

Children & Young People Now

For decision makers and senior practitioners working with children, young people and families

www.cypnow.co.uk

October 2024



Reversing fall in adopters

How agencies are improving matching and post-placement support to tackle adoption decline p22

Ofsted chief sets out pathway to end single-phrase judgments p8

Inquiry launches probe into impact of the pandemic on children p10



Entrepreneur Paul Lindley on his drive to protect a child's right to outdoor play p16

Special report on key developments in children's SEND services pp27-36

Children & Young People Now

EDITORIAL
020 7501 + direct extensions below;
Fax is 020 7733 2325
cypnow@markallengroup.com
Editor Derren Hayes (6799)
Online Editor Fiona Simpson (6793)
Trainee Reporter Amrit Viridi (6223)
Online Manager Gemma Spence (6792)
Production Editor Colin Hamilton
Designer Laura Tallon

ADVERTISING
020 7501 + direct extensions below
Fax 020 7733 2325
sales@cypnowjobs.co.uk
Associate Publisher George Hogg (6699)
Recruitment Sales Manager
Nawal Bekkale (6767)
Event Manager Alma Watson (8026)

Publishing Director Tom Curtiss
Production Director Richard Hamshere
Production Manager Kyri Apostolou
Managing Director Ravi Chandiramani
Chief Executive Officer Ben Allen
Chairman Mark Allen

Registered at the Post Office as a newspaper,
ISSN 1755-8093.
Printed by Pensord Press Ltd, Pontllanfraith,
Blackwood, Gwent NP12 2YA

UK PERSONAL SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Monthly Credit Card	£13
Quarterly Direct Debit	£37.25
Annual Direct Debit	£142
Annual Credit/Debit Card	£149

Subscribe online:
www.magsubscriptions.com,
Subscribe by phone: +44 (0) 1722 716997

MA Education & Music

Part of

Mark Allen

www.markallengroup.com

© Copyright MA Education & Music Ltd 2024

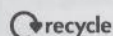
All rights reserved.

No part of Children & Young People Now may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise without prior written permission of the Publishing Director.

The views expressed do not necessarily represent those of the editor or Children & Young People Now. Advertisements in the magazine do not imply endorsement of the products or services advertised.

Please read our privacy policy, by visiting <http://privacypolicy.markallengroup.com>. This will explain how we process, use and safeguard your data.

Cover: Gorodenkalt/Adobe Stock



When you have finished with this magazine please recycle it.

The paper used within this publication has been sourced from Chain-of-Custody certified manufacturers, operating within international environmental standards, to ensure sustainable sourcing of the raw materials, sustainable production and to minimise our carbon footprint.



22



27



44

4 NEWS ROUNDUP

All the news that matters from the past month

8 ANALYSIS

Children's services Ofsted's decision to scrap single-phrase judgments for social care and early years providers draws support **8**

Education Covid inquiry turns its attention to the pandemic response on children and young people **10**

Youth justice Expert sets out how the planned Young Futures Hubs can tackle violence **11**

Health How policymakers can address the 'crisis' in children's oral health **12**

Social care Initiatives are supporting councils to improve matching practice to increase adoptions **13**

Youth work Academic's book charts the decline of open-access youth work over the past five years and how this could be reversed **14**

16 INTERVIEW

Paul Lindley, chair of the Raising the Nation Play Commission

19 VIEWPOINT

Your shout Andy Elvin of TACT Fostering calls for a national care service delivered locally

Editorial Derren Hayes on why professionals and the public must move on from single-phrase judgments

Opinion Debate over care having protected status; Act early to promote healthy relationships

22 FEATURE

Adoption To mark national adoption week, six steps to help improve the system plus examples of best practice

27 SPECIAL REPORT Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

Policy Surging demand, inadequate funding and a stalled reform agenda have contributed to a challenging year for special education needs and disability services

Big debate How can we make SEND support more efficient and effective?

Key data Children and families' experiences of the SEND system

Practice AP's staged approach re-engages non-attenders; SEND Academy improves outcomes; Five principles of good SEND transition support; Partnership meets children's needs

COMING UP... Tackling Youth Violence (November), Mental Health and Wellbeing (December)

38 PROFESSIONAL

Inspections clinic Key areas for change highlighted by Ofsted's recent Big Listen consultation **38**

Leadership Strengths-focused leadership **40**

Funding focus Armed Forces Families Fund **41**

Legal update Labour's care policy priorities **43**

44 PRACTICE

Case study Grit Breakthrough Programmes for children's services staff **44**

Local spotlight Telford and Wrekin Council **46**

Participation Adopted young people work together to improve support services **48**

How I got here David Harkin, youth worker, Education Authority Youth Service, Northern Ireland **49**

Children & Young People Now is a magazine and website for professionals working at all levels with children, young people and families. The magazine provides in-depth analysis, opinion and articles on best practice, targeting managers and senior practitioners involved in the commissioning and delivery of services. The website provides a breaking news service throughout the day for all practitioners and a host of resources, including information on careers and funding.