



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:** Launch of troubled families, child benefit targeted for truancy fines, Lansley explains Health and Social Care Bill
- **Research, Reports & Surveys:** NICE guidance on early years, AFC calls for change in neglect law, launch of Big Society Capital
- **Consultations:** Substance misuse and apprenticeships

In the News

>> DCLG - [Downing Street launch for Troubled Families Scheme](#) - The Prime Minister expressed his "passion" to turn around the lives of the 120,000 most challenging families in England in the next three years.

>> DoH - [Childhood primary immunisation rate at record levels](#)

>> DoH - [School for Public Health Research launched](#) - with a budget of £20 million over five years to undertake research into public health and an emphasis on what works practically.

>> DoH - [Health Secretary explains new Health and Social Care Act](#) - Andrew Lansley has set out what the Health and Social Care Act will mean for key health and care organisations and their staff.

>> CYPNOW - [Teather quizzed on impact of tax credit changes](#) - "...the impact of these changes on the supply of childcare will [not] be significant."

>> BBC - [Teacher numbers fall by 10,000 in a year in England](#) - The number of teachers in England's state school system fell by 10,000 in the year to November, new figures show.

>> CYPNOW - [Call for truancy fines to be deducted from child benefit](#) - Government advisor Charlie Taylor has recommended a toughening up of the system, allowing head teachers to impose a fine of £60

>> Guardian - [Free schools take fewer deprived pupils than local average](#) - At least three-quarters of the coalition's flagship free schools have admitted a lower proportion of deprived pupils than is average for their wider neighbourhood, government data shows.

>> CYPNOW - [NYA issues guidance on involving young people in commissioning](#) - Two toolkits to help LAs to engage YP and members in the process of commissioning services have been published by the NYA.

>> CYPNOW - [England charts highest child protection rise in the UK](#) - The number of children placed on the child protection register in England has increased by 60 per cent since 2006.

>> CYPNOW - [Schools will not be forced to take back excluded pupils](#) - From this September, if a child is excluded from school a review panel will not be able to force the school to take back the child.

>> CYPNOW - [One in five children hear voices](#) - research published by the British Journal of Psychiatry has found.

Be Healthy

>>NICE - [Nice guidance focuses on wellbeing in the early years](#) - Guidance on how the social and emotional wellbeing of vulnerable children under 5 years can be effectively supported through home visiting, childcare and early education

>>NHS Confederation - ["deep unease about future care for vulnerable children"](#) - Changes to the way children are protected risks creating a more confusing, fragmented and possibly riskier system of care.

>> CSJ - [Commissioning Effective Talking Therapies](#) - The NHS is failing to offer the mentally ill a full choice of psychological counselling and therapies - [view report](#).

>> RCPCH - [Britain has world's third highest proportion of sexually active teens](#) - UK also ranks badly among high-income nations for harmful teenage drinking, according to a study in the Lancet.

>> RCPCH - [Children who eat at the family table are healthier, slimmer and cleverer](#) - A study by Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey, has claimed that eating together as a family leads to healthier children who are less likely to be overweight.

>> RCPCH - [Safeguarding children 'an afterthought' and expertise is 'spread too thinly'](#) - Calls for urgent action to produce national standards to ensure vulnerable children don't fall through the gaps

Stay Safe

>>NSPCC - [Sixty child sex offences a day](#) - For the last four ... there has been no significant decrease in reported offences.

>>BASW - [BASW welcomes chief social worker victory](#) - BASW has welcomed the advertising of a vacancy for the position of chief social worker within the Westminster government

>>Action for Children - [Action for Children calls for law change on neglect](#) - The current criminal law on the most common form of child abuse - neglect - fails to protect children and must be urgently updated

Enjoy + Achieve

>> IPPR - [Beyond free-market and state-led skills policy](#) - This report explores why employers do not train. We show that a lack of investment in training is rooted in 'low-road' competitive strategies that do not require a well-skilled workforce.

>> DfE - [New rules restore headteachers' power to exclude](#) - Review panels will not be able to force the school to take back the child.

>> DfE - [Government adviser calls for crackdown on primary school absence](#) - Charlie Taylor, the Government's Expert Adviser on Behaviour, today called for a crackdown on primary school absence to make sure it is not a problem later on in life.

>> DfE - [£500,000 scholarship scheme launched for SEN support staff](#) - Hundreds of school support staff are to get degree-level and specialist training in helping children with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND), under a new £500,000 programme set out today by Children's Minister Sarah Teather.

>> JRF - [Raising aspirations unlikely to narrow attainment gap](#) - Research published by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation gives a steer on what can be done to narrow the attainment gap.

+ Contribution

>> Scouts - [Membership numbers increase](#) - The number of Explorer Scouts who have chosen to sign up to the Scouts' Young Leaders' Scheme hits over 10,000.

>> Cabinet Office - [Launch of Big Society Capital](#) - Its mission is to grow a new market – social investment – and so make it easier for charities, social enterprises and community groups to access affordable finance.

Economic Wellbeing

>> The Children's Society - [A million poor children miss out on free school meals](#) - 1.2 million children living in poverty are missing out on free school meals and 700,000 are not entitled at all .

Consultations

- >> DfE - [A Consultation on Improving the Assurance System for Financial Management in Local Authority Maintained Schools](#) - **Closing Date:** 11th May 2012
- >> DfE - [Reform of Alternative Provision](#) - **Closing Date:** 15th May 2012
- >> DfE - [Review of Regulations and National Minimum Standards for Residential Family Centres](#) - **Closing Date:** 3rd July 2012
- >> UCL - [Tackling Public Health Priorities Through the Social Determinants of Health](#) - **Closing Date:** 25th May 2012
- >> Ofsted - [Inspection of secure training centres](#) - **Closing Date:** 26th June 2012

Guidance, Resources & Good Practice

- >> DfE - [Apprenticeships for young people](#) - Between September and November 2011, inspectors visited 15 providers to identify the key features of successful apprenticeship provision.
- >> Ofsted - [An innovative approach to multi-agency work](#) - Manchester City Council has established Child in Need Coordinators (CiNCo). This service involves coordinators, along with their multi-agency partners, working specifically to identify, assess and support those children and young people who are on the edge of care.
- >> Ofsted - [A 'one-stop' service for young people affected by substance misuse](#) - The Platform project aims to help and support young people whose lives have been affected by substance to help themselves. It provides coherent and focused professional support, operates outreach provision across Leeds and improves the capacity of the diverse city-wide children and young people's workforce to contribute to drug and alcohol education.
- >> Ofsted - [Improving students' outcomes through additional support workshops](#) - East Norfolk Sixth Form College provides students with regular additional study workshops that enhance their learning and lead to high success rates, despite many joining the college with relatively low GCSE grades.