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All the news that matters from the past month

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**Social care** *CYP Now* investigation reveals councils increasingly using 'golden hellos' to attract and retain social workers to compete with recruitment agencies **10** 

**Social care** The importance of a wider support package for staff in efforts to retain social workers **12** 

**Health** Experts welcome refresh of health standards for secure settings, but warn delivery will be challenging **13** 

**Education** How latest guidance on the pupil premium is an opportunity for schools to review how funding is used and introduce a tiered model of spending **14** 

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**Tessy Ojo**, chief executive of youth charity The Diana Award

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**Your shout** Better assessments key to the right support, says Mark Owers, children's services and system adviser

**Editorial** Derren Hayes on shortage of care placements **Opinion** Reform Ofsted to focus on improving outcomes; Asylum reforms are a gamble with young lives

#### **22 FEATURE**

**Social prescribing** Prescriptions for non-medical therapies are increasingly being offered to children and young people with mental health and other difficulties. Experts explain the difference it can make to young lives

# 27 SPECIAL REPORT Commissioning Children's Social Care

**Policy** Government plans aim to tackle the challenging environment faced by commissioners, with increasing numbers of children in the system and inflation pushing up care fees

**Key data** Factors influencing children's social care commissioning

**The big debate** Will regional commissioning improve sufficiency and efficiency of placements?

**Practice** Trauma-informed commissioning delivers savings; Step-down service improves placement stability; Regional sufficiency strategy controls costs

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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.