



service plan 2012-2013

Children's Services Finance Advisory
Network (CSFAN)

A Summary of the Network Offer

In April 2012, we are merging our two successful children's networks, the Children's Services Advisory Network and the Children's Services Finance Advisory Network. This merger will provide a single comprehensive service bringing together the key strategic and financial issues within children's services.

Our new single service will help you respond to all the children's services challenges you may face at this critical time, when the public sector is facing a period of unprecedented reform. We can also offer more flexibility of place usage and even greater value for money.

No other organisation provides a comprehensive, one stop shop for all those involved in children's services finance. Through our roles in relevant DfE working groups, our children's services and academies panels and the support of CIPFA's Finance Advisory Service (FAN) and Policy and Technical unit we can provide access to key legislation and guidance relating to accounting and policy issues. Our panels are made up of key players across the sector and help provide direction and guidance to the work of the Network.

Through events, webinars and briefings the network can advise members on best practice as well as legislative, professional and financial guidance for the sector.

About our events

Events are held in several locations around the country to make it easier for you to attend and help keep our network local. We also offer open and on-site training to subscribers. Our events provide an opportunity to:

- Gain in-depth technical knowledge.
- Maintain continuing professional development (CPD).
- Ensure key staff are up kept to date in all emerging and critical developments.
- Provide a training solution tailored to your needs.
- Hear from experts in the field.
- Discuss current issues and the impact of new developments with other professionals.
- Signposting other developments.
- Discuss current issues with other professionals.
- Have the option to hear all this without having to leave your office.

Better value than ever in 2012/13

We have listened to your feedback and have tried to make our service even better value than ever before. We understand that travel to events is both time consuming and costly and we have therefore included an increased number of webinars in our programme and adapted the timing of our events to facilitate cheaper travel and remove the need for overnight stays. We will also be delivering an increasing number of on-site events for which subscribers will be able to use a pre-determined number of pre-paid places. And finally, in recognition of your own financial constraints there are no price increases across any of our services for 2012/13.

What will you get in 2012/13

- **Events** – free attendance (using pre-purchased places) at Children’s Services Finance Advisory Network (CSFAN) regional events, designated Finance Advisory Network (FAN) events, CSFAN and selected FAN webinars and all CIPFA Finance Training events throughout the year.
- **On-site training** and CSFAN events at your authority for a number of pre-determined pre-paid places – so you can invite the number of staff you deem necessary without the need to incur travel costs.
- Opportunities for networking, career growth and CPD.
- **Technical advice** – our expert advisors will respond to requests from subscribers on local government finance issues.
- **Newsletters** – subscribers can access both a monthly children’s services newsletter which provides information on all the latest developments in children’s services policy and finance and also a monthly round up on all the latest developments across local government finance, accounting and reporting.
- **Website access** – the site contains a wealth of published information including briefings on the latest government policy for both children’s services and other selected general finance issues. Network advisors prepare and publish relevant briefings and guidance on the main issues of the day. They also encourage members of the network to share or write their own documentation covering specific areas of work, something which subscribers find extremely useful.

On the agenda in 2012/13

Accounting for Academies workshops, June 2012

Detailed accounting events in which delegates will be involved in preparing a set of academy accounts by working through a number of scenarios that are common to academies. This is designed for those authorities wanting to support academies in financial services.

Formula Funding Update workshops, October 2012

This series of workshops will look at the effect of the Government’s major review of the school funding formula, and involve practitioners who are modelling new formulas. The review will impact on individual schools, combined services, central expenditure and the distribution factors that authorities are able to use. In addition the government’s drive towards more ‘personalisation’ of budgets in children’s services, notably for special educational needs, will also be discussed. The role of the Education Funding Agency and the Government’s view that a local authority should be a commissioner rather than provider of services will also be examined.

Technical Update workshops, February 2013

This session will draw on issues pertinent to children’s services at the time. This is likely to build on funding changes discussed in October 2012 and also best practice in achieving value for money across the sector.

Social Care Conference, July 2012

This conference will cover both children and adult social care issues.

Developments in Children's Services Finance Conference, March 2013

This one day conference provides a day of high profile speakers who will discuss the key issues affecting children's services finance.

The Children's Services Finance Advisory Network can be accessed at www.cipfa.org.uk/csfa.

Webinars

We will provide webinars on the above events above which summarise the key issues, challenges and solutions.

Further webinars on critical developments, pertinent at the time, will also be provided. These webinars will be free to networks subscribers but will be chargeable to other clients who wish to view them. Recordings of these webinars will be made available on the FAN website for subscribers.

Open Training Courses

There are a number of open training courses that can be found at www.cipfa.org.uk/training.

On-site Training Courses

For a pre-determined number of subscriber places we can deliver training and update sessions at your local authority. The length of time and content of sessions can be tailored according to your needs. The key benefits for authorities are that no staff travel costs are incurred and there is greater flexibility with regard to the staff that you choose. In 2011 the sessions we delivered to a number of authorities included:

- Developments in Local Government Finance
- Finance for Non Finance Managers
- Schools Forum Training
- Academy Finance Requirements
- Developments in Education Finance

Documentation

The network will be aiming to produce briefings, updates and rough guides which will be very closely related to its service offerings as well as access to current workshop event materials and its back catalogue of event materials, briefings and guides.

And coming soon

- **A new interactive website** - exclusive access to a well-resourced new website and discounts to a range of other services including on-site training.

You may also be interested in:

Advisory services Transform public financial management in your organisation using our tailored on-site, or remote advice.	Training and accredited courses Public finance training that suits you delivered via open courses, in-house training, and accredited programmes.
Benchmarking services Pinpoint your strengths and weaknesses, and compare your organisation to your peers, to improve your financial management.	Publications Public finance specific guidance, keeping you up-to-date with regulatory requirements and the issues that matter to public finance practitioners.
Research and Statistics Make informed decisions about your services, using our data, statistics, research studies and surveys.	Professional Qualifications The essential route into a successful career in public services financial management, and beyond, for you or your employees.

For further information on the Children's Services Finance Advisory Network
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