



POLICY AND PARTNERSHIP NEWS

Edition 2 - Friday 6th October 2006

REPORTS AND PUBLICATIONS

1. The "Options for Excellence" Review - Building the Social Care Workforce of the Future

This report to the LGA's Community Well-being Board on 13 September 2006 outlines the background to the Review of the social care workforce - 'Options for Excellence'. It provides an informed, but not authoritative, speculation on what could be included in the final report. This is due to be published on 17 October 2006 and remains in the ownership of the Departments of Health and Education and Skills. This report makes some comments and observations about the work of the Review Board. The report will also be presented at the LGA Human Resources Panel meeting on 22 September 2006.

The report is available at:

<http://www.lga.gov.uk/Documents/Agenda/Community%20Wellbeing/130906/item3.pdf>

with further details available from citarella@supanet.com

2. Adult, children and young people local authority social care workforce survey 2005

This is the report of the seventeenth annual Local Authority Social Care Workforce Survey. The 2005 survey gathered information on recruitment and retention, training and qualifications, partnership working and pay and benefits in councils with social services responsibilities in England, and updates the 2004, 2003 and 2002 surveys.

The full briefing can be found here:

[http://www.lga.gov.uk/download.asp?path=/Documents/Briefing/Our Work/Projects/workforcesurvey.pdf](http://www.lga.gov.uk/download.asp?path=/Documents/Briefing/Our_Work/Projects/workforcesurvey.pdf)

3. Connexions – Moving Towards Children’s Trusts

This research evaluates the key issues in moving the delivery of the Connexions Service towards service delivery under the new children's trust arrangements set out in Every Child Matters.

The aim of this study was to explore and evaluate the key issues emerging in moving the delivery of Connexions towards children’s trust processes. Twelve Connexions partnerships were invited to share their experiences. They were selected as areas developing different approaches to service alignment according to local circumstances. The study sought to identify which change processes work well, outline any difficulties and how they were overcome, and disseminate lessons learned.

The research can be viewed at:

<http://www.dfes.gov.uk/research/programmeofresearch/projectinformation.cfm?projectId=14996&type=5&resultspage=1>

4. Struggling to pay council tax: new perspectives on the local taxation debate

Just published on the Joseph Rowntree Foundation website is 'Struggling to pay council tax: new perspectives on the local taxation debate'.

This study explores how many low-income households are struggling to pay the council tax and why. Read it at:

<http://www.jrf.org.uk/redirect.asp?url=findings/socialpolicy/1947>

5. The poverty trade-off: work incentives and income redistribution in Britain.

Also published on the Joseph Rowntree Foundation website is 'The poverty trade-off: work incentives and income redistribution in Britain'.

This study explores the tensions between policies to help people on low incomes by providing them with financial support directly and encouraging them to earn more. Read it at:

<http://www.jrf.org.uk/redirect.asp?url=findings/socialpolicy/1936>

Briefings from the LGIU

The following briefings have appeared on the LGIU website and can be accessed by clicking on the following link:

<http://www.lgiu.gov.uk/briefings.jsp?section=briefing>.

Partners may need to register to view the briefings, or alternatively hard copies can be sent to you upon request by emailing

lisa.driscoll@halton.gov.uk

6. Ahead of the Game: The Changing Aspirations of Young Ethnic Minority Women

This report, produced by the Equal Opportunities Commission, investigates the labour market directions that young people take, and how their aspirations and choices are bound up with constructions of identity based on race, faith, and gender.

7. Freedoms and Flexibilities - changes and research

On 13 September the Department for Communities and Local Government announced extensions to freedoms and flexibilities and published some complementary reports. This briefing covers the announcement and the related reports.

8. Information Sharing: New Government Statement

The government here gives advance notice of its plans to publish detailed data sharing proposals early in 2007. Its vision statement indicates that these will amount to a step-change in the way in which information is managed and shared in the public sector. The objectives and practical implications of implementing the proposals require careful consideration by local government.

9. Local Sustainable Procurement

A new electronic publication Local Sustainable Procurement is now available free to affiliates.

This guide introduces the elements of sustainable procurement and sets out the steps to making sustainable procurement happen in your council. The publication gives useful examples of innovative practice covering biofuels, fresh, healthy food for schools renewable energy, corporate social responsibility procurement toolkits from Cambridge, Camden, Gateshead, LGIU, Plymouth and Warwickshire.

10 Local Authority Business Growth Incentives Scheme: Details of Year 2

This short briefing describes the changes to the Local Authority Business Growth Incentives Scheme that will be made in year two of the scheme's operation

IN THE NEWS...

EASTERN EUROPE GIVEN THE GREEN LIGHT

The European Commission dismissed calls to delay Romanian and Bulgarian entry to the EU as hundreds of thousands are set to head to Britain on 1st January. However, Liam Byrne, Britain's Immigration minister has made it clear that the UK will be less welcoming than in the 2004 enlargement.

THE EFFECTS OF A SMOKING BAN

A study in Ireland showed clear evidence that the ban on smoking has cleaned up the air in licensed premises and restaurants and improved the health of the people who work in them. However, a study on Scottish pubs revealed that although they have seen a reduction in alcohol related disorders, pubs that do not serve food have seen a reduction in profit.

<http://business.guardian.co.uk/story/0,,1881745.00.html>

EQUAL PAY DEFEAT FOR WOMEN WHO GO ON MATERNITY LEAVE

Women who take maternity leave do not have the right to claim as much pay as male colleagues who have not had time off, the European Court of Justice ruled yesterday. British business apparently hailed the ruling as a victory for common sense.

<http://business.guardian.co.uk/story/0,,1886954.00.html>

ED BALLS CRITICISES ELECTED MAYORS / BROWN CONSIDERS PLANS FOR GREATER LOCAL POWERS

The Economic Secretary to the Treasury has spoken out against the London model for city government being applied across other areas of England. "If we weaken the role of the RDAs, the loser would be cities themselves," he said. Gordon Brown wants to tone down the White Paper to be able to bring in bolder reforms if and when he is Prime Minister, think "local government leaders". Peter Riddell also argues: "This debate is not only important in itself, but the outcome will show where power lies in the long leadership transition".

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/article/0,,17129-2391375.00.html>

LSC RESEARCH REVEALS A 'BRAIN TRAINING GAP'

http://www.lsc.gov.uk/National/Media/PressReleases/pr386_training-the-brain.html

MATERNITY PAY BOOST FOR WORKING MUMS

<http://www.gnn.gov.uk/Content/Detail.asp?ReleaseID=230401&NewsAreaID=2>

HALTON NEWS

1. **Daresbury Science and Innovation Campus officially opened**

Daresbury Science and Innovation Campus (DSIC) was officially opened this month by Lord Sainsbury, Minister for Science and Innovation. The development of this world class science infrastructure follows an investment of over £50 million by the NWDA.

Building on the worldwide reputation of CCLRC Daresbury Laboratory, one of the UK's major research facilities, development on this strategic site includes The Cockcroft Institute, a National Centre for Accelerator Science; Daresbury Innovation Centre, a state-of-the-art facility designed to attract science and technology based businesses to the region and 2.5 hectares of serviced land available for development.

Lord Sainsbury, said: "I am delighted to be opening one of the UK's two strategic centres of science and innovation. This outstanding campus will help generate economic growth and jobs and support the Government's drive to build and sustain world leading knowledge based companies."

[More Information...](#)

Policy and Partnership News is prepared by Lisa Driscoll, Policy Advisor, Halton Borough Council.

Telephone 0151 424 2061 extension 1079

Email: lisa.driscoll@halton.gov.uk