



CSIE Mailing – August 2012

Dear CSIE friends and allies

Greetings to you all and a particularly warm welcome to new recipients of our newsletters. We begin with a word of apology: much though we had wanted to send this update sooner, having been understaffed and overstretched for a little while, we were unable to do so until now. Thank you for bearing with us. This summer 2012 mailing brings you news of recent developments relevant to inclusive education and information on recent and forthcoming CSIE activities. Please help spread the word by passing on relevant information to schools near you, and to family, friends and colleagues who care about equality for all and the principled development of schools. Thank you.

SEN reform

Perhaps the most significant recent development is the publication, on 15 May, of the Department for Education's "Support and aspiration: A new approach to special educational needs and disability - progress and next steps", which sets out the progress made and the next steps planned in taking forward the Green Paper reforms. The government has also announced new legislation, the Children and Families Bill, to make the legal changes required for the proposed Green Paper reforms. Draft clauses for the SEN & disability section of the Children and Families Bill, originally expected in July, are now due to be published in the autumn; the Bill is expected to be introduced into the House of Commons early in 2013.

All this signifies a radical shakeup of the SEN legislative framework, in which many and important changes are being proposed. A new approach is being shaped for the education of disabled children or those identified as having special educational needs. The main proposals are being explained in greater detail on our website:

www.csie.org.uk/news/index.shtml#18052012

No place for bullying

“No place for bullying”, Ofsted’s report on its inquiry into bullying in schools, was published on 19 June. The report suggests that some groups of pupils are bullied disproportionately more than others; those bullied the most are disabled pupils or those identified as having special educational needs, as well as those who are (or are thought to be) lesbian or gay. In many schools discriminatory language is not consistently challenged by staff, who either dismiss it as “banter” or feel ill-equipped to challenge and address prejudices effectively.

The report clearly suggested that LGBT and disabled pupils are bullied disproportionately more than any other group of pupils in English schools. For more information please see www.csie.org.uk/news/index.shtml#21062012.

CSIE is responding by offering workshops early in the autumn term on reducing homophobic and disablist bullying in schools (“Outstanding outcomes for all”, Bristol 14 September, York 1 October – please see below for more information.)

CSIE celebrated its 30th birthday

On 28 June this year, we celebrated CSIE’s 30th birthday! Originally set up in London in June 1982 as the Centre for Studies on Integration in Education, CSIE was formed in direct response to the 1981 Education Act and the general duty for children identified as having “special educational needs” to be educated in mainstream schools. CSIE moved to Bristol in 1994 and changed its name to Centre for Studies on Inclusive Education in 1995. As the meaning of “inclusive education” has changed over the years, so CSIE’s remit has expanded to embrace all those at risk of discrimination. Nowadays our work focuses on two key priorities: disability equality and LGBT equality.

CSIE has been at the forefront of developments in inclusive education nationally and internationally for 30 years. Our work is still needed because many schools and other educational settings still operate in ways that leave children, young people or adults feeling marginalised or excluded. CSIE continues to provide training, information and resources that help to bridge the gaps between equality legislation and current practice. For more information on CSIE’s history and some of our recent successes, please see <http://www.csie.org.uk/news/index.shtml#30062012>.

The School Report

On 5 July Stonewall, Britain's lesbian, gay and bisexual (LGB) charity, published a revised version of The School Report, which looks at the extent and impact of homophobia on LGB young people. The report suggests that around one in five of LGB pupils don't feel safe at school and one in three don't feel accepted or welcome there. Comparing these figures to Stonewall's 2007 School Report, it seems that not a lot has changed in the past five years. The report makes a number of recommendations for schools and key partners (the Department for Education, Ofsted, local authorities and academy chains.) For more information please see www.csie.org.uk/news/index.shtml#24072012.

LGBT empowerment project

During this academic year CSIE has been working on a project with Wiltshire Integrated Youth Service's Trowbridge LGBT youth group, GoGs (which stands for Group of Gays, the name the young people have chosen for themselves), and Bath Spa University's Centre for Education Policy in Practice (EPIP). This was a collaborative project to support young people seeking ways to be better understood, be more accepted and feel safer in school. Some of the young people participating in the project made a presentation at the Schools Out conference in London and subsequently produced a short film about their experiences in school and the impact of homophobic bullying on their learning. This film has attracted a lot of interest and is now being used in the training of Ofsted inspectors. This project has now come to an end and an event was held on 9 July to celebrate the young people's achievements. For more information please see www.csie.org.uk/news/index.shtml#16072012.

The government's response to "Hidden in Plain Sight"

On 17 July the government published its response to "Hidden in Plain Sight" (the report by the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) on its inquiry into disability related harassment). The EHRC report had concluded that harassment is a commonplace experience for disabled people, but that a culture of disbelief and systemic institutional failures are preventing it from being tackled effectively. In response to this report, the Department for Education turned down as unnecessary the first recommendation (that independent research should be carried out to shed light on the long-term effects of segregated education on the future lives of disabled and non-disabled children), and partially or fully accepted the remaining recommendations, amending some in ways that stand to diminish their impact. For more information please see www.csie.org.uk/news/index.shtml#17072012.

CSIE training in autumn 2012

In response to the recent Ofsted report “No place for bullying” (see above), early in the autumn term CSIE will be running practical and affordable workshops to help reduce homophobic and disablist bullying in schools. “Outstanding outcomes for all” is competitively priced (£45+vat including refreshments) and will run on 14 September in Bristol (The Park Centre, Daventry Road, BS4 1DQ) and on 1 October in York (Langwith College, University of York, York YO10 3DD). For more information please see www.csie.org.uk/about/training.shtml.

Participants at previous CSIE training events have said:

“All excellent - thought provoking, clear presentation, useful materials.”

“The whole session was very interactive and thus enjoyable, and doing different types of activities kept me focused.”

“Excellent – Presenters clear and deep knowledge of subject area – excellent materials to support.”

Other CSIE news

- We were pleased to meet with Sharon Hodgson, Shadow Education Minister, earlier this summer and make an oral contribution to the Labour Party’s SEN Policy Review.
- Recent translations of the revised [Index for inclusion: developing learning and participation in schools](#) include Spanish for Chile and Brazilian Portuguese; many more translations and adaptations are in the pipeline.
- As of September we will be working with the Centre for Inclusive Education, a Bulgarian NGO, to get the Index available in Bulgarian schools, in a European-funded project.
- We are also privileged to have been awarded a grant from the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation to produce up-to-date information on local authority placement trends (i.e. the proportion of children and young people attending mainstream or special schools in each local authority), in order to empower parents to make more informed choices. This project will run from September 2012 to April 2013 and we expect to run seminars throughout the country from May 2013 onwards.
- We are proud to have contributed to Volume 225 (LGBT Equality) of Issues (www.amazon.co.uk/LGBT-Equality-vol-Issues-Series/dp/1861686145), where some material from our website (www.csie.org.uk/inclusion/faqlgbt.shtml) has been reproduced with our permission.

- We were also pleased to have granted permission to a new NGO in New Zealand to reproduce more material from our website (www.csie.org.uk/inclusion/faq.shtml).
- Last but not least, our proposed project “Give me a chance!” (<http://new.thebiggive.org.uk/projects/view/18062?search=b22d77a1-5f2f-4258-94d8-efd2e021f66a>) has been accepted on The Big Give Christmas Challenge and we will contact you again with more details in due course. For now, please make a note of the dates and time: 10 am on 6, 7 and 8 December. Online donations received at these times will be doubled, so can be twice as helpful!

Keeping in touch and staying up to date with CSIE

Are there other types of training events you would like CSIE to put on? Can we help you get the most out of the Index for inclusion? Are there other resources you would like us to produce? Do get in touch and let us know your views, we want to hear from you! You can email us at admin@csie.org.uk or post on our [facebook](#) wall.

Thank you for your continued interest in CSIE, children's rights and inclusive education. For more regular updates you can:

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Best wishes
From all of us at CSIE

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