

26 July 2012

Coalition Changes – Update May to July 2012

Two-year-olds pre-school education offer

1. At the moment, all three and four year olds are eligible for 15 hours of free early education per week. A limited amount of two-year-olds from the most disadvantaged backgrounds are also supported with a larger number due to start receiving free pre-school education from 2013. The Deputy Prime Minister wants to see the programme rolling out early from this September. He has announced a series of new changes to childcare, including:
 - Early rollout of free pre-school education for two-year-olds in ten areas - these areas will trial the entitlement, with just under 1000 two-year-olds set to benefit from this September.
 - Greater flexibility for parents – the hours in which parents can bring in their children for their free place will be extended by two hours. Currently, parents are restricted by having to drop their children off no earlier than 8am and picking them up no later than 6pm. This will be extended to 7am - 7pm.
 - Giving parents the option to spread their free nursery place over two days rather than three. Under the current rules, hours have to be divided over a minimum of three days. This doesn't offer enough flexibility for parents who work part time, for example. Currently, many working parents are unable to take up all of the hours available to them because of this.
 - Revised statutory guidance making absolutely clear parents do not have to pay to access their child's free early education place - this follows concerns that some free nursery places are being made conditional on parents being able to make additional payments.

2. Sarah Teather, Minister for Children and Families, has launched a [consultation](#) which closes on 15 October calling for views on which two year olds should benefit. This is for the second phase of the roll out of free early education to around 40 per cent of two-year-old children to help prepare them for school and give them the best possible start in life which starts in September 2014.

Primary Curriculum

3. The draft [Programmes of Study](#) have been published which will be subject to an informal consultation so they can be widely discussed. The Department for Education will consider the public debate and re-draft the programmes before re-publishing them later in the year for formal consultation. The final programmes will be introduced in primary schools from September 2014.

School Funding Reform

4. The Secretary of State has announced the [final details](#) of the reform of the school revenue funding system. This confirms the arrangements to simplify the local funding system for 2013-14 and the new approach to high needs funding that will help to improve transparency, quality and choice for young people and their families. These new arrangements are intended to help to secure greater consistency and equivalence in how funding is distributed to schools.
5. A full review of Wiltshire's funding formula for schools has been carried out in order to be compliant with the new arrangements. Schools Forum considers the proposed formula on 13th July and schools will then be consulted during September. The consultation will incorporate an impact statement to show each school the likely impact of the revised formula on its funding. Roadshows have been arranged during September to provide further detail to head teachers and governing bodies on the proposed funding arrangements and the implications.

Priority School Building Programme

6. On 24 May 2012 the Secretary of State announced which schools will have their condition needs addressed through the Priority School Building Programme. Wiltshire has been successful with projects agreed for:
 - St Mary's C of E Infant School (joint application with St Peter's C of E Junior School)
 - St Peter's C of E Junior School (joint application with St Mary's C of E Infant School)
 - Wyvern College
7. Full details of how the programme is to be funded are yet to be provided to local authorities.

Academies Update

			Date opened
	Sponsored academies:		
1	The Wellington Academy	Salisbury	September 2009
2	Sarum Academy	Salisbury	September 2010

	Non-sponsored academies:		
3	Hardenhuish	Chippenham	September 2010
4	Lavington	Lavington	January 2011
5	South Wilts	Salisbury	January 2011
6	Bishop Wordsworth's	Salisbury	March 2011
7	Corsham Primary School	Corsham	April 2011
8	The Corsham School	Corsham	April 2011
9	Sheldon School	Chippenham	April 2011
10	Pewsey Vale	Pewsey	July 2011
11	Wootton Bassett	Wootton Bassett	July 2011
12	Kingdown School	Warminster	August 2011
13	St Laurence	Bradford on Avon	August 2011
14	Malmesbury	Malmesbury	August 2011
15	The Holy Trinity School	Great Cheverell	September 2011
16	Saint Edmund's Catholic Academy	Calne	September 2011
17	St Joseph's Catholic Primary School	Devizes	September 2011
18	St Augustine's Catholic School	Trowbridge	September 2011
19	Springfields School	Calne	September 2011
20	The John Bentley	Calne	November 2011
21	St Edmunds CE Girls School	Salisbury	February 2012
22	The John of Gaunt School	Trowbridge	April 2012
23	The Mead Academy Trust	Trowbridge	May 2012
24	Holy Trinity School,	Calne	May 2012
25	By Brook Valley Primary	Nr Chippenham	May 2012
26	Woodford Valley	Nr Salisbury	June 2012

Child performance regulations

8. The requirements for licensing under-16s to take part safely in public performances – including television, radio, films or stage – have not been

reformed since 1968. The [key proposals](#) published for consultation today will:

- Make clear when a licence is required for a child to take part in a professional performance:

The following activities will require local authority licences. In addition, television and radio producers must abide by the Ofcom's robust Broadcasting Code, which covers all under-18s appearing in television and radio broadcasts:

- performing to a paying audience;
- performing in premises licensed to sell alcohol;
- public broadcast material – when children are placed in artificial situations, which have been contrived for artistic, editorial or dramatic effect. Programmes which may be billed or presented as 'observational' or 'factual' but where the experience of the child is contrived for dramatic effect will require licensing. The final decision will rest with the local authority;
- paid modelling, including advertising and stills photography; and
- aged under-13 and paid to compete and perform in recognised sports – over and above reasonable expenses. Individual sports governing bodies will be in charge of overseeing over-13s in line with the national Standards for Safeguarding and Protecting Children in Sport, jointly funded by Sport England and the NSPCC.

The following will be exempt:

- where the performance is arranged by a school or Academy, including those outside the school premises accompanied by a teacher;
- where participation in the activity poses no greater risks, than the risks they face in ordinary course of their life and the child is not being paid;
- where it involves the creation of content generated by a child or their parent, where there is no plan to upload or share it for profit;
- where a child is aged 13 or over, is not paid, and the specific performance has been granted a local authority Body of Persons approval;
- where a producer holds a current amateur performance registration and the child is not being paid to participate; and
- unplanned performances, for example unpaid auditions, where it would not be practicable for a licence to be obtained in advance. "Auditions" which are recorded and broadcast would required be licensed.

Munro: Child protection reforms update

9. Professor Munro has published [The Progress Report: moving towards a child centred system](#) outlining her view of progress since her report on changes needed to Child Protection.
10. She notes that a “culture change” is underway in the child protection system but outlined an urgent need to now accelerate reforms to create a more child-centred system. She said reforms had reached a “watershed moment” but, while progress is moving in the right direction, it now needs to move faster with more prescription and bureaucracy stripped away so social workers are able to focus on giving children and young people the help they need. The report calls for faster progress in the following areas:
 - A reduction in statutory guidance so that there is more scope for professional and local autonomy. There has been a delay in implementing these changes, due to the need for proper public consultation. Once this has been removed services should be better placed to work together to offer improved early help.
 - The Government needs to encourage better understanding between services as reforms take place in health and policing.
 - The importance of implementing all the proposed reforms together in full. Implementing these reforms as a whole will give professionals the scope and skills they require to better protect children.

Child Protection

11. The Government published its [plans](#) to overhaul the child protection system reducing hundreds of pages of instruction manuals with shorter guidance and checklists listing roles and responsibilities.
12. Ministers want to create a culture that places trust in health professionals, teachers, early year’s professionals, youth workers, police and social workers, so they can get on with their work, without being hampered by unnecessary rules and targets. The consultation closes on 4 September and is calling for views on the following:
 - Radically reduced guidance that clearly states the law so all organisations know what they and others must do to protect children. It does not tell professionals how to do their job, but provides a checklist setting out their duties.
 - New guidance on undertaking assessments of children in need. The guidance proposes to replace nationally prescribed timescales for assessments with a more flexible approach focused on the needs of each child.
 - New guidance on Serious Case Reviews (SCRs) to help all services properly learn the lessons from them. The guidance proposes changes so SCRs get to the heart of what happened in a particular case and

why, and set out what improvements need to be made to help prevent recurrence.

13. The government has also published its [children's safeguarding performance information framework](#) that describes the local and national information that should be used by local agencies as well as Local Safeguarding Children Boards and Health and Wellbeing Boards. It includes key nationally collected data and the questions that should be asked at a local level to understand the impact and effectiveness of safeguarding children.

Sexual exploitation

14. Urgent reforms to protect children in residential care homes from sexual exploitation and to overhaul the wider system have been announced by Children's Minister Tim Loughton. The measures include more robust checks before children are placed in homes outside their home boroughs; overhauling the quality and transparency of data so there is a clear picture of children who go missing from care; and reviewing all aspects of the quality and effectiveness of children's homes – including their management, ownership and staffing.
15. The Government has also published a [progress report](#) on the national Tackling Child Sexual Exploitation Action Plan published in November 2011 and 'step-by-step' guidance for frontline staff – which sets out ongoing work with the courts, police and social services to prosecute and jail abusers; protect young people at risk; and help victims of these appalling crimes get their lives back on track.
16. This action comes after a report published today by the Deputy Children's Commissioner Sue Berelowitz on emerging findings from her ongoing Child Sexual Exploitation in Gangs and Groups inquiry, including recommendations on specific risks facing looked-after children living in care homes. Her report finds growing evidence that children in care are particularly vulnerable to child sexual exploitation – with a disproportionate number being groomed or sexually exploited, although the majority of known victims are outside the care system. Her interim report with fuller findings will be published in September and her final report in autumn 2013.

Support for families

17. The Prime Minister outlined that the [support](#) being offered to parents will include:
 - a. a brand new digital service for parents-to-be and new parents, providing regular emails and texts with timely information as their

- pregnancy develops and their child grows. Parents will be invited to sign up to this new service at booking appointments with midwives.
- b. free parenting classes to all parents of children aged five years and under in three trial areas. Middlesbrough, High Peak in Derbyshire and Camden in London.
 - c. expert organisations to deliver relationship support for first time parents in four trial areas of the country from this summer. A trial starting in July will offer subsidised relationship support sessions for all expectant mothers and fathers and those with children up to the age of two in the trial areas - York and Leeds, North Essex, Hackney and City of London, Islington and Westminster.

Adoption

18. The Prime Minister has announced plans to reduce radically the time it takes for a baby to move in with their permanent family. The policy paper, **'Proposals for placing babies with permanent carers earlier'**, details how the Government intends to give local authorities a duty to consider placing a child with foster carers who are likely to become their permanent carers.
19. At present, when a local authority has decided that adoption is the best option for a child, many of them wait for a placement order to be granted by the courts before they place the child with adoptive parents, meaning that it takes an average of 21 months from entering care to moving in with a new family. While the court is considering the application the local authority can place the child with foster parents, who will also be considered as potential adoptive parents. This will mean that if the placement order is made, the child will not need to move to new carers. It does not pre-empt a court's decision about whether adoption is the right decision for the child.

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