes we will showcase good practice from around England and beyond. We know that there is lots of great work already happening and we want to share our learning in order to improve outcomes. Get in touch to find out more about the project and to tell us what you are already doing:

London, East of England and East Midlands	Barry Cullen barry.cullen@catch-22.org.uk
North East, North West and Yorkshire & Humber	Jo Haddrick jo.haddrick@catch-22.org.uk
South East, South West and West Midlands	Jane White jane.white@catch-22.org.uk



CabinetOffice
Social Exclusion Task Force

Featured event

Leaving care conference

Wednesday 30 September

This Capita conference will examine how services can be enhanced to provide all care leavers with the support and opportunities needed to lead healthy and fulfilling adult lives.

www.capitaconferences.co.uk/OurConferences/Health/Leaving+Care+sep+09.htm

More events and conferences are available in the online events calendar:
www.leavingcare.org/professionals/events

Recent publications

Education, training and employment

Supporting care leavers in accessing employment and skills training

These resources from the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) in the North West include a guide for leaving care services on how to support care leavers to access employment and skills training. It clarifies the roles of different services and case studies of services for care leavers. The series also includes guides for learning and training providers, strategic and LSC staff.

www.lsc.gov.uk/regions/NorthWest/initiatives/14-19/Supporting+Care+Leavers.htm



Improving the educational attainment of children in care

This document outlines the role that schools and local authorities can play in improving the attainment of children in care. It proposes that in every local authority, a senior official, or 'virtual school head' (VSH) should rigorously track the schooling of every child in care. The VSH should also look to ensure continuity of schooling for these children. In schools there should be additional, personalised, individual support for every child in care, through one-to-one tuition and use of the personal education allowance where appropriate.

<http://publications.everychildmatters.gov.uk/default.aspx?PageFunction=productdetails&PageMode=publications&ProductId=DCSF-00523-2009&>

Government plans for education – new white paper

The government has **published** its new education white paper, which includes: a commitment that all young people will be required to remain in education or training until they are 18; one-to-one tuition for pupils who fall behind at Key stage 2 and a new 'pupil guarantee' setting out new entitlements to personalised support for every child.

www.dcsf.gov.uk/21stcenturyschoolssystem



Hidden talents: Re-engaging young people 16–25

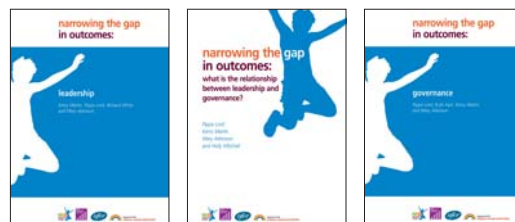
This Local Government Association report about young people not in employment, education or training (NEETs) is part of a series of publications and events to develop a detailed understanding of how an effective national response to support NEETs can be delivered through local government.

www.lga.gov.uk/lga/core/page.do?pageId=2109543

Improving outcomes and services

Governance and leadership to ‘narrow the gap’ in outcomes

The Narrowing the Gap programme looks at the performance of children’s trust arrangements in ‘narrowing the gap’ in outcomes between ‘vulnerable’ children and the rest, against a context of improving outcomes for all children. Three new reports have been published on the role of leadership and governance to ‘narrow the gap’.



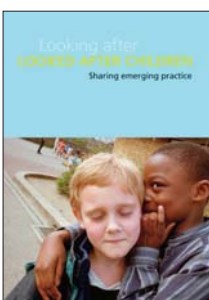
www.nfer.ac.uk/research-areas/childrens-services/narrowing-the-gap.cfm

Support for care leavers – how to improve outcomes

This Ofsted report outlines effective practice in supporting care leavers, highlights practice examples in all areas of leaving care and gives recommendations for the DCSF and local authorities on how to improve outcomes.



www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Publications-and-research/Browse-all-by/Documents-by-type/Thematic-reports/Support-for-care-leavers



Looking after the mental health of looked after children

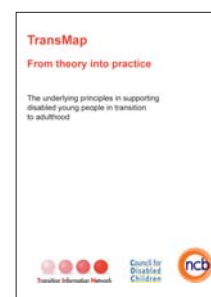
This publication aims to help professionals understand the needs of looked after children. It gives information on how services around the UK are improving the emotional well-being of looked after children and their carers.

www.youngminds.org.uk/publications/all-publications/mental-health-of-looked-after-children

Transmap – from theory to practice

The national transition support team has developed this free toolkit to improve transition planning and support for disabled young people as they move into adulthood. The report examines the underlying principles of transition, the different ways they can be implemented and showcases examples of effective practice.

www.transitionsupportprogramme.org.uk/pdf/TransMap_Final.pdf



New guidance

Statutory guidance on children who run away and go missing from home or care

www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/_download/?id=6178

Safeguarding disabled children: Practice guidance

www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/_download/?id=6195

Statutory guidance on safeguarding children and young people from sexual exploitation

www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/_download/?id=6021

Guidelines for assessing and recording cases of child trafficking



www.crimereduction.homeoffice.gov.uk/humantrafficking005.htm

Funding opportunities

Mediabox

Grants from £5,000–£20,000

A screenshot of the Mediabox website homepage. The page has a dark red background with white and light red text. At the top left is the 'mediabox' logo. To its right are navigation links: 'Home', 'What is Mediabox?', 'Apply for funding', 'The Gallery', 'Newsroom', 'Granted', 'Useful links', and 'Contacts'. Below these are four main content boxes: 'Choose your theme' with radio buttons for 'Spiral' and 'Drip'; 'What is Mediabox?' with a link to 'FAQs' and text about grants for 13-19 year olds; 'The Showcase' with a section for 'YOUR GAME' offering grants for disadvantaged young people; and 'Vote now' with a section for 'Role Models' based on a survey result.

This grant is designed to support organisations that bring together young people from diverse economic backgrounds, faiths or geographic areas to work on a media project. The money enables young people to work with older members of their community, to create media projects that encourage communities to gain a better understanding of each other and promote community cohesion.

www.media-box.co.uk

Contact us

All past issues of Keynotes are available on our website. For further news, information and resources go to our website or get in touch.

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W: www.leavingcare.org

NCAS is part of Catch22, Registered charity number 1124127.

Catch22, the charity that helps young people out.
Before we were Catch22 we were Rainer and Crime Concern,
two national charities which merged in 2008.

