

Research Digest
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Issue 2

LSCB research digests provide a concise summary of recently published research knowledge on particular topics and signpost routes to reports and further information.

The research digest is designed to provide access to research information to a varied audience working across children and young people's services. The information is drawn from relevant electronic resources and databases, journals and texts and where appropriate from alternative sources such as inspection reports and annual reports as identified by authors.

The digests do not provide a definitive statement of all evidence on a particular issue.

The Munro Review of Child Protection – Final report – A Child-Centred System

Professor Eileen Munro

http://www.education.gov.uk/munroreview/downloads/8875_DfE_Munro_Report_TAGGED.pdf

Professor Munro has made a number of recommendations and signals a shift from previous reforms. The recommendations cover a range of areas including changes to the approaches of undertaking Serious Case Reviews, reform of social work training and the appointment of a Chief Social Worker to advise the government on social work practice.

Department for Education Ministers have welcomed the thorough analysis and want to consider carefully how best to respond to proposals. A response is hopefully due before summer recess.

The care of looked after children in custody – a short thematic review

HM Inspectorate of Prisons

http://www.justice.gov.uk/inspectorates/hmi-prisons/docs/Looked_after_children_2011.pdf

Children in the care of the local authority, or 'looked after children', are overrepresented within the custodial population.

This thematic review, commissioned by the Youth Justice Board, reports on the care of looked after children aged 15 to 18 in young offender institutions. It examines the experience of these children, using survey data and in-depth interviews. Case supervisors, advocates and representatives from safeguarding teams provide an establishment perspective on how the needs of looked after children are met in custody and in preparation for their release.

A new approach to child poverty: Tackling the causes of disadvantage and transforming families' lives

HM Government 2011

<https://www.education.gov.uk/publications/standard/publicationDetail/Page1/CM%208061>

This is the Government's first national Child Poverty Strategy, setting out a new approach to tackling poverty for this Parliament and up to 2020. At its heart are strengthening families, encouraging responsibility, promoting work, guaranteeing fairness and providing support to the most vulnerable.

It is set against the backdrop of the Child Poverty Act 2010, which established income targets for 2020 and a duty to minimise socio-economic disadvantage. This strategy meets the requirement to set out the proposed measures to make progress between 2011 and 2014. It is also set against the backdrop of a Spending Review that placed a very high priority on improving the life chances of children and the protection of vulnerable families, while also making crucial progress in reducing the nation's fiscal deficit.

The following strategy has been put together across government and covers the period 2011-14, capturing the breadth of flagship policies and reform to tackle poverty.

Skills for the early years

Joe Lepper, June 2011 – Children and Young People Now

<http://www.cypnow.co.uk/Careers/article/1072425/skills-early-years/?DCMP=EMC-CONCYPNow%20Daily>

The recent Early Years Foundation Stage review reaffirmed the value of having well-qualified staff. But questions remain about what training is the most appropriate. Joe Lepper investigates what is available and how this can be developed further. The report links to the report by Dame Claire Tickell