





4 NEWS ROUNDUP

All the news that matters from the past month

8 ANALYSIS

Youth work Five factors behind the demise of youth charity the British Youth Council **8**

Children's services Key children's services challenges ahead as Andy Smith takes on the ADCS presidency **10**

Early years Lack of special needs support in the early years is increasing pressure on childcare providers 12

Youth justice Expansion of PAVA sparks debate on youth custody behaviour management and restraint **13**

Health Call to put schools at the heart of mental health and wellbeing agenda to tackle emerging problems **14**

Social care Frontline chief on DfE decision to end support for leadership training scheme Pathways **16**

17 INTERVIEW

Vanessa Longley, chief executive of Chance UK on her plans for the charity

19 VIEWPOINT

Your shout Funded childcare should prioritise quality says Maria Montessori Institute's Louise Livingston

Editorial Derren Hayes on boosting mental health support in schools to reflect children's rising needs

Opinion Schools must focus on building local relationship; Hospital support staff offer route out of violence

22 FEATURE

Childminder SOS Childminders provide essential childcare for many families, but numbers continue to fall. How can services successfully recruit and support more childminders and help reverse the decline?

27 SPECIAL REPORT Digital Solutions

Policy Digital technology has the potential to change the way children's services departments function, offering opportunities for more efficient working, but also concerns over the safe and ethical use of people's data

Big debate Does artificial intelligence pose a threat to children's services?

Practice VR films improve foster placement success; Digital storage keeps children's memories safe; Growing children's services interventions of the future

Training spotlight Early years students use VR to hone safeguarding skills; Charity's digital courses support family practitioners

COMING UP... Care Commissioning (June), Care Proceedings/Family Courts (July), Family Support (August)

38 PROFESSIONAL

Inspections clinic Regional adoption agencies 38

Research Wellbeing, relationships, bullying and independence among young people with SEN 40

Funding focus Westminster Foundation 41

Legal update Increasing early permanence; Calais ruling: key questions resolved 42

44 PRACTICE

Case study How Settle prevents care-experienced young people becoming homeless 44

Local spotlight Lewisham Council develops targeted early help to reduce demand in children's social care 46

Participation Pan London Care Leavers Compact 48

How I got here Alice Powney-Dugdale, social worker 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.