

Children & Young People Now

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

www.cypnow.co.uk

February 2025



All change on agency staff

The impact of new government rules restricting councils' use of agency children's social workers p24

MPs challenge
DfE to draw up
plan to fix SEND
support crisis p8

How attending
youth club can
reduce risk of
violence p10



Jacqui Belfield-Smith
calls for funding shift
to sustain youth justice
services' progress p18

Special report on
agencies' efforts
to tackle effects of
child trauma p29

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)

Online Manager Gemma Spence (6792)

Production Editor Colin Hamilton

ADVERTISING

020 7501 + direct extensions below
fax 020 7733 2325
sales@cypnowjobs.co.uk

Associate Publisher George Hogg (6699)

Recruitment Sales Manager

Dario Cappelli (6767)

Event Manager Alma Watson (8026)

Business Development Manager

James Rundle-Brown (6699)

Publishing Director Tom Curtiss

Production Director Richard Hamshire

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, 1 Goat Mill Road, Dowlais,
Merthyr Tydfil, CF48 3TD

UK PERSONAL SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Monthly Credit Card	£13
Quarterly Direct Debit	£32.25
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 2025

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: Mangostar/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.



29



46



48

4 NEWS ROUNDUP

All the news that matters from the past month

8 ANALYSIS

Education Key challenges and five solutions to fix the special educational needs and disabilities system **8**

Youth work Research shows attending a youth club helps protect vulnerable young people from violence **10**

Social care How poor practice by local authorities results in some young people being made homeless **12**

Youth work NYA's Leigh Middleton on revising youth work's qualifications framework **13**

Health Children with eating disorders are going undiagnosed due to lack of awareness **14**

Health What a national measure of child wellbeing could look like **15**

Children's services Plan for mandatory reporting of abuse could "overwhelm" the system, say leaders **16**

18 INTERVIEW

Jacqui Belfield-Smith, chair of the Association of Youth Offending Team Managers

21 VIEWPOINT

Your shout The National Children's Bureau's Matthew Dodd on why it's time to transform information sharing

Editorial Derren Hayes on tackling youth violence

Opinion Home education needs accountability and flexibility; Properly fund charities to provide vital support

24 FEATURE

Agency social workers in children's services

New government guidance sets expectations around the use of agency social workers in children's services including when it comes to cost

29 SPECIAL REPORT Childhood Trauma

Policy Levels of childhood trauma are rising following the pandemic and cost-of-living crisis, leading to policymakers and providers developing new approaches to support vulnerable young people

Expert view Tackling school non-attendance with trauma-informed approaches

Practice Healing Together in residential child care, A local authority's journey to being trauma informed; HEARTS tackles trauma in young refugees

COMING UP... Youth Employment (March), Artificial Intelligence (April), Residential Experiences (May)

40 PROFESSIONAL

Inspections clinic How agencies work to tackle serious youth violence **40**

Leadership Children's social care consultant Mark Owers on the benefits of regional working **42**

Funding focus Youth Fund, The Paul Hamlyn Foundation **43**

Legal update Homeless children still missing out on legal entitlements; Helping families in conflict **44**

46 PRACTICE

Case study Leeds Safe Taskforce improves attendance and engagement with school for young people at risk of violence **46**

Participation Inspire US programme sees students journey to the US to learn about democracy and get experience in political campaigning **48**

How I got here Daniel Evans-Tomkinson, teaching assistant and Duke of Edinburgh's Award leader **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.