



Welcome to the Children's Trust Web Tracker which provides a monthly update on the latest information & research in relation to Children, Young People & Families. If you wish to be removed from this distribution list, please email jowen@cornwall.gov.uk

This month:

- **In the News:** More choice on schools, truancy figures released, overhaul of adoption
- **Research, Reports & Surveys:** £22m to boost mental health services, investigation of children who go missing from care
- **Key policy announcements:** 2012 budget, Troubled Families
- **Consultations:** Children's Centres and school funding

In the News

>> BBC - [Cameron promises more choice on schools and hospitals](#) - The right to choose a particular school or hospital will be enshrined in law, if new legislation announced is passed.

>> BBC - [400,000 pupils miss month of school](#) - The government statistics show a small rise in the number of pupils skipping school without permission, but a drop in overall absence rates.

>> DfE - [Expert family organisations to deliver parenting classes in three areas of the country from this spring](#) - Inc. National Childbirth Trust, Save the Children, and the Fatherhood Institute

>> DfE - [Action plan sets out radical overhaul of adoption system](#) - The Government publishes an Action Plan for Adoption to overhaul the system for prospective adopters and strengthen the performance regime for local authorities.

>> DfE - [Coalition Government to reward local authorities for improving children's lives](#) - Local authorities will be paid according to the prevalence of breastfeeding and the take up of free nursery care, under a new scheme being trialled by the Coalition Government.

Key policy announcements

2012/13 Budget

The national 2012 budget was announced this month with headline measures around Child Benefit and changes to welfare benefits. See below responses to the budget from children's organizations:

[The Children's Society](#) - This budget has fallen a long way short of putting vital pounds into the pockets of low-income families.

[Barnardo's](#) - Budget a 'wasted opportunity' says Barnardo's CEO

[NBC](#) - NCB welcomes the Government's changes to proposed reforms of the Child Benefit system. However this will be of little relief to those families on the sharp end of the changes to Working Tax Credit.

[Save the Children](#) - While the raising of the personal tax threshold is welcome news, this won't reach the poorest families who don't earn enough to benefit.

Troubled Families Initiative

>> DCLG - [The Troubled Families programme: Financial framework for the payment-by-results scheme for local authorities](#) - a results-based funding scheme which provides details of the payment mechanism for local authorities to receive extra funding to deal with troubled families.

Be Healthy

>>NCB - [Sex education as important as traditional subjects](#) - The Sex Education Forum believes the assessment of learning and evaluation of teaching is just as vital to developing effective SRE as any other subject.

>>DH - [New health maps to drive children's health improvements](#) - The differences in health services for children across the country have been laid bare for the first time.

>>DH - [Pupils want to text their school nurse](#) - Young people could soon be texting their school nurses for appointments in a new drive to improve health in schools, Health Secretary Andrew Lansley announced.

>>CYPNOW - [£22m boost for child mental health services](#) - The government has pledged an extra £22m to increase the availability of talking therapies to children and young people with mental health problems.

>>SCIE - [Small, inexpensive changes can make a huge difference in parental mental health](#) - Small changes to working practices and training for staff can transform services for families affected by parental mental ill health.

Stay Safe

>>NSPCC - [Most People Wait Over a Month to Report Child Abuse](#) - The NSPCC launches new campaign, 'Don't wait until you're certain,' urging the public not to ignore niggling doubt about a child's safety.

>>The Children's Society - [Parliamentary group launches inquiry into children who go missing from care](#) - Two APPGs want to establish a clearer picture of local and national responses to looked after children who go missing or run away, what support is available to them and what effective interventions look like.

Enjoy + Achieve

Who Cares? Trust - [Fragmented system holds looked-after children back from education](#) - Government policies to support looked-after children into FE and HE are failing because a fragmented, localist approach has confused young people and the professionals who work with them.

>> Institute of Education - [Success against the odds at 14: how both parents and schools make a difference](#) - While social class has a strong influence on academic success for many young people, there are ways to mitigate the effects of disadvantage.

>> Institute of Education - [England has weak support systems for schools](#) - Research shows that the system-wide conditions that need to be in place for schools' efforts to succeed include an open yet positive public climate.

>>DfE - [School funding reform: next steps toward a fairer system](#) - This publication outlines planned reforms to the schools funding system from 2013-14 and how these reforms aim to simplify the funding system.

+ Contribution

>>DfE - [YP must be listened to in decisions on youth service provision](#) - Local authorities must take into account the views of young people when making decisions about youth services, draft revised guidance published by the Department for Education (DfE) has stated.

>>Cabinet Office - [Communities to feel the force of 700,000 hours of youth power this summer](#) - Francis Maude announces 30,000 young people to be involved in the National Citizenship Service this summer.

Economic Wellbeing

>>CYPNOW - [Clegg admits flaws in child benefit plans](#) - Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg has confirmed that the government is considering altering the detail of its plans to take child benefit away from higher earners.

>>Save the Children - [UK welfare reforms could push 250,000 children deeper into poverty](#) - The new Universal Credit will hit poorer working mums the hardest, despite government pledges to make work pay.

>>IFS - [Households with Children to lose most from tax and benefits change](#) - this report summarises recent analysis of the likely evolution of household incomes over the next few years.

Consultations

- >> DfE - [Revised Sure Start Children's Centres Statutory Guidance](#) - **Closing Date:** 1st June 2012
- >> DfE - [Draft Revised Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities on Services and Activities to Improve Young People's Wellbeing](#) - **Closing Date:** 25th May 2012
- >> DfE - [Consultation on school funding reform: Next steps towards a fairer system](#) - **Closing Date:** 21st May 2012

Guidance, Resources & Good Practice

- >> Ofsted - [An innovative approach to multi-agency work with vulnerable families and children on the edge of care: Manchester Child in Need Coordinator \(CiNCo\) Service](#)
- >> Ofsted - [A 'one-stop' service for young people affected by substance misuse: Platform Young People's Drugs Service](#)
- >> Ofsted - [Working with parents and carers to give children the best possible start](#)
- >> Ofsted - [A fully inclusive environment that enhances learning: Charnwood Nursery and Family Centre](#)