







New releases August 2017: Mapping Resource

| PLACEMENT OPTIONS | | | |
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| TITLE | RESOURCE TYPE | DESCRIPTION | AIMED AT |
| <p>NEW: <i>Comparing placement options to meet children and young people's current and future needs</i></p> |  Strategic Briefing | <p>This briefing sets out key messages from an evidence review commissioned and published by the Department for Education in March 2017, which aimed to provide judicial and local authority decision-makers with an independent summary of relevant research evidence that focuses on comparative outcomes of different placement options.</p> <p>The review brought together an accessible summary of key research findings on two themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > The impacts of abuse and neglect on children. > The strengths and weaknesses of different types of long-term placements in relation to their impact on children. <p>This briefing focuses on the second of these themes to help leaders and decision-makers think about how they can influence and organise local policy development and services to meet the current and future needs of children and young people.</p> <p>www.rip.org.uk/comparing-placement-options</p> | <p>Local authority strategic leaders and decision-makers, though it will also be of interest to frontline managers and their staff in local authority Children's Services.</p> |
| <p>RELATED RESOURCE: <i>The impacts of abuse and neglect on children; and comparison of different placement options</i></p> |  Evidence Scope (open access) | <p>Commissioned by the Department for Education and developed by Research in Practice, this open access paper reviews research on the impacts of abuse and neglect and the strengths and weaknesses of care placement options. It is intended to support local authority and judicial decision-makers to develop a shared understanding of research and make decisions that lead to stable and positive placements for children and young people.</p> <p>www.rip.org.uk/impacts-of-abuse</p> | <p>All those involved in family court work, care planning and placement decisions.</p> |
| <p>RELATED RESOURCE: <i>Assessing and supporting family and friends care</i></p> |  Practice Tool | <p>Since the <i>Children Act 1989</i> there has been increasing emphasis in UK law and policy on placing children requiring substitute care with family and friends, and the <i>Children and Young Persons Act 2008</i> states this should be the first option. The aim of this Practice Tool is to assist practitioners in the processes of assessing the strengths and weaknesses of prospective placements with family and friends (kinship care) and identifying the assistance families might need to provide a safe and effective long-term home for a child.</p> <p>www.rip.org.uk/assessing-and-supporting-family</p> | <p>Practitioners and managers in children's social care and wider Children's Services.</p> |

research in practice




| TITLE | RESOURCE TYPE | DESCRIPTION | AIMED AT |
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| RELATED RESOURCE: <i>Contact after adoption</i> |  Learning Resources (open access) | <p>The type and frequency of contact a child has with their birth family needs careful consideration and planning, and should be determined by the needs and best interests of the child, both in the long and short term.</p> <p>This open access website provides resources for practitioners in making evidence-informed post-adoption contact plans and supporting birth relatives and adopters through contact and planning for their child.</p> <p>contact.rip.org.uk</p> | Those involved in making, reviewing and supporting plans for post-adoption contact. |
| RELATED RESOURCE: <i>Special guardianship – qualitative case file analysis</i> |  Research Report (open access) | <p>Special Guardianship Orders (SGOs) were introduced in 2005 as a legal pathway to permanence for children, often within the extended family network. The aim of this study was to further explore the impact on SGO use of the introduction of the 26-week time limit for standard care cases under the Public Law Outline (<i>Children and Families Act 2014</i>).</p> <p>The findings presented here provide a rich picture of SGO use in these particular cases in the selected local authorities (LAs). When considered in conjunction with other research, they provide further information about how SGOs are being used in practice and the complexity of LA decision-making in relation to this.</p> <p>www.rip.org.uk/special-guardianship</p> | Practitioners and managers in children's social care and wider Children's Services. |

PUBLIC LAW OUTLINE



| TITLE | RESOURCE TYPE | DESCRIPTION | AIMED AT |
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| NEW: <i>Public Law Outline</i> |  Mapping Resource (open access) | <p>This learning resources map has been developed to support professionals working with families, legal teams and in the family court. The map is primarily aimed at those preparing and presenting evidence for court, and focuses on robust pre-proceedings work and the quality of written evidence including assessment and care planning.</p> <p>The quality of court work has been the focus of the <i>Family Justice Review, Knowledge and Skills Statement</i> and other policy initiatives and has been highlighted as an important contributor to achieve the 26-week target for care cases and the best outcomes for children.</p> <p>Existing Research in Practice resources are highlighted within the resource to help professionals develop analytical skills and use research effectively to support decision-making.</p> <p>www.rip.org.uk/public-law-outline</p> | Children's guardians, lawyers acting for the local authority, IROs, case progression managers, social work managers, social workers preparing and presenting evidence in court. |

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FETAL ALCOHOL SPECTRUM DISORDERS

| TITLE | RESOURCE TYPE | DESCRIPTION | AIMED AT |
|---|--|--|---|
| NEW: <i>Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) – identifying and responding in practice with families</i> |  Frontline Briefing | <p>Exposure to alcohol before birth can lead to development of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASDs), the most important preventable cause of brain damage in children. Effects range from disabilities to damage which increases the risk of violent and criminal behaviour in later life. Many children, including those in care, are given multiple inaccurate diagnoses.</p> <p>There is an urgent need to recognise prenatal alcohol exposure at an early stage and to develop pathways for diagnosis, assessment and support. This briefing introduces practitioners working with children and families to key research and practice surrounding FASDs, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > What constitutes a dangerous level of alcohol intake during pregnancy. > The impact on the fetus, child and family at different stages of development. > How to identify and respond to FASDs, including appropriate referral. > Guidance on prevention and management. <p>www.rip.org.uk/FASD</p> | Early help, targeted support and statutory services with children and families. |
| RELATED RESOURCE: <i>Assessing parents' capacity to change</i> |  Frontline Briefing | <p>This briefing is for frontline practitioners working across wider Children's Services with families for whom there may be safeguarding concerns.</p> <p>It provides a framework to guide assessment and partnership working with these families, in particular, on one specific element of assessment – understanding parents' 'capacity to change'.</p> <p>www.rip.org.uk/capacity-to-change</p> | Frontline practitioners and team managers. |
| RELATED RESOURCE: <i>The impact of parental substance misuse on child development</i> |  Frontline Briefing | <p>This briefing examines the degree to which parental substance misuse (PSM) can affect children's physical and emotional welfare at a range of levels.</p> <p>www.rip.org.uk/PSM</p> | Frontline practitioners working across Children's Services. |

WORKING EFFECTIVELY WITH MEN IN FAMILIES

| TITLE | RESOURCE TYPE | DESCRIPTION | AIMED AT |
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| NEW: <i>Working effectively with men in families – including fathers in children’s social care</i> |  Frontline Briefing | <p>This briefing focuses on including and working with fathers where children’s welfare or safety is a concern, and the practice issues raised by domestic abuse.</p> <p>In particular, it reflects on practice messages from research in relation to three inter-related areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Early intervention > Family support > Child protection <p>The briefing should be read alongside the accompanying Frontline Tool – <i>Working effectively with men in families – practice pointers for including fathers in children’s social care</i> – where suggestions for practice are set out more extensively.</p> <p>www.rip.org.uk/working-effectively-with-men</p> | Child and family social workers and their frontline managers. |
| NEW: <i>Working effectively with men in families – practice pointers for including fathers in children’s social care</i> |  Frontline Tool | <p><i>Fathers in child protection are rarely either ‘all bad’ or ‘all good’. Fathers are important to children, and (like mothers) most present a combination of positive and negative factors. Men and social workers need to recognise and work with this so that, wherever possible, children can stay safe and be involved with their fathers.</i></p> <p>(Brandon et al, 2017)</p> <p>This tool sets out key practice pointers to help include fathers in children’s social care and should be read alongside the accompanying Frontline Briefing, <i>Working effectively with men in families – including fathers in children’s social care</i>.</p> <p>www.rip.org.uk/working-effectively-with-men-tool</p> | Child and family social workers and their frontline managers. |

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