The Early Childhood Unit (ECU) works to sustain and improve the quality of services for young children through direct work with children’s services and settings, and through its national networks. This fortnightly bulletin provides up to date news and information for the Early Years sector, including research, policy and resources.

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Foundation years: Sure Start children’s centres
On 25 July 2013, the Commons Education Committee published an uncorrected transcript of oral evidence given on 10 July 2013. Louise Silverton, Director for Midwifery, Royal College of Midwives, Councillor Richard Roberts, Lead Member for Children’s Services and member of Health and Wellbeing Board, Hertfordshire County Council, Jane Williams, Head of Children, Young People and Family Services, Integrated and Community Care Division, South Warwickshire NHS Foundation Trust, Carole Bell, Head of Children’s Commissioning, North West London Commissioning Support Unit, Neil Couling, Work Services Director, Department for Work and Pensions, Annie Hudson, Chief Executive Designate, The College of Social Work, Tim Sherriff, Head Teacher, Westfield Community School and Children’s Centre, Wigan, and Elizabeth Young, Director Research Evolution and Policy, Home-Start UK, gave evidence.
http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmselect/cmeduc/uc364-iv/uc36401.htm

Local authorities urged to sign up to Government’s health outcomes pledge
Children’s health minister Dr Dan Poulter has joined with other experts to ask local authorities to sign up to the government’s ‘better health outcomes for children and young people pledge’ to improve children's health. Dr Poulter, along with the president of the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health, the co-chairs of the Children and Young People’s Health Outcomes Forum and the Local Government Association, say that local authorities and health and wellbeing boards are in a prime position to improve the poor health outcomes experienced by children and young people. The letter also encourages local authorities to publish and share good examples of what they are doing for children’s health in their own areas.

ECEC provision: international review of policy, delivery and funding
This report for the Scottish Government provides an overview of the current situation regarding early childhood education and care (ECEC) provision in Scotland, England, Sweden, Denmark, Norway, Slovenia, France and the Netherlands. For each of these nations, the review provides a country report (chapters two to nine) with detailed information on the national frameworks of ECEC, guiding principles and objectives, governance, types of services, types of providers, funding and costs, systems of quality assurance and access levels. The report also covers the provision of after school care in the eight countries. ECEC is defined as all educational and care arrangements for children from birth to compulsory schooling, regardless of setting, funding, opening hours, or programme content. As this wide definition indicates, ECEC can take many forms. A key objective of this report is to provide insight into the different ways in which ECEC is organised in the eight countries that form part of this review.


Welsh Government’s early years and childcare plan launched
The Welsh Government has launched its early years and childcare plan ‘Building a Brighter Future’.
The plan defines what the Welsh Government means by the early years, brings coherence across different policies and programmes impacting on and influencing the early years, and sets out action and activity for delivery over the next ten years. The key themes are: children’s health and wellbeing; supporting families and parents; high quality early education and childcare; effective primary education; and raising standards. The plan is jointly sponsored by the Minister for Education and Skills and the Minister for Communities and Tackling Poverty and fully supported by Cabinet.


**Practice**

**Evaluation of children’s centres in England (ECCE)**
The aim of the Evaluation of Children’s Centres in England (ECCE) is to provide an in-depth understanding of children’s centre services, including their effectiveness in relation to different management and delivery approaches and their cost. Strand 3 describes the range of activities and services that centres deliver, centre partnership working methods, leadership and management, evidence based practice, and centre reach. Report findings indicate that centres are moving away from universal services towards a focus on disadvantaged families and the majority of centres are using proven early intervention strategies. A research brief is also available. The research was carried out by the University of Oxford with NatCen for the Department for Education.


*Research Brief:*

*Nursery World article:*
http://www.nurseryworld.co.uk/article/1192029/childrens-centres-move-away-universal-services-target-poorest

*Children & Young People Now article:*

**Factors influencing childcare workers’ promotion of physical activity in children aged 0–4**
This study examined the factors influencing childcare workers’ promotion of physical activity among children aged 0–4 years. Twenty Dutch childcare workers were interviewed. The interviews revealed some important barriers to the promotion of children’s physical activity: lack of facilities and time; rules and policies regarding safety and daily duties; non-cooperative colleagues; a large range of ages of children; poor weather; unsuitable clothing and lack of communication with parents. The respondents identified the parents rather than themselves as persons responsible for promoting children’s physical activity.
Parents and childcare workers could improve their communication regarding children’s physical activity. Childcare centres could review their internal policies and provide workshops teaching childcare workers how to promote children’s physical activity.


**Parent involvement in early intervention and comparison of setting**

This study compared levels of parent involvement in early intervention services for children under three which were delivered in community settings (children’s homes and child care programs) and specialized settings (early intervention centres and provider offices) in the USA. Respondents reported the highest levels of parental involvement in the home. However, level of involvement in the home was not significantly higher than the provider’s office for parent attendance, quality and content of parent-provider communication, and effective instruction; level of provider communication and instruction to parents was not significantly higher in the home than in the early intervention centre. Early intervention services in the child care setting were associated with the lowest levels of parent involvement. With the exception of child care, these results suggest that specialized and natural settings are associated with similar levels of parent involvement.


**Early Years Peer to Peer Support Programme evaluation**

The Early Years Peer to Peer Support (PTP) Programme, funded by the Department for Education, was launched in April 2011 to provide a package of tailored support to address issues of quality in the early years sector. It was set up for two years by the Early Childhood Unit (ECU) at National Children’s Bureau (NCB) in partnership with the Centre for Excellence and Outcomes (C4EO) and was designed to improve outcomes for young children and their families. The package of support was delivered by a team of early years sector specialists to local authorities (LAs). Since the programme was launched, 80 assignments have been allocated to LAs and organisations across the country. The evaluation found that LA providers reported better understanding of the early years curriculum (early years foundation stage), more effective parental engagement in their child’s learning, and improved delivery of frontline services.


**Research**

**Overnight custody arrangements and attachment outcomes in young children**

Large numbers of infants and toddlers have parents who live apart due to separation, divorce, or non-marital/non-cohabiting childbearing, yet this important topic, especially the controversial issue of frequent overnights with non-residential parents, is understudied. The authors analyzed data from the Fragile Families and Child Wellbeing Study, a longitudinal investigation of children born to primarily low income, racial/ethnic minority parents that is representative of 20 U.S. cities with populations over 200,000.
Among young children whose parents lived apart, 6.9% of infants (birth to age 1) and 5.3% of toddlers (ages 1 to 3) spent an average of at least 1 overnight per week with their non-resident parent. An additional 6.8% of toddlers spent 35%–70% of overnights with non-resident parents. Frequent overnights were significantly associated with attachment insecurity among infants, but the relationship was less clear for toddlers. Attachment insecurity predicted adjustment problems at ages 3 and 5, but frequent overnights were not directly linked with adjustment problems at older ages.


**Head Start and children's nutrition, weight, and health care receipt**
Using a sample of low income children from the Early Childhood Longitudinal Study Birth Cohort and propensity score weighted regressions, the authors analyzed children's nutrition, weight, and health care receipt at kindergarten entry, comparing (1) Head Start participants and all non-participants, and (2) Head Start participants and children in prekindergarten, other centre-based care, other non-parental care, or only parental care. Overall, the authors found that compared to all non-participants, Head Start participants were more likely to receive dental checkups but showed no differences in getting medical checkups; they were also more likely to have healthy eating patterns but showed no differences in Body Mass Index (BMI), overweight, or obesity. However, these results varied depending on the comparison group. Head Start participants showed lower BMI scores and lower probability of overweight compared to those in other non-parental care, and the effects on healthy eating and dental checkups differed by comparison group.


**Breastfeeding duration and childhood cognition**
To examine relationships of breastfeeding duration and exclusivity with child cognition at ages 3 and 7 years and to evaluate the extent to which maternal fish intake during lactation modifies associations of infant feeding with later cognition, the authors followed up 312 Project Viva mothers and children to age 7 years. Results of the study support a causal relationship of breastfeeding duration with receptive language and verbal and nonverbal intelligence later in life.


**What works in the early years? Synthesis of research**
This synthesis of research from the US Institute of Education Sciences (IES) describes what has been learned from IES-funded research grants on early intervention and early childhood education. Among the main findings: there are critical associations between features of pre-kindergarten (reception) classrooms, such as the quality of teacher–child interactions and the nature of teachers’ feedback to children, and children’s outcomes; parents’ and teachers’ support for children’s learning contributes to young children’s outcomes; classroom teaching can be improved by providing professional development to teachers;
and improvements may be seen in general measures of the teaching environment or in more specific ways, such as teachers’ use of assessment data to design individual teaching plans.


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**Families**

**Family and Childcare Trust launch new brand identity**

The Family and Childcare Trust has officially launched its new brand identity. The Trust has also produced a brochure setting out the challenges faced by families in Britain today, and its response to those challenges. Speaking to an audience of key stakeholders and opinion formers at the launch, the charity’s chief executive, Anand Shukla, emphasised the impact of stagnant wages, rising costs of childcare and cuts in public spending are having on family life.  

**Charities urge statutory family support for prisoners**

A group of charities has joined forces to campaign for family support services to be made statutory in prisons and young offender institutions. The Prison Family Support Alliance also aims to develop the practice base around providing family support services. Andy Keen-Downs, chief executive of Pact – a member of the Alliance - said family support workers in prisons can help address safeguarding issues with the children of prisoners and support family relationships to help reduce reoffending rates.  
*Children & Young People Now article:*  

**Holiday childcare costs survey 2013**

The Family and Childcare Trust’s ‘Holiday Childcare Costs Survey 2013’ reveals the average cost of childcare during the school holidays has broken the £100 per week threshold, for the first time, across all of Britain. The average cost of one week’s holiday childcare in Britain is now £109.23. For most parents living in England, prices have risen an average of 9.2% since last year. Only 30% of English local authorities, and 16% of Welsh local authorities, can provide sufficient holiday childcare for working parents. For the one in five parents who use formal holiday childcare in Britain, the report shows that to pay for childcare for two children over four weeks of the summer holiday, working parents will have to find almost £850, a cost beyond the reach of many modest to low income families.  
Health and wellbeing

Renewing the fight against whooping cough
Professor David Salisbury has called for health professionals to stay focused on promoting whooping cough vaccine to pregnant women. Figures published recently by Public Health England show that there have been more than 2,000 cases so far this year and one baby has died. The baby’s mother had not been vaccinated while she was pregnant. https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/renewing-the-fight-against-whooping-cough

Guide to babies’ immunisations up to 13 months of age
This latest edition of the guide to babies’ immunisations up to 13 months of age includes information on the rotavirus vaccination and the change to the scheduling of the MenC vaccinations.


Children’s flu immunisation programme 2013 to 2014
There are two elements to the children’s flu immunisation programme this year: a routine offer of vaccination to all 2 and 3-year-olds (but not 4 years or older) on 1 September 2013; and geographical pilots for 4 to 10 year olds (up to and including pupils in school year 6). Extending the flu programme to all children will involve considerable planning and work in order to obtain a high level of uptake. For this reason, the programme will be rolled out over a number of seasons and will include pilots, allowing Public Health England and NHS England time to find out the most effective way of implementing it.


JCVI statement on the annual influenza vaccination programme: extension of the programme to children:
This statement from the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) provides advice and recommendations about the extension of the annual routine influenza vaccination programme to include children aged 2 to 16 years.


JCVI summary on advice on the number of doses of flu vaccine for children:
UK health departments asked the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) for advice on the number of doses of influenza vaccine offered to influenza vaccine-naïve children when extending the routine influenza immunisation programme to children. This summary provides the JCVI advice on the number of doses of flu vaccine that children should be offered depending on: their age; whether they have received influenza vaccine before; and the type of flu vaccine.
JCVI summary on advice on the number of doses of flu vaccine for children. Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation, 26 July 2013.  

JCVI interim position statement on use of Bexsero meningococcal B vaccine in the UK  
This Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) position statement sets out the outcome of the considerations of JCVI and its meningococcal sub-committee on the use of meningococcal B vaccine, Bexsero in the UK. JCVI is seeking comments from stakeholders who provided evidence to JCVI and its sub-committee before finalising its position statement. With regard to young children, JCVI concluded that, on the basis of the available evidence, routine infant or toddler immunisation using Bexsero is highly unlikely to be cost effective at any vaccine price based on the accepted threshold for cost effectiveness used in the UK and could not be recommended.

JCVI interim position statement on use of Bexsero meningococcal B vaccine in the UK. Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation, 24 July 2013.  

Department of Health response:  

Infant feeding profiles 2002/03 to 2010/11  
This Department of Health document shows correlation between higher rates of breastfeeding and lower rates of inpatient admissions for infants under 1 year. The document shows statistics for ten conditions: lower respiratory tract infections; infant feeding difficulties; wheezing; gastroenteritis; non-infective gastroenteritis; eczema; otitis media (ear infection); infant feed intolerance; lactose intolerance; and asthma. The figures are broken down for England, Strategic Health Authorities, Primary Care Trusts and Primary Care Trust clusters from 2002 to 2003 until 2010 to 2011.


Child death reviews: year ending 31 March 2013  
This Department for Education statistical release presents data on the number of child deaths which have been reviewed by child death overview panels on behalf of their local safeguarding children boards. It includes information about the characteristics of the children who died from all panels (for example the age, gender and cause of death). For the first time it also includes information on the factors which contributed or may have contributed to the death (for example allergies, parental supervision and smoking during pregnancy). A total of 3,857 child death reviews were completed by panels in the year ending 31 March 2012. Among the main findings: modifiable factors were identified in a higher proportion of deaths of children aged 28 days-364 days and children aged 15-17 years (with nearly 3 in every 10 deaths having modifiable factors identified in these age groups), compared to the youngest of babies, where only 16% of deaths in children ages under 28 days were identified as having modifiable factors.

**Out to Lunch calls for improved children’s restaurant menus**
A survey by the Out to Lunch campaign suggests that most major restaurant and fast-food chains fail to provide basic standards of food for children. Meals aimed at children are still dominated by unhealthy options such as chicken nuggets, burgers and sausages - with few fruit or vegetables. The campaign, run by the Soil Association and Organix, is calling for the restaurant industry to improve children's menus. [2](http://www.soilassociation.org/news/newsstory/articleid/5623/raw-deal-for-children-in-uk-restaurants)

Eczema may play key role in development of food allergy in infants
A study by King’s College London and the University of Dundee has found that eczema plays a key role in the development of food allergy in babies. Research carried out by King’s College London and the University of Dundee suggests that a breakdown of the skin barrier and inflammation in the skin that occurs in eczema could trigger food sensitivity in young children. Researchers examined over 600 three-month-old babies from the Enquiring About Tolerance (EAT) study, who were exclusively breastfed from birth. They found that children with eczema were six times more likely to be sensitive to six foods that commonly cause allergies.

Carsten Flohr and others. *Atopic dermatitis and disease severity are the main risk factors for food sensitization in exclusively breastfed infants*. Journal of Investigative Dermatology, Online first, 18 July 2013. [3](http://www.nature.com/jid/journal/vaop/naam/pdf/jid2013298a.pdf)

King’s College press release: [4](http://www.kcl.ac.uk/newsevents/news/newsrecords/2013/07-July/Eczema-may-play-key-role-in-development-of-food-allergy-in-infants.aspx)

**Ofsted**

Nurseries seek legal advice to support challenges against Ofsted inspections
There has been a rise in the number of early years providers complaining about the conduct of inspectors and inconsistencies with the Ofsted inspections process and seeking legal advice to present a challenge to Ofsted. Solicitor Andrew Manners, a director at Morgan LaRoche, is acting for a number of nursery owners who are pursuing complaints against their inspection grades in cases where both Tribal and Prospects inspectors are involved, as well as Ofsted. He said there had been 'a spike' recently in the number of cases related to Ofsted inspections, in particular involving concerns-driven inspections.

*Nursery World article:* [5](http://www.nurseryworld.co.uk/article/1192991/nurseries-turn-legal-help-complaints-inspections)

**Qualifications and professional development**

TACTYC’s response to the EYT standards
TACTYC, the Association for the Professional Development of Early Years Educators, has responded to the Government’s consultation on Teachers’ Standards (Early Years).
The TACTYC statement says that the standards ‘show several serious omissions and include several aspects that will skew work with young children’ and that consultation responses have not been taken into account adequately.

*TACTYC response to the Teachers’ Standards (Early Years).* TACTYC, the Association for the Professional Development of Early Years Educators, 23 July 2013.  

**Early Education names new chief executive**

Early Education, the national organisation for early years practitioners, has appointed Beatrice Merrick to replace outgoing chief executive Megan Pacey, who leaves in September. Ms Merrick is currently director of services and research at the UK Council for International Student Affairs and will take up the position of chief executive on 27 August 2013.

*Nursery World article:*  

**Montessori for childminders: new CPD course**

The Montessori St. Nicholas charity has a new online course offer that begins by putting the Montessori approach into context and continues with how to apply it to childminding practice. The course has six modules in total, each module includes basic theory with practical tasks, where appropriate, for childminding settings and a self assessment activity. Montessori St. Nicholas is running a pilot course at a reduced price from the end of August and is looking for interested participants who are registered childminders and willing to feed back on course content. Contact Debbie Holland at childminder@montessori.org.uk or visit the website for more information.  
[http://www.montessori.org.uk/?dm_i=77Z,1PYP4,ALFYTU,64O77,1](http://www.montessori.org.uk/?dm_i=77Z,1PYP4,ALFYTU,64O77,1)

**Disability and special needs**

**Research suggest breastfeeding may protect babies from developing ADHD**

The present study aimed to evaluate whether ADHD is associated with a shorter duration of breastfeeding. In this retrospective matched study, children 6–12 years old diagnosed at Schneider’s Children Medical Center (Petach Tikva, Israel) with ADHD between 2008 and 2009 were compared with two control groups. In children later diagnosed as having ADHD, 43% were breastfed at 3 months of age compared with 69% in the siblings group and 73% in the control non-related group. By 6 months of age 29% of ADHD children were breastfed compared with 50% in the siblings group and 57% in the control non-related group. A stepwise logistic regression that included the variables found to be significant in univariate analysis demonstrated a significant association between ADHD and lack of breastfeeding at 3 months of age, maternal age at birth, male gender, and parental divorce. The study concluded that children with ADHD were less likely to breastfeed at 3 months and 6 months of age than children in the two control groups. The authors speculate that breastfeeding may have a protective effect from developing ADHD later in childhood.

Aviva Mimouni-Bloch and others. *Breastfeeding may protect from developing Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder.* Breastfeeding Medicine, Volume 8, Issue 4, August 2013.  
Inequalities and disadvantage

Notifications of private fostering arrangements in England
This Department for Education statistical release provides figures on notifications received by local authorities of children cared for and accommodated in private fostering arrangements in England. Table 3 shows the number and percentage of reported new arrangements which started during the year, by age of child as at 31 March 2013 and place of birth. Age groups include: under 1, 1-4 and 5-9.


Safeguarding

Disclosure and Barring Service update service
All individuals that apply for a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check are now able to subscribe to an update service. For an annual fee of £13 (or free for volunteers), the update service allows individuals to keep their certificate up-to-date and take it from one role to another within the childcare sector. This enables childcare employers to carry out an instant free online check on the update service of any new information relating to an individual’s record, rather than applying for a new DBS check for the individual.

https://www.gov.uk/dbs-update-service

Consultations and Calls for Evidence

Consultation on the interim guidelines on prosecuting cases of child sexual abuse
These Crown Prosecution Service guidelines are designed to set out the approach that prosecutors should take when dealing with child sexual abuse cases.
Launch date: 11 June 2013
Closing date: 3 September 2013
http://www.cps.gov.uk/consultations/csa_consultation.html

Childcare regulation
Department for Education consultation on the regulation of childcare to look at removing burdens and simplifying processes along with making it easier for schools to offer out-of-hours care and accept younger children; introduce greater flexibility for providers operating in multiple premises; maintain and strengthen the safeguarding and welfare requirements and replace the General Childcare Register with a Child Safety Register, working together with the Early Years Register to offer greater flexibility and clarity.
Launch date: 16 July 2013
Closing date: 30 September 2013
https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/childcare-regulation

New national curriculum: primary assessment and accountability
This Department for Education consultation seeks views on how attainment in national curriculum tests should be measured and reported, where a baseline should be taken to measure pupils’ progress, and proposals for how schools should be held to account, including through floor standards. Included in the consultation are questions relating to an assessment in Reception.
The objectives of these questions is to enter into an open conversation with the sector to seek their opinions on what a new baseline assessment in reception should look like. The consultation is clear that the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) will remain statutory although the consultation will consider what such an assessment means for the EYFS profile.

Launch date: 17 July 2013
Closing date: 11 October 2013

Consultation responses

**NCB response to the consultation on criteria for Early Years Educator qualifications (level 3)**
On 22 April 2013, National Children’s Bureau (NCB) released a response to the consultation on criteria for Early Years Educator qualifications (level 3) which states in its Introduction:

The National Children’s Bureau welcomes the Government’s commitment to increasing the number of highly qualified early years practitioners by introducing a new robust level 3 Early Years qualification. We believe that level 3 should be viewed as a minimum standard for working with young children and families, with practitioners being supported to continue their professional development journey beyond this following qualification.

The introduction of more rigorous entry requirements, coupled with a continued emphasis on graduate leadership and a simplification of the current array of early years qualifications has the potential to enhance both the status and quality of those working with young children. However, there are a number of related factors that need greater consideration to enable this to happen.

Download the response at: [http://www.ncb.org.uk/media/938521/130422_ncb_response_on_eye.pdf](http://www.ncb.org.uk/media/938521/130422_ncb_response_on_eye.pdf)

**NCB response to the consultation on Early Years Teacher Standards**
On 30 April 2013, the National Children’s Bureau (NCB) responded to the consultation on Early Years Teacher Standards.

NCB welcomes the Government’s commitment to raising the status of the profession so that more high quality graduates consider a career in early education. The introduction of more rigorous entry requirements, coupled with a continued emphasis on graduate leadership and a simplification of the current array of early years qualifications has the potential to enhance both the status and quality of those working with young children.

Professor Cathy Nutbrown in her review of early education and childcare qualifications strongly recommended giving graduates working in early years the same status and training opportunities as school teachers. We are disappointed that this recommendation has not been taken forward, and would therefore like to ask the Government to re-consider offering Qualified Teacher Status to new Early Years Teachers to ensure parity with qualified teachers in schools.

Download the response at: [http://ncb.org.uk/media/953166/130430_ncb_response_on_ey_teacher_standards.pdf](http://ncb.org.uk/media/953166/130430_ncb_response_on_ey_teacher_standards.pdf)
NCB response to the consultation on proposed changes to the role of the local authority in early education and childcare

On 6 May 2013, the National Children’s Bureau (NCB) responded to the consultation on the role of the local authority in early education and childcare.

The National Children’s Bureau welcomes this consultation as it facilitates a detailed examination of the local authority’s role in early years. NCB’s response encapsulates feedback received from National Quality Improvement Network (NQIN) members during a consultation meeting attended by the Department of Education on 26 April.

Summary of key messages:

- **NCB recommends that the Department for Education writes to each local authority Chief Executive and Director of Children’s Services to stress the importance of continuing to invest in early years quality improvement services; and to remind them of their legal duties, including meeting the Early Years Outcomes Duty and childcare sufficiency duty.**

- **NCB agrees with proposals to revise Section 13 regulations, revoking those which relate to obsolete training requirements or requirements better met by other bodies, such as Ofsted. We believe it would be in the best interest of providers to revise Section 13 accordingly, but maintain the duty on local authorities to provide information, advice and training.**

- **According to respondents to a recent NCB survey, there is a misconception that local authorities are duplicating the role of Ofsted – they provide differing but complementary functions in supporting settings to improve.**

- **NCB would welcome the opportunity to engage with Ofsted to explore how local authorities and NQIN can best inform the development of their improvement seminars and good practice conferences.**

- **NQIN members have requested that local authorities continue to have some flexibility as to the whether or not they place conditions on settings, as relying solely on Ofsted judgements pose challenges.**

- **NCB believes that local authorities should be able to retain some flexibility with regard to the retention of the Dedicated Schools Grant and how it is spent.**

- **NCB suggests that the Department for Education further explores whether the proposed flat rate for 3 and 4 year olds might dissuade childminders and other providers from taking disadvantaged two year olds.**

Download the response at: [http://ncb.org.uk/media/955725/130506_revising_la_role_in_ey.pdf](http://ncb.org.uk/media/955725/130506_revising_la_role_in_ey.pdf)

Results of consultation on proposed changes to the role of the local authority in early education and childcare

On 29 January 2012 the Department published ‘More Great Childcare’, which outlined the Government’s plan to improve quality in the early years and to give parents more choice. As part of this plan, the Government intends to reform the role of the local authority to remove duplication and introduce earned autonomy for effective providers. The consultation on these proposals was launched on 25 March 2013, and closed on 6 May 2013.
It covered both funding requirements and conditions set by local authorities and funding mechanisms to be used by the Department. The consultation asked respondents for their views on these proposals. In total there were 547 responses to the consultation. This summary reflects the most substantive views received, those where over 10% of respondents to a question raised an issue.


Conferences

Free Making it REAL training in Birmingham: book now!
Early Childhood Unit events. Our next free training event takes place on Saturday 12 October in Birmingham. Making it REAL training supports early literacy work with families by enabling practitioners to use the REAL evidence-based approach that reaches out to parents and families, building confidence and knowledge to support the early home learning environment: this has been shown to have a powerful impact on children’s outcomes and on family literacy practice.
To book please visit www.ncb.org.uk/ecu/events. For queries email ECUadmin@ncb.org.uk or call 020 7833 6807.

2–6 September 2013, Liverpool
A Creative Approach to the Revised EYFS
Liverpool City Council’s 15th Annual Early Years Conference will look at creative ways of approaching play, provision and learning in a constantly changing landscape. Keynote speaker: Anni McTavish. Two workshops will be offered on each day, provided by both EYFS practitioners and experienced trainers. Further information and booking at: https://ednet.liverpool.gov.uk/Training/Course/Details?code=EY2013

11 September 2013, London
Children and Young People’s Conference 2013
This GovKnow conference will provide key stakeholders including frontline practitioners with the opportunity to discuss and debate key issues in relation to services for children and young people. The Government are committed to supporting life chances for all, and this conference will examine how current services and policies are supporting children and young people from all backgrounds to reach their full potential. Key issues to be discussed at this conference include:
- Early years provision and support
- Promoting excellent public health
- Child protection and safeguarding
- Supporting those with SEN and disabilities
- Assisting the 90,000 children in looked after care
- The effectiveness of engaging children and young people about the services which they receive
- Supporting the childcare workforce
- Early intervention and prevention
- The importance of a multi agency approach to supporting children and young people

Further information and booking at: http://www.govknow.com/event-detail.html?id=458
27-28 September 2013

**Childcare Expo Midlands 2013**

Childcare Expo Midlands 2013 will bring the early years, childcare and nursery sectors together again for the 4th year running with sponsors Morton Michel Insurance and media partners Nursery World. The event will present the latest products and services for early years professionals and a range of seminars will take place with updates from industry leaders. These talks cover a wide range of subjects from outdoor play to early years policies. Sue Robb, Head of Early Years at 4 Children will be one of the speakers in the seminar programme with other child care specialists including Gail Ryder Richardson from Outdoor Matters, Anand Shukla from Family and Childcare Trust and representatives from National Day Nurseries Association, PACEY and Ofsted. Childcare Expo is a free event aimed at nursery chain executives, owners, managers, child-minders, nannies and early years professionals. For more information or to register for your FREE ticket visit [http://www.childcareexpo.co.uk/home.htm](http://www.childcareexpo.co.uk/home.htm) or Tel: 01425 838393.

12 October 2013, Oxford

**Birth to Three Conference**

Oxfordshire County Council have been running this conference for early years practitioners in Oxfordshire for many years, but this year will be opening it up more widely. The conference is for all practitioners working with babies and young children, and also professionals with an interest in raising quality of provision in the foundation years. It will be held at the King’s Centre, Oxford. Speakers: Nancy Stewart, Early years consultant and writer; Nuzhat Abbas, Singer, poet and PEEP practitioner; Alison Street, Lecturer and music education consultant; and Jan White, Consultant for outdoor provision in the early years. Further information and booking at: [http://foundationyears-conference.co.uk/](http://foundationyears-conference.co.uk/)

16-19 October 2013, Dublin

**A Global Gathering for Early Childhood 2013**

Hosted by Early Childhood Ireland, the theme of this gathering is Today’s Children; Tomorrow’s World, Turning Points. The conference programme is being designed to ensure ample opportunity to meet and network with national and international early childhood educators, researchers and childcare specialists and business owners who are expected to attend the event. More information about the conference and registration at: [http://www.earlychildhood2013.ie/registration.html](http://www.earlychildhood2013.ie/registration.html)

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The ECU Bulletin is compiled and edited by NCB Information Centre. Any communications about the ECU Bulletin should be sent to: pmurphy@ncb.org.uk

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