

Country examples of the creation of brokerage agencies: strengths and weaknesses

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7 July 2006

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Improving social care

- Regulation and inspection of services
- Regulation and registration of staff
- Workforce development
- Knowledge base

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- Establish a knowledge base
- Identify 'what works'
- Guidance for policy and practice
- Disseminate, and support implementation
- Result – knowledge based improvement

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- UK wide
- Independent – NGO – charity
- Government funded
- Service level agreements

Stakeholders

- Social care – devolved administrations
- England, Wales and Scotland commissioned by local authorities, Northern Ireland by NHS
- Providers – private sector, voluntary sector, statutory
- Children and families
- Adults – older people, disability, mental health, alcohol and drugs

Stakeholders

- Policy makers
- Service commissioners
- Service providers
- People who use services and carers
- Practitioners and managers
- Research and teaching
- Regulators

Sources of knowledge

- Research and academic
- Inspection reports
- Service user knowledge
- Practitioner knowledge
- Policy

Authority

- No coercive power
- Conflict between quality and speed
- Political timescales
- Stakeholder involvement



Fostering success:
An exploration of the research
literature

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Innovative, tried and tested:
A review of good practice in
fostering

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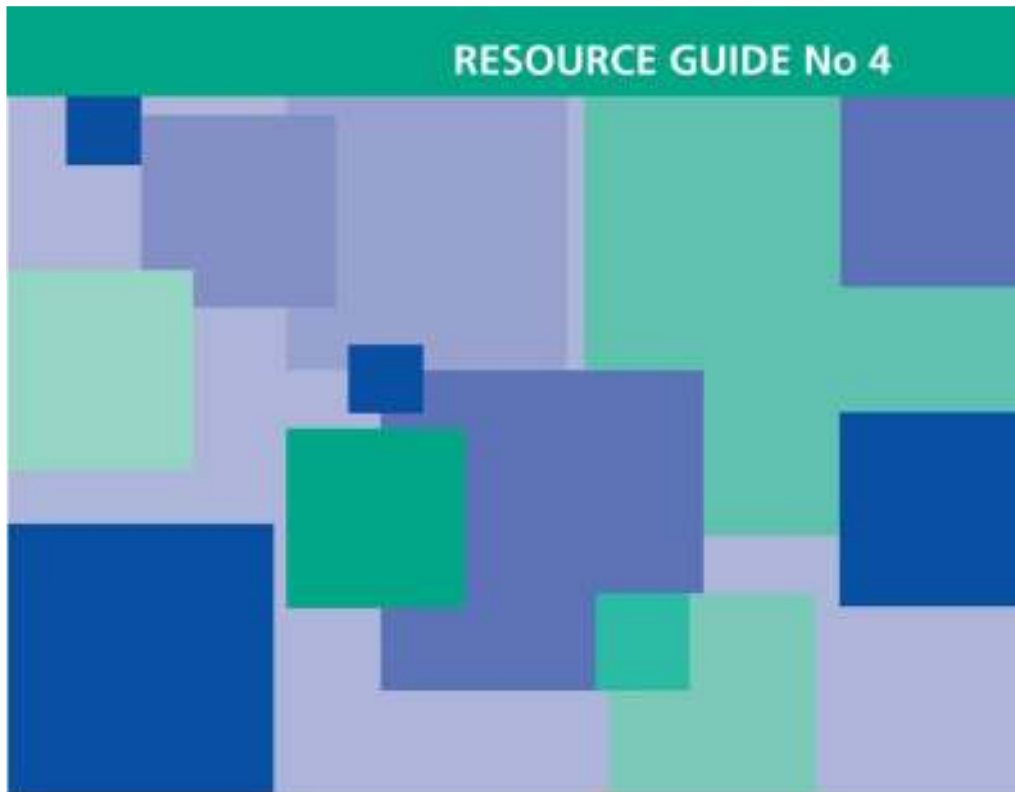




The adoption of looked-after children

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Promoting resilience in fostered children and young people

S | C | I | E

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Better knowledge for better practice

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Practice guide to fostering

Introduction

SCIE Practice Guide to Fostering (October 2004) is designed for foster care practitioners and anyone with an interest in good practice in fostering. The easy-to-use guide is packed with case studies, good practice tips and research summaries and designed to answer any questions foster carers may have on fostering, as well as provide food for thought.

The guide is based on evidence from a number of reports including [SCIE Knowledge Review 4: Innovative, Tried and Tested – A Review of Good Practice in Fostering](#), [SCIE Knowledge Review 5: Fostering Success – An Exploration of the Research Literature in Foster Care \(1\)](#), [\(2\)](#) and two other recent studies [\(3\)](#). It shows how this evidence can be used in every day practice.

- Link: [About this guide](#)
- Link: [SCIE Knowledge Review 4: Innovative, Tried and Tested](#)
- Link: [SCIE Knowledge Review 5: Fostering Success](#)

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Strengthening evidence base

- SCIE report 10 – evidence base for social care
- Comparison of health and social care spend on research:

Health 5.3% of total budget

Social care 0.3%

Health £3,400 per workforce member

Social care £25

General practitioner £1,466

Social worker £60

- SCIE able to provide leadership

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