



Supporting social care for families and children

An introduction to SCIE's resources

About SCIE

The Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE) supports the transformation of social care by identifying and transferring knowledge about good practice. We provide practical guides, learning materials and information based on sound knowledge about what works in planning and delivering social care. We also ensure that the experiences and expertise of people who use services, their carers and workers are reflected in all aspects of our work.

Established in 2001, we are an independent charity working across the UK. We support care services for adults, children and families and we work collaboratively with partners at national, regional and local levels.

‘SCIE understands the way that practitioners think.’

Professional Development Officer, Hampshire Social Services

Introduction

Keeping up to date with the latest developments in families' and children's social care is challenging. SCIE saves you time by gathering the best available knowledge about what works and interpreting this into accessible, easy-to-understand guidance, practical tools and support services.

SCIE's position as a bridge – building evidence across adults' and children's social care – provides a unique contribution to the wellbeing and safety of families and children.

Our work supports the delivery of the *Every Child Matters* programme, the *Children's Plan*, the *Children's National Service Framework*, the implementation of *Think Family* and the recently launched *New Horizons in Mental Health*. Together, these documents set out a challenging agenda for the improvement of services for families and children in England.

SCIE also supports priorities for children's social services in Wales and Northern Ireland and is a member of the consortium running the Centre for Excellence and Outcomes in Children and Young People's Services (C4EO).

This booklet outlines some of our key resources for families' and children's services.



Safeguarding and child protection

Children's safety and welfare continue to be a high priority, with efforts being made to improve child welfare and child protection services. Learning is central to improvement and we identify problems and approaches which lead to solutions being identified.

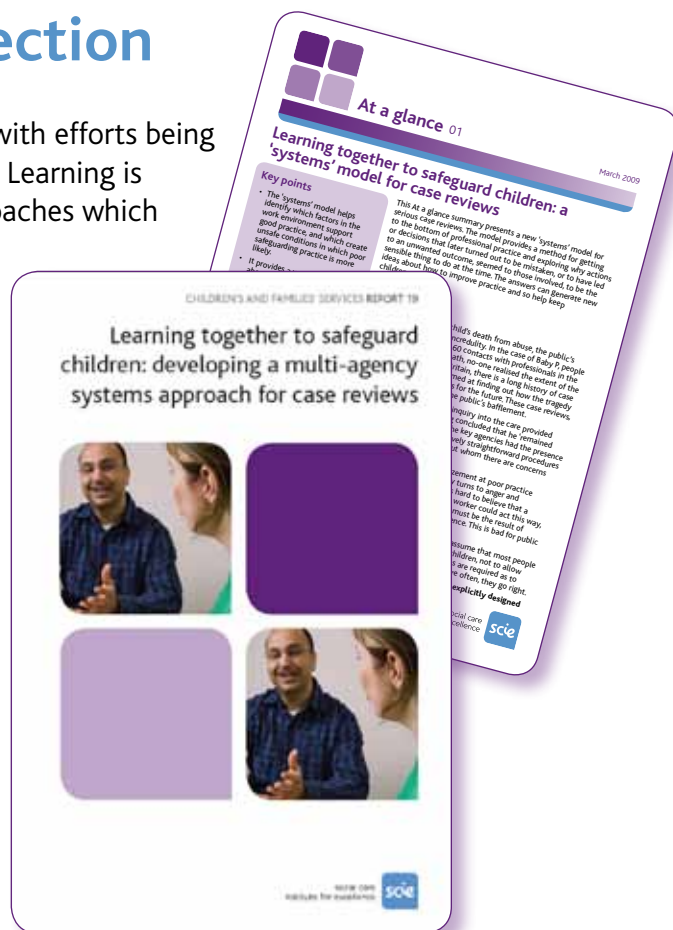
Learning together to safeguard children

This report presents a new 'systems' model for case reviews. Use of the systems approach, borrowed from the aviation, engineering and health industries, can generate new ideas about how to improve practice and help to keep children safe. This work is particularly relevant to Local Safeguarding Children's Boards (LSCBs) and to children's, health and police services.

Learning together is also available as a SCIE guide and At a glance summary.

'Learning Together is a really important contribution... we need more of this thinking in social care.'

Director, Children, Learning and Young People, Coventry City Council



This publication will be of use to you if you are a health or social care practitioner, service manager, director or policy-maker.

Children's health and wellbeing

Ensuring the health and wellbeing of children is at the heart of *Every Child Matters* and the *Children's Plan*. Whatever level of support they need, children have a right to know that they can rely on good social care services. Young people who will continue to need care after they reach the age of 18 should be able to expect a smooth transition process. This can only happen if children and families' services and adults' services work together in transition planning.

Necessary stuff: The social care needs of children with complex health care needs and their families

This knowledge review outlines the evidence base for working with this group of children and their families. One of the key areas identified for further development was 'short breaks', a service which parents often request and which also needs to address several complex issues. As such, SCIE has produced a follow up guide to short breaks:

Having a break: good practice in short breaks for families with children who have complex health needs and disabilities.

These publications will be of use to you if you are a social care practitioner, service commissioner, or a parent or carer of a child with complex health needs.

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'Necessary stuff': The social care needs of children with complex health care needs and their families



"me and my two helpers"

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CHILDREN'S AND FAMILIES' SERVICES SCIE GUIDE 25

Having a break: good practice in short breaks for families with children who have complex health needs and disabilities



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Children and their parents

The role of parent can be challenging under any circumstances, especially where a child has behavioural difficulties or a parent is disabled or has other support needs. Families can be helped to stay together and thrive if the right support is offered at the right time. Families will receive the best support where there is a close working relationship between children's and families' services and adults' services.

Think child, think parent, think family: a guide to parental mental health and child welfare

This guide is about working with parents who have mental health problems and their children. It provides guidance on policy and practice and makes recommendations for key areas of professional education, workforce development and research. It also provides links to useful resources and contact details of relevant organisations.

This guidance will be of use to you if you are a health or social care practitioner, service commissioner, policy-maker, or carer.



e-Learning resource: Children of prisoners

This resource provides an introduction to the experience of having a parent in prison. There is a quiz to test your knowledge of key facts and figures relating to this area. These resources are suitable for statutory children's services staff, all staff working with children and families in the voluntary and independent organisations with responsibility for the health and wellbeing of children, educational staff, and local safeguarding children's board members. They will also be of interest to staff working within the criminal justice system, families and carers (including foster carers), social work degree students, health professionals, policy makers and prisoners themselves.

e-Learning resources: Poverty, parenting and social exclusion

Understanding the various definitions of poverty can be a complicated task and this interactive resource is designed to help you see beyond technical definitions and to understand how poverty changes people's lives. These resources are suitable for students studying towards the social work degree, educators and practising social workers.

These resources will be of use to you if you are a social care trainer, educator, practitioner, member of staff working with children and families in the voluntary and independent sectors, education or criminal justice system, person using services or carer.



Looked-after children

Children who are fostered or live in residential care should expect more from services than simply a place to live. They have the right to ongoing support so that they can move into adult life with the same expectations and opportunities as young people who have grown up in their own families.

Working with challenging and disruptive situations in residential child care: sharing effective practice

Residential care for children should be a positive resource. Homes providing a strong nurturing culture give children the care they need at certain times in their lives. Residential care which meets the range of personal, social, health and educational needs of children are much more likely to be safe places for children. This knowledge review specifically commissioned for Northern Ireland, examines a particular aspect of keeping children safe and promoting their wellbeing by managing challenging and disruptive situations well.

e-Learning resource: An introduction to residential child care

These e-learning resources are freely available to all users. Through audio, video and interactive uses of technology, they provide the user with an engaging introduction to different residential care settings, the needs that children may have in care and young people's own concerns. They also explore how to interpret and act on children's behaviour, helping children meet the outcomes of *Every child matters*, key legislation and managing challenging behaviour.

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Working with challenging and disruptive situations in residential child care: Sharing effective practice



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These resources will be of use to you if you are a social care practitioner, service manager, residential care worker or foster carer.

Participation and communication

Children and young people who use services and their carers should be involved in developing the services they receive. Their experience as people who use services and what they want from services should be heard.

Involving children and young people in developing social care

This guide offers social care organisations a framework for systematically developing the effective and meaningful participation of children and young people in the design, delivery and review of their services.

It's my story: helping care experienced young people to give effective media interviews

This guide is written for social care workers who want to prepare and support care experienced young people who choose to give interviews to the media. Young people who have been in care have a key role to play in shaping the way the care system should be run and the media can be a useful vehicle for this.



This resource will be of use to you if you are a social care practitioner or trainer working with young people.

Centre for Excellence and Outcomes in Children and Young People's Services (C4EO)

The Centre for Excellence and Outcomes in Children and Young People's Services (C4EO) is a dynamic new organisation, developed for the children's sector, from the children's sector. C4EO identifies and coordinates local, regional and national evidence of 'what works', to create a single and comprehensive picture of effective practice in delivering children's services. Using this information, C4EO offers support to local authorities and their Children's Trust partners, working with them to improve outcomes for children, young people and their families.

SCIE is leading C4EO's work on vulnerable or looked-after children and safeguarding as well as being responsible for the production and dissemination of C4EO products.

The Centre is developing a free online 'one-stop-shop' of resources for all its themes. These include knowledge reviews and progress map summaries; featuring key messages, resource directories and interactive tools to help you analyse the key performance data on children's services.

C4EO works across the following areas in England:

- Early years
- Disability
- Vulnerable children
- Safeguarding
- Child poverty
- Schools and communities
- Youth
- Families, parents and carers
- Disability research
- Narrowing the gap.

All C4EO resources can be accessed via the website: www.C4EO.org.uk



Developing the workforce

The successful transformation of care services depends on a flexible and skilled workforce with enthusiasm for learning new skills. SCIE supports organisations that provide teaching and training in social care by producing resources that focus on developing new, and improving existing, skills. Our resources can be used by inhouse teams, training organisations, universities and schools – as well as individuals wishing to learn alone.

Our interactive e-learning resources can be used in formal and information training. Care Skillsbase helps employers to identify and develop the communication and number skills staff need to do their job. Social Care TV is a new broadband service for everyone involved in the sector. It includes a series of programmes on the big issues, such as children's safeguarding, as well as links to related resources. Our People Management website is a virtual human resources team online, helping you with the full range of issues from recruitment to development. Leading practice is a development programme designed for first-line managers. The programme is divided into 11 sessions, and consists of activities and discussion, as well as reading suggestions all available online or CD-rom.

Social Care Online

Social Care Online is the UK's most extensive online database of social care information. It offers article and book abstracts, along with policy documents, audio-visual material and many other resources covering all aspects of social care. It is updated daily – so you can always find the latest information on the issues that matter to you. Access Social Care Online via the SCIE website www.scie.org.uk

These resources will be of use to you if you are a social work student, educator, researcher or practitioner, looking for up-to-date social care information and evidence.



SCIE resources and services

Guides: Our detailed, online guides are aimed at social care practitioners.

e-Learning resources: Interactive, web-based resources which include games, quizzes and films

Short briefings: Our At a glance briefings summarise the main recommendations in our more detailed guides, while our research briefings pull together the main research on the key issues in social care

Social Care TV: An online service featuring short films, accompanying text and links to related information.

One-stop-shop resources: We have a range of comprehensive online resources.

Social Care online: The UK's most complete range of information and research on social care online.

Visit www.scie.org.uk to view or download SCIE's free resources, and to sign up for regular e-mail updates.

This leaflet can be produced in alternative formats upon request.