

Wiltshire Council

Children's Select Committee

21 January 2020

DfE Changes – Update November 2019 – December 2019.

Queen's Speech December 2019

1. On Thursday 19 December the Queen's Speech set out the government's legislative agenda for the parliamentary session ahead. Below is a summary of points relating to children's services:
 - A commitment of an additional £1 billion for adults and children's social care in every year of this Parliament alongside plans to reform adult social care
 - In line with previous announcements, schools will receive an extra £14 billion over three years
 - Other education-related announcements include increasing teachers' starting pay to £30,000 by September 2022; an extension of the free schools programme; the lifting of the exemption for outstanding schools from Ofsted inspection; investment in primary school PE teaching and the FE estate alongside additional investment in T Levels, which are due to launch in September 2020
 - A 'National Skills Fund' worth £3 billion over the course of this Parliament will be set up and 20 Institutes of Technology will be established across England, which will bring together FE colleges, universities and employers to focus in key sectors such as construction and engineering
 - An additional £1 billion of funding for schools and childcare providers to help create more high quality, affordable childcare, including before and after school and during the holidays
 - The rolling forward of knife crime prevention orders and a new duty on public bodies to put in place plans to prevent and reduce serious violence within their communities via the Serious Violence Bill
 - The Domestic Abuse Bill will return and continue its passage through Parliament
2. The full speech can be found [here](#) and an associated document containing a background briefing can be found [here](#).

Provisional local government finance settlement: England, 2020 to 2021

3. The provisional local government finance settlement was announced on 20 December, confirming Local authorities across England will receive a share of £49.1 billion local government funding for the coming financial year, including an extra £1.5 billion for social care. The final 2020 to 2021 settlement will be

laid before the House of Commons in early 2020. The full collection of documentation relating to this can be accessed [here](#).

4. It also includes the consultation document, which outlines the government's approach in allocating funding for the local government finance settlement and seeks views by 17 January 2020. This can be found [here](#).

Early years funding 2020/21

5. The DfE has published details of the early years funding rates paid to local authorities for two, three and four year old places for 2020/21. The government had previously announced a minimum of an £0.08 rise per child per hour for 2020/21.
6. The provisional early years block settlement for Wiltshire is £26.884m, which is an £0.474m increase on the 19/20 financial year. This includes an additional £0.08 on both the 2 year old and 3 and 4 year old entitlement (the minimum), meaning Wiltshire has remained on the funding floor for the early years national funding formula. The new 2 year old rate is £5.40/hour and the 3 and 4 year old rate £4.38/hour.
Full details can be found [here](#).

Consultation: Early years foundation stage reforms

7. This consultation is seeking views on proposed changes to the statutory framework for the early years foundation stage. This consultation seeks views on:
 - proposed revisions to the educational programmes
 - proposed revisions to the early learning goals
 - proposed changes to the assessment and moderation process for the early years foundation stage profile
 - a proposed change to the safeguarding and welfare requirements to promote good oral health.
8. The consultation closes on 31 January 2020 and can be accessed [here](#).

Implementing mandatory minimum per pupil funding levels

9. The consultation on the implementation of the mandatory minimum per pupil funding levels has closed and the government has now released the summary of responses received, along with outlining the next steps.
10. The minimum per pupil funding levels of £3,750 per Primary pupil and £5,000 per Secondary pupil has been approved and will be implemented in every local authority in the 2020/21 financial year.
11. The government has also confirmed a commitment to consider carefully for future years the impact that the minimum per pupil levels could have on local authorities' ability to target funding for additional needs and the related

disincentives this may create for mainstream schools to take on pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

12. The full outcome report can be accessed [here](#).

Academies Update

13. Number in Wiltshire at the end of December 2019:

Academies	105
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14. New academies in this period:

Ludwell Primary School
Winsley Church of England VC Primary School

School and college security

15. The DfE has published new guidance for school leaders to help them manage school and college security. The guidance includes practical advice on policies and plans and sets out relevant legislation and can be found [here](#).

16. The publication of this new guidance follows on from a consultation in autumn 2018 on draft guidance. The outcome of that exercise and the DfE's response to it has also been published [here](#).

Extension of national Trial to extend powers of SEND tribunal to 31 August 2020

17. The DfE has written to all DCSs to advise that the national Trial to extend the powers of the SEND Tribunal to hear appeals and make non-binding decisions about health and social care aspects of EHC plans has been extended until 31 August 2020. This was due to end on 31 March 2020. A copy of the letter can be found [here](#).

Rights of young people with learning disabilities and/or autism

18. A parliamentary select committee has published the findings and recommendations into a recent inquiry into the rights of young people with learning disabilities and/or autism which found that those staying in mental health hospitals frequently have their human rights breached and set out a series of recommendations. These include: an overhaul of mental health law; significant changes in inspections; greater involvement of families in decision making; and, the establishment of a Number 10 unit to safeguarding young people's rights. The full report can be accessed [here](#).

New support for young people leaving care announced

19. Education Secretary Gavin Williamson has announced new cross-government support available to young people leaving the care system, alongside £19

million of investment into programmes that directly benefit care leavers, including:

- the extension of the Adoption Support Fund to 2021
- £10 million to expand Staying Put
- £6 million in 2021/22 to roll out Staying Close
- £3 million to extend the Pupil Premium Plus to all 16-18 year old care leavers
- £650,000 investment into Regional Adoption Agencies to coordinate work to find more adopters across the country, especially for harder to place children.

20. The press release on funding for adoptive families can be found [here](#) and on support for children and young people leaving care [here](#).

Social care questionnaire 2019

21. Ofsted has published the results of its social care questionnaire 2019 to capture the views of children and young people about their experiences of living in their respective settings, including children's homes, boarding schools and living with foster carers. This is the fifth year Ofsted has published this report and the findings from the questionnaire contribute towards Ofsted's decisions about when to inspect and how to focus inspections. The full response can be found [here](#).

Support for survivors of domestic abuse

22. As outlined in the Queen's Speech, the government intends to amend the landmark Domestic Abuse Bill to include, for the first time, a statutory duty on councils to provide support. The press release can be found [here](#).

23. Ahead of this new duty coming into force, the government has also announced a further £15 million in funding to run these essential services in 2020 to 2021. The fund is open to all local authorities in England to bid for a share. The funding will not be ringfenced but will be paid as a section 31 grant to successful local authorities. Guidance can be found [here](#).

The duty will then be funded from April 2021, subject to future spending review discussions.

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Largely taken from the DfE website 25 October 2019 – 31 December 2019.