

**Eastern Deanery**

Block 3  
Ida Darwin Site  
Fulbourn  
Cambridge CB1 5EE

Tel: 01223 884848  
Fax: 01223 884849

[www.easterngp.co.uk](http://www.easterngp.co.uk)

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**Children in Special Circumstances:  
Education for GPs:  
The Eastern Deanery Strategy**

**What have we done?**

- We have developed a syllabus for GP education as it relates to child protection and children in special circumstances\*.

**How have we done this?**

The syllabus has been constructed and modified in response to:

- A review the literature and policy (this can be accessed on [www.easterngp.co.uk](http://www.easterngp.co.uk)).
- Discussion with health professionals and health services managers.
- One to one interviews with 'experts'.
- A questionnaire study to validate the learning objectives. This study has involved GP trainers, GP registrars, Course Organisers, GP Tutors and Primary Care Tutors and Named GPs and Designated Doctors and Nurses.

**Also:**

- We have provided educational and other supporting material on the deanery web site. This can be freely accessed, copied, used and modified. The educational material has been 'road tested' and modified in response to learners' views.

You can access these on [www.easterngp.co.uk](http://www.easterngp.co.uk) (follow the links 'resources-children in special circumstances')

**What next?**

Initially, we want to concentrate on two main areas:

- Supporting and developing the role of the named GP
- Supporting and developing GP registrar education in child protection and children in special circumstances

### **What are we going to do?**

We wish to engage with and network Named GPs. We will contact all the Named GPs in the deanery area and

- Invite Named GPs place their contact details on the deanery data base
- Invite Named GPs to participate in an email discussion group
- Explore and support the educational needs of Named GPs

We wish to support GP registrar education in child protection and children in special circumstances by

- Linking Named/Designated doctors/Named GPs with Course Organisers/GP Tutors/Primary Care Tutors
- Providing educational material
- Supporting sessions in the VTS

### **What's new? Recent publications:**

The Children Act 2004 includes duties (through PCTs) to co-operate with other agencies, duties to have arrangements and duties to information share to improve well being as this relates to protection from harm and neglect (section 10, 11 and 12)

(Children Act 2004 <http://www.hmso.gov.uk/acts/acts2004/40031--c.htm#10> Chapter 31. TSO [www.tso.uk/bookshop](http://www.tso.uk/bookshop))

Ruth Bastable ([Rbbastable@aol.com](mailto:Rbbastable@aol.com) )

Arthur Hibble

Hilarie Bateman

Christina Wells

[Steering Group, Children in Special Circumstances; Education for GPs; The Eastern Deanery Strategy]

\*'Children in special circumstances' is a new term adopted by the National Service Framework (NSF) (<http://www.doh.gov.uk/nsf/children.htm>) to cover 'a variety of groups of children whose particular circumstances will often lead to them achieving poorer outcomes'. It includes children in need and children in need of child protection but also includes other vulnerable groups, such as: children living away from home; those looked after by local authorities; children in trouble including young offenders in institutions; asylum seeking children; children with troubled parents, such as those substance misusing or with alcohol problems; and young parents.