

DfE Changes – Update October 2018 – December 2018.

Budget 2018

1. The Chancellor has delivered his Budget, which contained a number of announcements in relation to children's services, including:
 - An additional £410 million in 2019/20 for children's and adults social care
 - £84 million over the next five years for up to 20 LAs with high numbers of children in care
 - A one-off in-year "bonus" of £400m for schools (approx. £10,000 per primary and £50,000 per secondary school)
 - The NHS will invest up to £250 million a year by 2023/24 into new crisis services, including: 24/7 support via NHS 111; children and young people's crisis teams in every part of the country; comprehensive mental health support in every major A&E by 2023/24; more mental health specialist ambulances; and more community services such as crisis cafes. The NHS will also prioritise services for children and young people, with schools-based mental health support teams and specialist crisis teams for young people across the country
 - The amount that households with children, and people with disabilities can earn before their Universal Credit award begins to be withdrawn – the Work Allowance – will be increased by £1,000 from April 2019
 - £200 million for a Youth Endowment Fund (YEF) to help young people avoid a life of violence. The YEF will fund activities for 10 to 14 year olds in England and Wales over at least 10 years, specifically working with those most at risk of youth violence to steer them away from becoming serious offenders.

The full Budget announcement can be found [here](#).

Public Services Performance tracker

2. The Institute for Government has published its latest public services performance tracker. The performance of nine public services were analysed, including children and young people's services and schools. Headlines include:

Children and young people's services:

- Day-to-day spend on children's social care in England has increased by 14% in real terms since 2009/10. However, real terms spend on wider children's services fell 7% over the same period due to cuts to discretionary services e.g. children's centres
- Demand has increased: initial contacts were up 19% between 2009/10 and 2015/16; section 47 inquiries have doubled since 2009; the numbers of children on CPPs has increased by 31%; the number of children in care has increased 13%; and, the number of repeat plans has also doubled since 2009/10

- Service quality, at least in child protection, has declined but only slightly, suggesting children's social care has become more efficient as local authorities have made efficiencies in staff spending and social workers have become more productive
- Spending cuts in children's services may prove to be a false economy.

Education and schools:

- Per pupil funding has risen in real terms in most years since 2009/10
- Over the last two years, per pupil funding has started to fall and schools have taken on new responsibilities - local authority spend on services for schools, such as educational psychologists and transport, has fallen by 55% in real terms and may be resulting in new financial pressures for schools
- The number of pupils in mainstream state schools has grown by 9% since 2009/10 and 2017/18, however, the number of teachers in secondary schools has fallen by 7%

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

Schools causing concern statutory guidance

3. The statutory guidance on local authorities' and regional schools commissioners' responsibilities relating to schools and PRUs causing concern has recently been updated.

This guidance describes how:

- Local authorities and RSCs will intervene in underperforming local authority maintained schools
 - RSCs will intervene in underperforming academies
 - RSCs will intervene in pupil referral units (PRUs) judged inadequate by Ofsted.
4. The update includes changes regarding accountability and roles in the schools system and can be accessed [here](#).

School organisation statutory guidance

5. The school organisation statutory guidance has been updated and replaced by two new documents. They describe opening, closing, or making school organisation changes to local-authority-maintained schools, and set out what schools and Local Authorities must do to comply with the law.
6. The newly issued guidance can be found [here](#).

Schools funding

7. The Schools Funding initial allocations for 2019/20 (Dedicated Schools Grant covering Schools, High Needs, Early Years and Central School Costs) are anticipated late December.
8. The government has announced that primary schools will receive an extra £320 million via the PE and Sport Premium as well as more support and guidance to help

make sure all children can swim confidently and know how to stay safe in and around water. This follows an earlier announcement by the Education Secretary about a cross-government school sport and activity action plan which will be launched in spring 2019. Details can be found [here](#).

School security: draft guidance

9. The government is proposing to publish new school security guidance to provide schools with information to help them to handle the range of security matters that they are most likely to face. This guidance sets out how schools can use the framework, described in the guidance, to introduce or update their security plans.
10. The consultation on the draft guidance is open until 18th February 2018 and can be accessed [here](#).

Response to Education Select Committee report on alternative provision

11. The DfE has published its response to recommendations laid out in the Education Select Committee's report *Forgotten children: alternative provision and the scandal of ever increasing exclusions*. Alternative provision is education for pupils who, because of exclusion, illness or other reasons, would not otherwise receive suitable education; education arranged by schools for pupils on a fixed-term exclusion; and pupils being directed by schools to off-site provision to improve their behaviour.
The full report can be accessed [here](#).

Academies Update

12. Number in Wiltshire at the beginning of December 2018:

Academies	94
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There are no new academies in this period.

Consultation on T-Level funding

13. T Levels are due to be introduced from the academic year 2020 to 2021. The DfE has launched a consultation on the distribution of T-Level funding from 2020/21 onward. This consultation sets out proposals for distributing this funding effectively between providers, building on the existing 16 to 19 funding arrangements.

The consultation can be found [here](#). The closing date for responses is 19 February 2019.

14. Guidance has also been introduced containing information about the new T Level study programmes, which can be found [here](#).

Ofsted Annual Report 2017/18 and changes to school inspections and

15. The 2017/18 Ofsted Annual Report has been published, The Annual Report looks at schools, early years, further education and skills and children's social care for the academic year 2017 to 2018, with findings based on inspection evidence from around 30,000 inspections of, and visits to, schools, colleges and providers of social care, early years and further education and skills. The full report can be accessed [here](#).

16. HM Chief Inspector, Amanda Spielman, has announced details of planned changes to the way Ofsted inspects schools, colleges, further education institutions and early years settings from September 2019.
17. In the future, the inspectorate will pay greater regard to what is taught in classrooms rather than exam results to better recognise the efforts of schools operating in challenging circumstances. A consultation on the draft framework is to be launched in January. Details of the announcement can be found [here](#).

National protocol on reducing criminalisation of looked-after children

18. The DfE has published guidance to help social care and criminal justice agencies keep children in care out of the criminal justice system. The protocol has been co-developed with leaders from children's social care, justice, police and health statutory and voluntary sectors. The protocol can be found [here](#).

Care Leavers Covenant launched

19. The Children's and Families Minister, Nadhim Zahawi, has launched the Care Leavers' Covenant. The Covenant commits to provide work-based opportunities to young people leaving the care system and every government department has signed up. It aims to create 10,000 work opportunities over the next ten years to help young people gain vital skills and experiences as they enter the jobs market. The signed covenant, including details of governments commitments, can be accessed [here](#).

Adoption Register Regulations

20. In July, the Department for Education (DfE) undertook a targeted consultation on the Adoption Register Regulations seeking views on whether approved prospective adopters should be able to view additional information on the Adoption Register. As a result of the responses received during the consultation period and previous feedback on this from the sector, it was decided that the regulations should be amended.
21. Approved prospective adopters can now see the following additional information about a child on the Register:
 - The child's first name
 - Any geographical considerations in placing the child
 - The health history of the child, and where available, the health history of the birth family.
22. The government hope that this will make the adoption process more efficient as approved prospective adopters will be able to rule themselves in or out of a particular match earlier, therefore improving experiences and the speed of matching, providing a better outcome for children on the Adoption Register. The amended regulations can be found [here](#).

Rough sleeping strategy

23. DfE is providing funding of £1,615,000 in 2018/19 and £3,230,000 in 2019/20 to the 47 local authorities that have the highest number of care leavers at risk of homelessness/ rough sleeping. This grant supports delivery of the government's rough sleeping strategy, and will enable local authorities to provide intensive support to care leavers at highest risk of homelessness/rough sleeping.
24. The funding will enable local authorities to employ one or more specialist Personal Advisers to support a small caseload of 5-10 care leavers who are judged to be at highest risk of homelessness/rough sleeping. Wiltshire has been awarded £23,750 of funding.

Full details can be found [here](#).

Child death review: statutory and operation guidance

25. The DHSC has published statutory and operational guidance 'Child Death Review' which outlines the framework which all practitioners involved in a review of a child's death should follow. The guidance sets out the full process that follows the death of a child who is normally resident in England and builds on the statutory requirements set out in [Working together to safeguard children](#). The framework will support local partners to work together more effectively to review the deaths of children in order to try to prevent deaths recurring by the same cause. The full guidance can be accessed [here](#).

TERENCE HERBERT
Corporate Director

Report author: Nicola McCann, EY Information and Co-ordination Manager, Children's Services. 06/12/2018

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