

Every Child Matters

Young People and Drugs guide to documentation

This document is a brief guide to the key pieces of guidance published on Every Child Matters and the Children's Act (2004), it flags relevant drug references and provides an update on other pieces of work in development.

All documents and consultation linked to below are available from the DfES Every Child Matters website.

<http://www.everychildmatters.co.uk/>

An Overview of Cross Government Guidance has also been published.

<http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/strategy/guidance/?asset=document&id=28020>

Published Documents

Children and Young People's Plans Guidance

All areas should produce a single, strategic, overarching 3 Year plan for all local services to children and young people. As referenced in section 17 of the Children's Act.

Guidance published on the Children and Young People Plan (CYPP) refers to the agreement and joint ownership of targets to deliver clear service improvements in support of the young people's drugs PSA, in line with Young People and Drugs Strategic Guidance.

All areas are expected to agree joint drug targets with Children's Services for 2005/2006.

<http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/strategy/planningandcommissioning/cypp/?asset=document&id=28094>

Drug issues referenced as follows: Pages 2, 6 and paragraphs 2:5, 2:14; 2:18, 2:27, 2:40, 3.13, 3:5.

Duty to Cooperate Guidance

Statutory framework for local cooperation between local authorities; key partner agencies and other relevant bodies. The Children's Act, reference section 10, requires local authorities and their 'relevant partners' to cooperate to improve children's wellbeing: defined as the five outcomes.

Guidance published (linked with issue of CYPP guidance) makes references drugs and linkages to existing partnership arrangements.

<http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/strategy/guidance/?asset=document&id=27964>

Drug issues referenced as follows: Page 2 and paragraphs 2:21, 2:64, Appendix 1 1:20, 2:48, 2:52, 2:53, 2:54

Duty to Safeguard Guidance

Local Safeguarding Children's Boards Guidance

Section 11 of the Children Act 2004 places a statutory duty on key people and bodies to make arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. This duty took effect on 1 October 2005. Statutory guidance was published on 3rd August 2005 and is available from the link below.

<http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/socialcare/safeguarding/?asset=document&id=28266>

Chapters 3, 4, 7 and 8 of [Working Together to Safeguard Children](#) are issued under section 16 of the Children Act (2004) and Children's Services must have regard for these in exercising their functions relating to Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCB). Working Together cross references Every Child Matters: Change for Children Young People and Drugs (page 24) and makes useful statements on substance misuse and young people throughout both the statutory and non statutory chapters: some of these are flagged below.

Statutory Chapters

- Functions of the LSCB relating to substance misuse are flagged as '*developing local protocols on key issues of concern such as children [affected by] substance misuse* (paragraph 3.19)
- In addition '*The LSCB should make appropriate arrangements at a strategic management level to involve others in its work as needed ... [including] drug and alcohol misuse services and Drug Action Teams* (paragraph 3.63).

Non Statutory Chapters

Further notes on drug and alcohol misuse are included in the Non Statutory Practice Guidance in Part Two (paragraphs 9.18-19 and 11.51-52 for children of substance misusing parents)

Inspection Framework

'Choosing not to take illegal drugs' is referenced under 'Be Healthy' in the Every Child Matters Outcomes Framework available from link below.

<http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/aims/outcomes/?asset=document&id=16682>

Integrated inspection of children's services includes:

- Framework for the inspection of children's services
- Joint area reviews
- Annual performance assessment of local council's services for children and young people.

Copies of the Annual Performance Assessment and Joint Area Reviews (where these have conducted) are available on the [Ofsted website](#). The [timetable](#) to December 2008 is also available on this website

Substance Misuse indicators are included within the [Children's Services dataset](#) (Annex 2) and referenced in 2007 [guidance to Annual Performance Assessments](#) (page 16).

- National Healthy Schools Programme data is included in the data sets available to local areas for 2007 and referenced in the inspection documentation as above.
- Youth Justice Board KPI data on substance misuse is included within the information that YOTs provide for the Annual Performance Assessment and Joint Area Reviews.
- Treatment data is included in the data sets available to local areas for 2007 and referenced in the inspection documentation

Common Assessment Framework

Common Assessment Framework CAF documentation has been revised and is available for implementation in all areas. A package of training and awareness raising materials for local authorities are also available to use.

Revised 2006 CAF materials are available from.:

<http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/deliveringservices/caf/>

All local areas will be expected to implement CAF between 2006 - 2008. Opportunities exist around the following aspects of roll out:

- CAF Assessment Form:

The Assessment Form is arranged around capturing basic information about the child/young person and strengths and weaknesses in a number of domains. Substance misuse is flagged as an example under

- development of unborn, infant, child or young person
Behavioural development
- family and environmental
Basic care, ensuring safety and protection

- Manager's Guide

CAF relationship with drugs screening tools is flagged in **paragraph 2.16**

Operating the CAF in partner organisations Annex B references Drug and alcohol services **paragraphs 29 – 31**

Paragraph 40 raises the need for local authorities to ensure that *'those working with children in other organisations are aware of substance misuse issues when using the CAF. Practitioners using the CAF should refer young people with substance misuse needs for further assessment or put them in contact with appropriate services.*

- Practitioners' Guide

Substance misuse is included in list of cross cutting needs listed at **paragraph 2.4**

Substance misuse is included in Annex A Definitions under all three broad groups in the following elements

- development of infant, child or young person
behavioural development
family and social relationships
- parents and carers
basic care, ensuring safety and protection
- family and environmental
family history, functioning and wellbeing
social and community elements and resources, including education

- Evaluation

11 local authorities involved in the trialling of CAF materials as published in 05-06 were High Focus Areas. The University of East Anglia carried out an evaluation in these areas from August 2005. The evaluation report is available from <http://www.dfes.gov.uk/research/>.

Information Sharing Guidance

Practical guidance for practitioners has now been published along with a range of training materials. A practitioners' guide, case examples and legal issues guidance are available from

<http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/deliveringservices/informationsharing/>

- Introduction to all the pieces of Guidance (on the inside cover) makes clear that the guidance is aimed at *'practioners who work in services provided for adults, for example mental health services and drug and alcohol services, as many of the adults accessing those services may have parenting or caring responsibilities.'*
- Practioners' Guide

Confidentiality is illustrated by an example of a teacher handling information about a child with substance misusing parent(s) in **paragraph 3.7**.

- Case Examples Guide

Case example 4 and 5 both include drugs as an issue:

Case 4 – 'sharing information without consent to enable preventative work with children. At risk of involvement in crime and vulnerable to exploitation'

'Jackie' discusses her drug use with her teacher – this is addressed by establishing a joint plan to *'enable them to get access to advice and support about ... and drugs'*

Case 5 – 'sharing information without consent to enable targeted action to tackle anti-social and criminal behaviour amongst families'

Parental substance misuse is addressed by a 'joint action group' by agreeing 'an assessment of each of the children and impact of their parents' drug abuse on their welfare. The case study further states that *'Parental drug use can and does result in children and young people being harmed at every age from conception to adulthood, including physical and emotional abuse and neglect. A thorough assessment is required to determine the needs of each child and the impact of the parent's behaviour on their welfare'*

Powers were granted under the Children Act 2004 to set up a national network of local indexes containing basic information about each child, contact details for practitioners working with each child, and the facility to indicate a concern about a child. Contactpoint (online directory previously know as Information Sharing Index) [draft guidance consultation](#) is due to close 27th July .

Lead Professional Guidance

The lead professional is a key element of integrated support. They take the lead to coordinate provision and act as a single point of contact for a child and their family when a range of services are involved and an integrated response is required. The role is outlined in the statutory guidance for the duty to cooperate (section 10 of the Children's Act 2004) and safeguarding guidance (section 11).

- Practitioners' Guidance

Children with drug related needs are identified in **paragraph 2.4**.

Practitioners in substance misuse services are identified as possible lead professionals in **paragraph 3.5**.

- Managers' Guidance

Note on terms used in guidance – substance misuse is listed as a poor outcome for children with additional needs (**inside cover**)

Case Study **page 28**: discusses young person's drug use being addressed through a youth worker as a lead professional who arranges support from other practitioners.

DfES Joint Planning and Commissioning Framework

The DfES have published a [Joint Planning and Commissioning Framework \(new window\)](#) for Children, Young People and Maternity Services under Every Child Matters Change for Children Programme. The framework is for use by Children's Trusts in planning and commissioning children's services.