



Child and Adolescent Health and Well-Being: Improving Outcomes for Looked-After Children

A Public Policy Exchange Symposium

Wednesday 13th October 2010

10:15am – 4:30pm

Central London

Public Policy Exchange, in association with the Centre for Parliamentary Studies, holds regular interactive seminars which provide an invaluable interface for policy discussion, debate and networking. These special events offer local practitioners, civil servants and other stakeholders not only an insight into current policy thinking, but also the opportunity to feed into future development across all areas of public policy.

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GOVERNMENT GAZETTE

Child and Adolescent Health and Well-Being: Improving Outcomes for Looked-After Children

Overview

Over the last decade the number of children in care has risen dramatically, with around 60,000 children now residing in the care system at any one time. Despite substantial reform and investment, outcomes for looked-after children continue to lag detrimentally behind those for other children, with children in care dependent on a postcode lottery of support that prevents many from accessing the services they need.

The majority of children enter the care system as a result of terrible abuse or neglect and are subsequently disproportionately vulnerable to high levels of mental health problems. Current instability of placements and limited service support often further deteriorates a child's mental health, increasing poor educational attainment and contact with the criminal justice system.

In order to improve stability and security for looked-after children, the supply and time-span of placements must be increased through incentivising more people to become foster parents, increasing support for those who do foster and acting to prevent placements from breaking down. Looked-after children should also be involved in decisions regarding their future. Seeking to minimise unnecessary harm to children, Barnardo's recently urged family courts to reverse existing unprecedented delays for determining whether a child can stay with their parents.

As the coalition Government sets out its road-map for change, this symposium offers a timely opportunity for social service practitioners, education and health practitioners, local authorities and other key stakeholders to consider the next steps in improving outcomes for looked-after children.

“ It is only justifiable if we are able to reassure parents that their child, when in care, will have stability and personalised attention rather than a life ruled by uncertainty and bureaucracy, will have access to all the health and therapeutic care that they need to enjoy life and develop into independent adults, will be protected from rather than exposed to risk of offending, and will not feel abandoned by children's services when they reach 16, or 18, or if they go into custody. There are some children in care who have all of this, and many more who have some of it, thanks to dedicated, compassionate carers and diligent local authorities... how can we make sure that all looked-after children get all that they are entitled to expect from their time in care? ”

- 'Looked-after Children', House of Commons Children, Schools and Families Committee, March 2009

Venue & Accommodation

**Guoman Charing Cross Hotel, The Strand,
London WC2N 5HX**

Built in 1865, the Charing Cross hotel has been transformed to bring it into the 21st century.

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Through our partnership with HotelMap, we are able to offer our delegates heavily discounted hotel rates at a wide range of London hotels. To view hotel availability and rates and to book online, visit www.HotelMap.com/M5NUZ/

Alternatively, if you would like to book your accommodation by phone, you can call **Daniel Spinner at HotelMap**, on **020 7292 2335** quoting **Special Reference Code M5NUZ**.



Why Attend?

- ✓ **Explore how to work with children to improve their experience of care and increase local authority accountability**
- ✓ **Discuss how to incentivise foster and kinship carers through greater support, training and financial assistance**
- ✓ **Examine how to address looked-after children's complex mental health needs and safeguard them from falling into a cycle of crime**
- ✓ **Consider how to prioritise and improve children's access to good education and health services**
- ✓ **Debate, network and share best practice with colleagues**

Who Should Attend?

- Directors of Children & Young People's Services
- Children's Services & Families Services Officers
- Looked-After Children Team Managers
- Fostering Agencies
- Corporate Parenting Managers
- Heads of Children's Strategy
- Residential Children's Home Managers
- Supported Housing Teams
- Sure Start
- Children's Trusts & Children's Centres
- Social Workers & Social Services Officers
- Early Years & Childcare Practitioners
- Child Protection & Safeguarding Teams
- Children's Health Service Professionals
- Child & Adolescent Mental Health Practitioners
- Designated Nurses & Health Advisors for Children in Care
- Teachers & Special Educational Needs Co-ordinators
- Local Education Authorities
- Participation/Engagement Teams
- Asylum & Immigration Officers
- Education & Welfare Officers
- Teenage Pregnancy Teams
- Education Providers
- Children & Youth Organisations
- Community Development Managers
- Social Exclusion & Neighbourhood Renewal Teams
- Youth Workers & Youth Offending Teams
- Community Safety Teams
- Police Service
- Welfare Rights Organisations
- Local Councillors
- DfE, DWP, DoH & other Central Government Agencies
- Equality & Diversity Practitioners
- Third Sector Practitioners

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Programme

- 09:30** Registration and Morning Refreshments
- 10:15** Chair's Welcome and Introduction
- 10:30** **Panel Session One:**
Broken Promises - Providing Security and Stability for Every Vulnerable Child
- Ending the Post-Code Lottery: Ensuring Timely and Consistent Family Court Decisions
- Strengthening the Voice of Looked After Children: Working with Children to Improve Services and Placements
- Acknowledging and Valuing Foster and Kinship Carers: Providing Practical Assistance, Financial Support and Training
- Increasing Local Authority Responsibility and Accountability to Children in Care
- 11:15** Morning Refreshments
- 11:30** **Open Floor Discussion and Debate with Panel One**
- 12:30** Networking Lunch
- 13:30** **Panel Session Two:**
Promoting the Health and Well-Being of Looked-After Children
- Working in Partnership to Comprehensively Address Complex Mental Health Needs
- Improving Access to Health and Sexual Health Care, Providing Alcohol/Drug Rehabilitative Support
- Ensuring Consistent Access to Education: Driving-Up Attainment and Expectations
- Preventing Looked-After Children Entering a Cycle of Crime and Strengthening Support in Custody
- 14:15** Afternoon Refreshments
- 14:30** **Open Floor Discussion and Debate with Panel Two**
- 15:30** Chair's Summary and Closing Comments
- 15:40** Networking Reception
- 16:30** Close

Please note that the programme is subject to change without notice



If you would like us to send you a certificate of attendance for CPD points please email your name and details of the event to info@publicpolicyexchange.co.uk

Event Details

Date: Wednesday 13th October 2010
Time: 10:15am – 4:30pm
Venue: Central London

Forthcoming Events

Health and Well-Being in the Workplace:
Combating Sickness Absenteeism
15th September 2010

Working in Partnership to Tackle Hate Crime
in Every Local Community
16th September 2010

Employing Non-UK Nationals Workshop:
Practical Guidance on Working with the
Points Based Immigration System
21st September 2010

Shaping the Future of Schools: Raising
Standards in Every Classroom
22nd September 2010



Broken Britain? Reducing Youth Offending
through Community Intervention
23rd September 2010

Employing Non-UK Nationals Workshop:
Practical Guidance on Working with the
Points Based Immigration System
7th October 2010

Employing Non-UK Nationals Workshop:
Practical Guidance on Working with the
Points Based Immigration System
9th November 2010

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For further information please contact **Parvin Madahar** on **020 7840 6081** or email parvin.madahar@publicpolicyexchange.co.uk



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