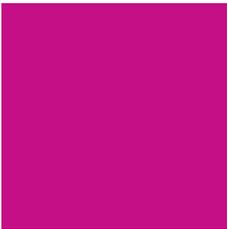
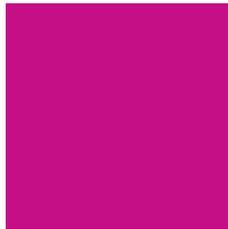




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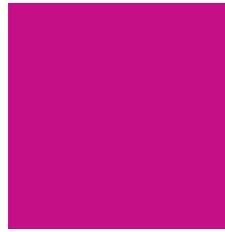
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# An Overview of Cross Government Guidance



Every Child Matters  
Change For Children

# Every Child Matters: Change for Children – An Overview of Cross Government Guidance



Every Child Matters: Change for Children is the programme of local and national action through which the whole system transformation of children's services described in *Every Child Matters* is being implemented. A range of guidance documents has been produced to assist local partners in delivering this programme, including statutory guidance under the Children Act 2004. **This short document provides both an overview of the guidance and signposting to individual documents.**

The documents mentioned here will be of interest to all managers of services that impact upon children and young people, corporate planners, head teachers and professionals working with children. Upon publication they will be available on <http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk>, unless stated otherwise. Colleagues in the school workforce will also wish to be aware of guidance on extended schools available on <http://www.teachernet.gov.uk>.

## **A. Children's trust governance, strategic planning and children's safeguarding**

There are five core Every Child Matters: Change for Children documents that provide guidance on children's trust governance and strategic planning, and on the cross cutting issue of children's safeguarding. These documents expand on the legal framework established by the Children Act 2004.

*Inter-Agency Co-operation to Improve the Wellbeing of Children: Children's Trusts* sets out the broad strategic direction for the development and operation of children's services. It does so through describing the arrangements that constitute a children's trust and how, through children's trusts, local authorities and other key partners should discharge their duty to co-operate to improve the *wellbeing* of children and young people. Guidance on

the governance and leadership required within this new strategic framework is provided by *The Role and Responsibilities of the Director of Children's Services and the Lead Member for Children's Services*.

**Wellbeing** has a legal definition based on the five Every Child Matters outcomes; the achievement of these outcomes is, in part, dependent upon the effective work to safeguard and promote the **welfare** of children. For more information visit:  
<http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/childrenstrusts>

*Statutory guidance on making arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children under Section 11 of the Children Act 2004* sets out the key arrangements agencies should make to achieve this whilst carrying out their normal functions. The new arrangements by which agencies should **work together** to safeguard and promote child welfare is described in the revised *Working Together to Safeguard Children: a guide to interagency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children*. The chapter on **Local Safeguarding Children's Boards** (LSCBs) within the revised *Working Together* describes how LSCBs should be set up and should operate, as part of the wider children's trust. The revised *Working Together* was issued for consultation in July 2005 on <http://www.dfes.gov.uk/consultations>. For more information visit:  
<http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/safeguarding>

*Guidance on the Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP)* supports the co-operation duty and the duty to safeguard and promote children's welfare. The regulations to which this guidance refers require local authorities to work with partners, including schools, to produce a strategic plan describing the actions and provisions by which they will achieve the five outcomes for children and young people. Requirements for 19 separate plans have been removed alongside the introduction of the CYPP. For more information visit: <http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/cypp>

Local authorities, schools of all kinds and further education institutions will also need to understand the guidance on *Safeguarding children in education* available from <http://www.teachernet.gov.uk>. Local authorities should also be aware of *Children Act 1989 guidance on private fostering* which explains the impact of new regulations on their roles and responsibilities in regard to private fostering, as well as describing the national minimum standards for private fostering arrangements.

For more information visit: <http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/privatefostering>

## B. Supporting service delivery

The second set of guidance documents supports the effective delivery of services. It is concerned with the development of the children's workforce, and the integration of front line delivery and the processes that support it.

*The Children's Workforce Strategy: a strategy to build a world-class workforce for children and young people* (published for consultation in April 2005) sets out the Government's vision for the children's workforce, identifies and addresses key challenges in meeting this vision, and includes proposals to develop a national single qualifications framework to improve career pathways and progression opportunities for the workforce. For more information visit: <http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/childrensworkforcestrategy>

*The Common Core of Skills and Knowledge for the Children's Workforce* sets out those areas of expertise that everyone working with children, young people and families should be able to demonstrate.

Both of the above documents should inform strategic planning for developing the children's workforce locally.

*The Common Assessment Framework* (CAF) provides a common approach to needs assessment that can be used by the whole children's workforce. The CAF consists of: a simple pre-assessment checklist to help practitioners identify children who would benefit from a common assessment; a process for undertaking a common assessment; and a standard form to help practitioners record, and, where appropriate, share with others, the findings from the assessment. For more information visit: <http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/caf>

**Information sharing** will also be aided by the publication this winter of cross-government guidance for practitioners on the legal framework for, and good practice in, sharing information about individual children and young people. Consultation on this guidance is open until 15 November 2005. To comment visit <http://www.dfes.gov.uk/consultations>

Detailed statutory guidance and directions will also be issued in 2006/07 to support the establishment and operation of information sharing 'indexes' under Section 12 of the Children Act 2004, including arrangements for the management, technical specifications, security aspects, transferring and cross matching data and advice on data protection rights. To read more visit: <http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/informationsharing>

*Lead Professional Good Practice Guidance* sets out a broad framework of the key responsibilities, skills and knowledge required by practitioners to carry out this role. The guidance draws on good practice to provide emerging models, working solutions and

suggestions on how the role might be developed, implemented and managed. To read more visit: <http://www.everychildmatters/leadprofessional>

*Multi-agency Working Toolkit* is a web-based resource that supports managers and practitioners delivering multi-agency services to children and young people. It contains material to suit different service delivery models and provides working solutions and good practice examples relevant to issues faced in setting up and delivering multi-agency services. To read the toolkit visit: <http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/multiagencyworking>

## **C. Looked after children**

Two guidance documents concern arrangements impacting upon the wellbeing of looked after children.

*Duty on Local Authorities to Promote the Educational Achievement of Looked After Children* will set out when published the implications of the new duty in the Children Act 2004 for local authorities' strategic planning and day-to-day working practices. Parallel guidance is also being produced for school governors describing how schools can play a vital role in supporting local authorities to discharge this duty.

*Adoption and Children Act 2002 guidance* explaining what local authorities, adoption agencies and others will need to do to comply with the new provisions (which come into force on 30 December 2005).

To read more visit: <http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/socialcare/lookedafterchildren/>

## **D. Documents supporting local engagement**

The following documents provide guidance on the appropriate engagement of agencies in Every Child Matters: Change for Children.

*Engaging the Voluntary and Community Sectors in Children's Trusts* contains advice for local authorities, other public sector agencies and voluntary and community organisations to help them to develop effective arrangements for involving the voluntary and community sectors in children's trusts. To read more visit: <http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/strategy/voluntaryandcommunity/>

*Every Child Matters: Change for Children – Young People and Drugs* gives guidance on co-operation and joint planning to counter drug misuse. To read more visit: <http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/health/substancemisuse/>

Four **sector specific guides** are available that interpret in a broad sense, what Every Child Matters: Change for Children means for health services, schools, social care and the criminal justice system.

## E. Background policy and strategy documents

Key documents explaining and shaping the strategic direction of the Every Child Matters: Change for Children programme are:

*Every Child Matters: Change for Children* sets out the national framework for local change programmes to build services around the needs of children and young people so as to maximise opportunity and minimise risk. Available from:  
<http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/publications>

*The National Service Framework for Children, Young People and Maternity Services* sets out a ten-year programme to stimulate long-term and sustained improvement in children's health and wellbeing. Available from: <http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/publications>

*Youth Matters* offers for consultation a new strategy for providing opportunities, challenge and support to young people. It outlines the Government's vision of a system in which integrated services help all young people achieve the five Every Child Matters outcomes to the greatest possible extent. Available from:  
<http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/publications>

*Choice for parents, the best start for children: a ten year strategy for childcare* sets out the Government's commitment to invest in childcare, early education and work life balance so that families are able to secure the best start in life for their children. Available from:  
<http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/publications>

*Working with voluntary and community organisations to deliver change for children and young people* sets out the Government's plans to strengthen its national relationship with voluntary organisations that work with children, young people and families, while also supporting the effective engagement of voluntary and community organisations in local Every Child Matters: Change for Children programmes. Available from:  
<http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/publications>

*Every Child Matters: The Framework for the Inspection of Children's Services* sets out the principles to be applied by an inspectorate or commission assessing any children's service, and defines the key judgements which, where appropriate and practical, inspections will seek to make. The framework ensures that all assessments consider the extent to which the service contributes to improving the wellbeing of children and young people.

Available from <http://www.ofsted.gov.uk>

*Every Child Matters: Arrangements for joint area reviews of children's services, Every Child Matters: Arrangements for the annual performance assessment of council children's services 2005, and Every Child Matters: Inspection of children's services, key judgements and evidence* set out details of the processes and coverage of joint area reviews and annual performance assessments of children's services undertaken by inspectorates.

Available from <http://www.ofsted.gov.uk>

You can download this publication at

**[www.everychildmatters.gov.uk](http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk)**

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