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**DfE Changes – Update June 2018 – August 2018**

**Public Spending on Children in England: 2000 to 2020**

1. The Children's Commissioner has published a report on public spending on children from 2000 to 2020, produced by the Institute for Fiscal Studies. Highlights include:
  - Spending per head on local authority-delivered children's services is due to fall by about 20% in real-terms between 2009–10 and 2019–20, taking it back to 2005-6 levels
  - Overall education spending increased considerably during the 2000s and it has been largely protected since 2010. However, this disguises sharp cuts to funding for 16-18 education of around 17% since 2009–10. In real terms, sixth form and further education spending per student will be at the same level in 2019–20 as it was in 1989–90
  - There are growing pressures on 'high needs' education budgets, as more children than ever are now attending specialist high-needs institutions. The numbers of pupils in maintained special schools increased by 25% between 2007 and 2017, far outstripping overall pupil growth and putting pressure on overall schools funding. The increase is largely driven by a huge rise in the numbers of children with autism in maintained special schools (up nearly 60% between 2012 and 2017)
  - Total benefits spending per child will fall by 17% between 2009–10 and 2019–20, returning to 2006–07 levels, due to steep cuts since 2010 in the amount of benefits for working age households with children. Excluding housing benefit, which is not paid directly to families, the fall in total benefits spending per child is 20% between 2009–10 and 2019–20
  - Low-income families with children saw income reductions of around 6-7% between 2010 and 2015 as a result of tax and benefit changes. Changes coming into effect after 2015, such as cuts to Universal Credit, will further reduce the incomes of the poorest families with children by up to 15%
  - The rate of child poverty today is roughly double the rate of pensioner poverty.
2. The full report can be downloaded [here](#).

**30 hours childcare to be extended to foster carers**

3. Foster parents will have access to the government's 30 hours 'free' childcare offer for three-and-four-year-olds from September 2018, giving them the same

rights as other working families in England. The eligibility of children in foster care will be determined by the responsible local authority, as criteria for accessing the additional hours include that it must be consistent with the child's care plan, and that parent(s) hold additional employment outside of their role as a foster carer. Statutory and operational guidance documents have been updated and can be accessed [here](#).

### **Gender separation in mixed schools**

4. The DfE recently published a short, non-statutory guidance document for leaders and governors of mixed schools (maintained, academies and other independent) on the considerations to take into account when separating classes by gender. The guidance can be found [here](#).

### **Relationships education**

5. The DfE has published its response to an earlier consultation on updates to relationships education alongside an updated version of draft guidance for schools. Respondents to the earlier consultation supported the inclusion of mental and physical health messages alongside those on relationships, sex and consent so the guidance takes a wider view.
6. The consultation on the draft statutory guidance is open until 7 November 2018 and, along with all related documents, can be accessed [here](#).

### **Academies Update**

7. Number in Wiltshire at the beginning of August 2018:

Sponsored academies	23
Non-sponsored converter academies	70

8. New academies in this period:

Wilton & Barford CofE Primary
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### **Working together to safeguard children**

9. The DfE has published revised *Working Together* guidance which sets new legal requirements for the three safeguarding partners, who will be required to make joint safeguarding decisions to meet the needs of local children and families. Senior police, council and health leaders will jointly be responsible for setting out local plans to keep children safe and will be accountable for how well agencies work together to protect children from abuse and neglect.
10. The new advice is aimed at all professionals who come in to contact with children and families and includes guidance on current threats to child protection, such as sexual and criminal exploitation, gangs and radicalisation.
11. The revised Working Together 2018 version, transitional arrangements, statutory framework, and introductory letters from DfE and the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel can be accessed [here](#).

12. The Government has also announced 17 areas of the country as 'early adopters', which will work with the National Children's Bureau to implement the new local safeguarding arrangements before they are established across the rest of the country. Wiltshire's bid to be an early adopter has been successful, and the LA will develop approaches to set up multi-agency safeguarding processes and produce clear learning which can be shared across other areas.

### **Disqualification by association**

13. The DfE has published revised statutory guidance for local authorities, maintained schools, academies and free schools relating to disqualification under the Childcare Act 2006. The new guidance removes disqualification by association for individuals working in childcare in non-domestic settings (e.g. schools and nurseries), where other safeguarding measures are observed and followed. The disqualification by association will continue to apply for individuals providing and working in childcare in domestic settings (e.g. where childcare is provided in a childminder's home). The revised guidance will come into force on 31 August 2018 and can be accessed [here](#).
14. The DfE has also published the outcome following the consultation on amending the childcare disqualification arrangements, which can be read [here](#).

### **Information sharing advice for safeguarding practitioners**

15. The DfE has published updated practice guidance on information sharing for people who provide safeguarding services to children, young people, parents and carers. This guidance has been updated to reflect the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and Data Protection Act 2018, and it supersedes the HM Government *Information sharing: guidance for practitioners and managers* published in March 2015. The guidance can be found [here](#).

### **Reporting a serious child safeguarding incident**

16. Ofsted has published guidance on how local authorities should report a serious incident of child abuse or neglect, or the death of a child who is looked after. From 29 June 2018, local authorities in England must notify the national Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel within 5 working days of becoming aware of a serious incident. Full details, including the online notification form, can be accessed [here](#).

### **Social Work England: secondary legislative framework and announcement of new Chief Executive Officer**

17. The DfE and Department of Health and Social Care have published the government response to the public consultation on the regulatory framework for Social Work England, and announced the appointment of Colum Conway as Social Work England's CEO.

18. Respondents supported the majority of proposals, which have been further refined following consideration of the consultation feedback. The full response can be found [here](#).
19. Subject to parliamentary approval, the regulations will come into force when Social Work England takes over the regulation of social workers in England from the Health and Care Professions Council, not before Spring 2019.

### **Family and friends care**

20. The DfE is seeking views on revisions made to this statutory guidance to include asylum seeking children being brought to the UK under the Dublin III Regulation to join family or relatives. The proposals can be found [here](#).
21. The revisions are intended to provide clarity and support to local authorities in fulfilling their role where children are being brought to the UK under the Dublin III Regulation. The consultation closed on 4 July. The results of the consultation and the Department's response will be published in summer 2018.

### **Placing a child aged under 13 in a Secure Children's Home**

22. The DfE has updated its guidance for local authorities on when it is appropriate and how to go about placing a child under 13 in a secure children's home to now include what documentation the DfE needs, out-of-hours applications, secure placements under the 72-hour rule and how the DfE inform LAs of their decision. The full process can be found [here](#).

### **Grant funding for Virtual School Head role for previously looked after children**

23. The Children and Social Work Act 2017 amended the Children Act 1989 to introduce a new duty on local authorities to promote the education of certain previously looked-after children. This duty comes into force on 1 September 2018. To support the implementation of virtual school heads' new role for previously looked-after children, the DfE is providing £7.6 million per year additional funding to local authorities until 2020. This funding will be provided via a grant under Section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003. Details of funding for 2018-19, including individual local councils' allocations, are now available and can be accessed [here](#). Wiltshire will be awarded £37,794.79.

### **Bursary for care leaver apprentices**

24. The DfE has published updates to the apprenticeships funding policy, including a change to the funding for care leavers who start apprenticeships.
25. To help care leavers overcome the extra barriers they often experience, the DfE is introducing a £1,000 bursary payment to support care leavers aged 16-24 starting an apprenticeship, paid via their training provider. This came into effect on 1 August 2018. Details can be accessed [here](#).

### **Stability Index 2018**

26. The Children's Commissioner has published the Stability Index 2018, which measures and reports on the levels of stability experienced by children in care. The 2018 update provides the latest measures of placement, school and

social worker stability experienced by children in care in 2016/17. It also contains a number of developments over last year's report, and it features significantly improved data on social worker stability, based on returns from local authorities. The report is available to download [here](#).

### **Secure schools**

27. The Ministry of Justice has published a draft 'how to apply guide' for secure schools and is inviting comments on this document and the proposed approach. The Taylor Review of the youth justice system recommended the creation of secure schools, and the MoJ is proposing these new schools will be dual registered as both a 16 to 19 academy and a secure children's home. The draft can be accessed [here](#).

### **Children and adolescent mental health services**

28. The government has published its response to the *Transforming Children and Young People's Mental Health Provision: a Green Paper and Next Steps* consultation. Over 2,700 responses were received after a 13-week consultation. There was support for the overall aim of the proposals, including better joining up between health and education and providing earlier support in or near schools and colleges, and a greater focus on improving access to NHS services for those who need specialist support. The government plans to roll-out their new approach to at least a fifth to a quarter of the country by the end of 2022/23. The full outcome can be found [here](#).

29. The government has also published its response to the report from the Education and Health and Social Care Select Committees following their joint inquiry into *Transforming Children and Young People's Mental Health Provision: a Green Paper and Next Steps*, which can be accessed [here](#).

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