

## **DfE Changes – Update February 2019 – May 2019.**

### **Elective home education**

1. Government non-statutory guidance for local authorities and schools about children educated at home has been updated to now include a separate and parallel document for parents. The guidance is intended to help local authorities understand their existing powers, and their duties in relation to children who are being educated at home, and how those relate to the obligations of parents. The guidance documents can be accessed [here](#)

### **Consultation on elective home education register**

2. The DfE has published its response to the 2018 call for evidence on elective home education and is now consulting on proposals for a register, maintained by local authorities, of children who are home educated. The DfE is specifically consulting on the following:
  - The introduction of a duty on local authorities to maintain a register of children of compulsory school age who are not registered at schools of a specified type
  - The introduction of a duty on parents to provide information to their home local authority if their children are within the scope of such a register
  - The introduction of a duty on education settings attended by the children on the register to respond to enquiries from local authorities about the education provided to individual children. The settings in scope would not include those providing supplementary education outside school hours
  - The introduction of a duty on local authorities to provide support to home educating families - if it is requested by such families.

The consultation can be found [here](#). The final deadline for responses is 24 June.

### **Relationships (and sex) education and health education**

3. The DfE has published their response to the consultation on proposals that schools are required to teach relationships education at primary school, relationships and sex education at secondary school and health education at all state-funded schools.
4. Draft regulations, statutory guidance and a regulatory impact assessment for relationships and sex education and health education have been updated to reflect the consultation response. The department intends to lay the regulations in parliament which will be subject to debate in both houses in Spring 2019. If the regulations pass through both houses, the regulations will be made and the final guidance will be published. Schools will be required to comply with the regulations and have regard to the guidance from September 2020.

The full consultation outcome, the draft regulations, statutory guidance and a regulatory impact assessment can be accessed [here](#). The government has also produced supporting FAQ information which can be accessed [here](#).

### Identifying schools for improvement support

5. The consultation on ways of identifying schools that are showing signs of needing educational support has concluded, and the government will uphold the proposals detailed in the consultation process as below:
  - We will remove the coasting and floor data standards. From the next academic year, we will no longer publish coasting and floor data standards. They will not be used to identify schools for intervention, support, or any other purpose.
  - Schools judged as Requires Improvement by Ofsted will be eligible for an offer of support.
  - Schools with two consecutive Requires Improvement judgements will be eligible for more intensive support.
  - Support will be optional and we will always approach academy trusts and local authorities, not individual schools (unless the school is a single academy trust) to discuss the offer of support.
6. Details can be found [here](#). More information about the offer itself will be confirmed in the Summer term.

### Review of post-16 qualifications announced

7. The Secretary of State launched the first part of a two-stage consultation on Level 3 and below post-16 qualifications with the twin aims of boosting quality and streamlining the range of options open to school leavers. An accompanying [analysis](#) published by the DfE identified over 12,000 courses on offer, with multiple qualifications in the same subject areas available, some apparently offering little value to learners or employers.

This initial consultation exercise will conclude on 10 June and can be found [here](#).

### Academies Update

8. Number in Wiltshire at the end of April 2019:

Academies	94
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There are no new academies in this period.

### SEND and AP provision

9. The government had launched a call for evidence on the financial arrangements for children and young people with special educational needs and disability (SEND) and those who need alternative provision (AP). Views are being sought on how financial arrangements in England could be improved to help local authorities, schools, colleges and other providers in supporting children and young people, getting the best value from the resources available.

The consultation closes on 31 July and can be accessed [here](#).

### **Delivering schools to support housing growth**

10. The DfE has published new guidance which sets out how councils can seek funding from housing developments in their area and use it to create school places. The guidance includes advice for those involved in delivering new schools in new communities, and best practice guidance on securing developer contributions for education from housing development more generally, and can be found [here](#)

### **Social Work rules and standards**

11. The new social work regulator, Social Work England (SWE), has consulted on new rules and standards for social workers. Some of the specific areas consulted on include:
  - The criteria for which SWE will accept a case regarding a concern raised about a social worker (see page 3 of the fitness to practice rules, this includes the process a case should go through before being referred to the adjudicators)
  - The appointment of new regional engagement leads to “raise awareness and ensure the consistent implementation of standards”, who will be registered and practicing social workers and work with a range of stakeholders
  - Professional standards for social workers to challenge unethical practice and report concerns such as resourcing or operational difficulties.

The consultation closed on 01 May. Full details can be found [here](#).

### **New child exploitation disruption toolkit**

12. The Home Office has published a toolkit primarily aimed at frontline staff, including law enforcement, social care, education, housing and the voluntary sector, working to safeguard children and young people under the age of 18 from sexual and criminal exploitation. It is intended to help all safeguarding partners to understand and access existing legislative opportunities at their disposal and to target specific risks and threats and can be found [here](#).

### **Principles for supporting care leavers in higher education**

13. The DfE has published a new policy paper on improving access to, and support for, care leavers in higher education. It offers information for senior leaders, widening participation and student support teams in universities. The paper can be found [here](#).

### **New legal duty to tackle serious youth violence**

14. The Home Office has published a consultation on its plans to introduce a new multi-agency approach to preventing and tackling serious youth violence. The consultation sets out three options for change:
  - New legislative duty on specific organisations to have due regard to the prevention and tackling of serious violence. Here partners would determine themselves how to address and comply with this duty
  - New duty through legislation to revise Community Safety Partnerships in order to make them the lead a partnership in addressing serious violence
  - A voluntary and non-legislative approach to encourage closer multi-agency working, this proposal seeks to mirror arrangements already in place in Scotland and London.

The consultation on these plans is open until Tuesday 28 May and can be accessed [here](#).

15. In the coming months, a new Youth Charter will be developed by the government, working alongside youth sector organisations and young people, to set out a vision for young people over the next generation and beyond. The charter will reaffirm the government's commitment to give young people a strong voice on the issues they care about such as combating serious violence and knife crime, addressing mental and physical health challenges and concerns about the environment. The press release can be read [here](#).

### **Funding of children's services – HCLG Select Committee**

16. The Housing, Communities and Local Government Select Committee published its final report into funding for children's services. The Committee's recommendations include:
  - The 2019 Spending Review must reflect the increased demand and pressures on local authority children's services. At a minimum, core grant funding up until 2025 should increase by £3.1 billion to address short-term pressures
  - In the longer term, a specific children's services funding formula to make the distribution of funding fairer is needed
  - Where new initiatives or ways of working funded by the DfE's Innovation Programme have achieved success these initiatives should be systematically rolled out across the country with appropriate long-term support and resource
  - Government departments should pool funding and expertise when designing additional funding pots. The application and administration of one-off grant funding should be reviewed by the end of the year to ensure unreasonable burdens are not placed on LAs
  - The government must announce a successor to the Troubled Families Programme in advance of the 2019 Spending Review to provide LAs with certainty over long-term funding streams beyond 2020
  - The government should evaluate its process for understanding the financial burden of new statutory duties and consider how it could be made more accurate
  - The government should provide funding to councils proportionate to the number of children within NRPF families that they support, potentially via the introduction of a day rate payment.
  - The government should report to the Committee by the end of the year on whether there is scope to reduce demand for care nationally, if not then local government must be appropriately funded

Read the full report [here](#).

### **Online Harms White Paper**

17. The government published its new Online Harms White Paper, which sets out a programme of action to tackle content and/or activities that harms individuals, particularly children, and our way of life here in the UK. Plans include a new statutory duty of care on companies to take more responsibility for the safety of their users and tackle harm caused by content or activity on their services as well as a new regulator.

A consultation on the draft plans is open until 1 July and views are being sought on a range of measures and proposals. Respondents are also asked what more can be done to help people manage their children's online safety and what, if any, role should the regulator have in relation to education and awareness activity? Full details can be found [here](#).

### **Changes to ILACS framework**

18. Ofsted has now updated its ILACS framework, changes include the option for the set-up discussions before a full ILACS (short or standard) to take place face-to-face, alignment of child-level lists with other local authority data submissions and some other amendments to existing Annex A items. These changes will apply to inspections that take place from 22 April onwards. Full details can be accessed [here](#).

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Largely taken from the DfE website 19 February 2019 to 07 May 2019.