

Voluntary Sector Unit Briefings

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Big Lottery

The Big Lottery Fund has launched the second round of Basis funding to support the development of voluntary and community sector infrastructure. Priorities have been drawn up for each region, particularly aimed at filling gaps identified through the Round 1 funding. www.biglotteryfund.org.uk

Care services consultation

A website has been set up to support the consultation on the future of care services, *The case for change: why England needs a new care and support system*, which is running until November 2008. www.careandsupport.direct.gov.uk

Children and young people's participation

The Department for Children, Schools and Families has published *Working together: listening to the voices of children and young people*. This revised guidance outlines ways of encouraging pupils in England to participate in decision making in their school and of promoting citizenship skills.

<http://publications.teachernet.gov.uk/default.aspx?PageFunction=productdetails&PageMode=publications&ProductId=DCSF-00410-2008&>

Children's services

The Children's Workforce Development Council is inviting bids for funding to help people who work with children, young people and families to share their experiences of working together. *CWDC Share!* will provide individual grants of £10,000 to nine sites across England. The closing date for applications is 13 June.

www.cwdcouncil.org.uk/tenders/show/5

Community cohesion

The Department for Communities and Local Government has produced *Guidance for local authorities on community cohesion contingency planning and tension monitoring*, which provides advice on how to map local communities in order to monitor tensions and how to promote cohesion and integration particularly in relation to possible ethnic and religious community conflicts.

www.communities.gov.uk/publications/communities/cohesionplanning

Community development

The Joseph Rowntree Foundation has published *People's attachment to place: the influence of neighbourhood deprivation*, which explores the attachment people have to their neighbourhoods, with a particular focus on those who live in deprived areas.

www.jrf.org.uk/bookshop/eBooks/2200-neighbourhoods-attachment-deprivation.pdf

Community safety

The Joseph Rowntree Foundation has published *Community leadership approaches to tackling street crime*, which presents a case study of using a gym and other popular activities to raise income to enable community groups to act independently of any grants system. www.jrf.org.uk/knowledge/findings/housing/2204.asp

Disabled children

The Council for Disabled Children (part of the National Children's Bureau) has published *Access for disabled children and young people to extended schools and children's centres*. The report calls on services to adopt a 'can do' attitude and emphasises the importance of adequate staffing and training, including using alternative methods of communication.

<http://publications.teachernet.gov.uk/eOrderingDownload/DCD-00186-2008.pdf>

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Homelessness

The Department for Communities and Local Government and the Department for Children, Schools and Families has published *Joint working between housing and children's services: preventing homelessness and tackling its effects on children and young people*. The document provides non-statutory guidance designed to help strategic working to meet the needs of children and young people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/pdf/jointworkinghomelessness

Housing

The Housing Corporation has published *Who lives in affordable housing?*, which looks at the changing profile of residents of affordable housing and explores how that might change in the future.

www.housingcorp.gov.uk/upload/pdf/Paper1_Who_lives_in_affordable_housing.pdf

Independent living

The Department of Health with Skills for Care have published the *Seven Common Core Principles to support Self Care*, which is designed to help health and social care staff support people to live independently, stay healthy and manage their conditions better.

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_084505

Integrated children's services

The Local Authorities Research Consortium, with NFER, EMIE, Research in Practice and IDeA have published *Evaluating the early impact of integrated children's services*, which highlights evidence of the way in which integrated services have started to impact on services and practitioners as well as on children, young people and families. www.nfer.ac.uk/research-areas/pims-data/summaries/larc.cfm

Health services

The Department of Health has published *Our NHS, Our Future: NHS Next Stage Review – Leading local change*, which sets the context for how Lord Darzi's Review has been led in each NHS region, where local clinical working groups have been looking at the clinical evidence and engaging with their local communities.

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_084644

The results of the consultation *Healthcare for London: consulting the capital* have been published. The report, based on 5,000 responses (1% of the total population) found nearly a third of respondents opposed the reforms, half would support the changes and 2 in 10 remain unconvinced.

www.healthcareforlondon.nhs.uk/consultationDocs/FinalH4LCtCreport.pdf

Housing

The Housing Corporation has published *Housing corporation: good practice note 16 – working with local authorities*, which sets out to promote more effective joint working between housing associations and local authorities.

www.housingcorp.gov.uk/server/show/ConWebDoc.13997/changeNav/440

Literacy

The Institute of Education has published *Comparison of literary progress of young children in London schools: a reading recovery follow up study*, which shows how 6 year old pupils who were poor readers can match their chronological reading age or

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overtake their peers within 2 years of one-to-one intensive tuition.

www.ioe.ac.uk/schools/ecpe/readingrecovery/London%20eval%20follow%20up%20May%2008.pdf

Looked-after children

Ofsted has published *Looked-after children: good practice in schools*, which shows that the children's learning was improved they were involved in after-school activities, where there was unified but low profile support and swift intervention was provided if a problem occurred.

www.ofsted.gov.uk/assets/Internet_Content/Shared_Content/Files/2008/may/lkdafterchild.pdf

Mental health

Mind has published *In the red: debt and mental health*, which finds that people with mental health problems are almost 3 times more likely to be in debt than the rest of the population as they are often on a low income or unemployed.

www.mind.org.uk/News+policy+and+campaigns/Press/mw08launch

The Department of Health has published *Attitudes to mental illness 2008 research report*, which presents the results of the latest survey on public attitudes in England to people with mental health problems.

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publications/Publications/PublicationsStatistics/DH_084478

Obesity

The IDeA has published Sheffield Hallam's analysis of the implications for local authorities, of the recent Foresight report, *Tackling Obesities: future choices*. Their report focuses on four key areas: planning, children's services, adult social care and parks and leisure. www.idea.gov.uk/idk/core/page.do?pagelId=8267926

Older people

The Department for Work and Pensions has published *Opportunity Age information indicators feasibility study*, which looked at the feasibility of developing indicators to monitor older people's awareness of, access to and satisfaction with, information about statutory services. The interim findings concluded that there were too many problems in doing this but the report provides some insights into older people's attitudes to information, what it means to them and how they use it.

www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd5/WP47.pdf

Poverty

The Social Care Institute for Excellence has published *Poverty, parenting and social exclusion*, an e-learning resource to help social care workers to understand the links between poverty, parenting and disadvantage.

www.scie.org.uk/publications/elearning/poverty/index.asp

Primary school review

The Primary Review has published its final 3 interim reports. The review is a wide-ranging and independent enquiry into the condition and future of primary education in England, based at the Faculty of Education of the University of Cambridge and supported by the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation. The review started in 2006 and the final report is expected to be published in September 2008.

www.primaryreview.org.uk/Publications/Interimreports.html

Procurement

The Department of Health has published *Primary Care Trust Procurement Guide for health services*, which sets out the policy and regulatory context for procurement and

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explores the issues to consider when developing a procurement strategy.

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_084778

Public health research

The Department of Health has announced the launch of a £10 million Public Health Research Programme to improve public health and reduce health inequalities. The programme will cover a range of public health interventions and is being established by the National Institute for Health Research. www.nihr.ac.uk

Quality measurement

The Quality Management Framework Project has been set up, led by the Office of National Statistics in partnership with the Department of Health and NCVO, to develop a tool that public service commissioners can use to assess and monitor the performance and added value of public services delivered by voluntary organisations. www.statistics.gov.uk/about/data/methodology/specific/PublicSector/output/gmf/default.asp

Re-offending

The Local Government Association has published *Reducing re-offending survey 2007*, which presents the findings from research commissioned to build an evidence base outlining the local authority role in reducing adult re-offending. www.lgar.local.gov.uk/lgv/aio/69739

Returning to employment

The Department for Work and Pensions has published *Evidence on the effect on Pathways to Work on existing claimants*, which finds that up to 54,000 people in England have found employment through the scheme and nine out of ten people with access to an adviser said it motivated them to think about work. www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd5/rports2007-2008/rrep498.pdf

School business managers

The Training and Development Agency for teachers has published *Discover the benefits of school business managers: developing the bigger picture*, which explains how a school business manager can make a positive difference to schools and offers advice on recruitment, development and the kind of roles they can undertake. www.tda.gov.uk/about/publicationslisting/TDA0532.aspx

School inspection

Ofsted has launched a consultation on its proposals for changes to the school inspection process. *A focus on improvement: proposals for maintained school inspections from September 2009* suggests a longer time between inspections for effective schools, how parents might be involved more and greater involvement of the senior management team in inspections. www.ofsted.gov.uk/assets/Internet_Content/Shared_Content/Files/2008/may/foi_nsis_ep2009con.pdf

Service provision

The IDeA has published *Delivering public service transformation 2008*, summarising research commissioned by IDeA, the Department for Communities and Local Government and the Cabinet Office on front office shared services. The report explores the changing policy landscape around service transformation, including workforce development, working with the Third Sector, citizen engagement, partnering and multi-agency working. www.idea.gov.uk/idk/core/page.do?pagelId=6440077

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Social enterprise

The Department of Health has announced a further £11 million capital and £6 million revenue funding in the Social Enterprise Fund for 2008/09. The deadline for applications is 31 July 2008.

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Managingyourorganisation/Commissioning/Socialenterprise/DH_073426

Substance misuse

The Healthcare Commission and the National Treatment Agency have published *Improving services for substance misuse: commissioning drug treatment and harm reduction services*, which calls for improved consistency in drug addiction treatment services in England. www.nta.nhs.uk/areas/standards_and_inspections/2006-07_review

The Compact

The Commissioner for the Compact has announced the start of a research study identifying key factors behind successful local Compacts and positive local partnerships. The research will be carried out by the Institute for Voluntary Action Research at Birkbeck, University of London and is due to report in August 2008.

www.thecompact.org.uk/information/100019/101469/local_compact_research_under_way

Waste

The New Local Government Network has published *Time to waste: tackling the landfill challenge*, which suggests that community-based incentives would be the most effective way of encouraging people to recycle rather than penalising householders for the amount of waste they throw away.

www.nlgn.org.uk/public/press-releases/time-to-waste-tackling-the-landfill-challenge

The Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) has published a report, *The food we waste*, which calculates that food valued at £10 billion is discarded each year in the UK. WRAP estimates that food waste creates 18 million tonnes of CO2 emissions. www.wrap.org.uk/retail/food_waste/research/the_food_we_waste.html

Welfare benefits

The Department for Work and Pensions has published *Promoting benefit take-up amongst older people*, which is aimed at local authorities and voluntary organisations, and provides advice on the kind of indicators they could use to monitor take-up locally. www.dwp.gov.uk/housingbenefits/letters/letters/local-indicators.pdf

Youth homelessness

Youth Homeless in the UK, a study by York University Centre for Housing Policy and Centre Point, published by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, finds that although the number of homeless young people in England and Wales fell over the past 3 years, at least 75,000 young people experienced homelessness in the UK in 2006/07. The report concludes that the needs of 16-17 year olds were being met more effectively than a decade ago while 18-24 year olds were comparatively less well served.

www.jrf.org.uk/knowledge/findings/housing/2221.asp

Youth offending

The Centre for Crime and Justice Studies at King's College London has published *Ten years of Labour's youth justice reforms: an independent audit*, which says that Youth Offending Teams have not achieved their targets for reducing the number of young people who re-offend. The report suggests that mainstream services such as

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housing, healthcare and education must play a full role in the care of young people who offend. www.crimeandjustice.org.uk/opus647/youthjusticeaudit.pdf

Youth services

The NYA has published *England's local authority youth services: the NYA Audit 2006-07 national report*, which finds a spending gap of £43 per young person between the highest and lowest spending councils.

www.nya.org.uk/shared_asp_files/GFSR.asp?NodeID=111350

Youth volunteers

The National Council for Voluntary Youth Services has submitted a proposal to the Department for Children, Schools and Families for them to consider supporting the development of a volunteer youth workers accreditation scheme. www.ncvys.org.uk