
DfE Changes – Update December 2018 – February 2019.

Ofsted 2017/18 Annual Report

1. HMCI published her second annual report. Key findings include:
 - The report states that improvement in LA performance should be acknowledged because there often appears to be a public perception that LAs are failing children. The proportion of LAs judged good or outstanding has increased from 36% to 42% and the proportion of LAs judged inadequate fell from 22% to 13% following the introduction of the ILACS
 - In January 2018, there were 1.3 million pupils with SEND (15% of all pupils). Of these, 250,000 pupils had a statement of SEN or an EHCP and around 1 million pupils were on SEN support. Both groups have increased in number since January 2017. 93% of pupils with SEN support are in mainstream schools, whereas 46% of pupils with a statement or EHCP attend a special school
 - The report highlights a lack of co-ordinated 0 – 25 strategies and poor post-19 provision whilst noting the quality of EHCPs remains variable. Critically, the gap in performance and outcomes for children and young people with SEND is widening between the best and worst performing local areas
 - 86% of schools were good or outstanding at their last inspection, however, 500 or so schools have been stuck in a cycle of poor performance since 2005. 36% of schools are now academies or free schools (seven out of 10 secondaries and three out of 10 primaries). There are now over 1,100 trusts
 - A recent analysis by Ofsted found around 19,000 pupils did not progress from Year 10 to Year 11 in the same secondary school, 9,700 of this number did not reappear elsewhere (this equates to 4% of Year 10 pupils). They also identified 300 schools with particularly high levels of movement raising concerns about 'off rolling'
 - There are almost 3,000 social care providers, 84% of whom good or outstanding, however, the performance of secure training centres continues to be a serious concern. The number of fostering households continues to decline (43,710 in March 2017 down from 44,320 in 2016). The proportion of young people staying with their foster carers past their 18th birthday fell by 8%
 - 77 new children's homes opened in the last year, an increase of 4%. While the total number of children's homes in England continues to increase, the number of LA children's homes has fallen from 26% in 2012 to 18% in 2018 and 43 LAs (28%) no longer own any children's homes.

2. The full report can be read [here](#)

National funding formula tables for schools, early years and high needs: 2019 to 2020

3. The DfE has issued the revenue funding settlement for schools. The tables cover the updated national funding formulae (NFF) allocations for 2019 to 2020 and the fully implemented NFF. The full settlement details can be accessed [here](#).
4. The provisional Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) allocation for Wiltshire Council is £351.646m and covers spend on Schools, Central School Services, High Needs and Early Years areas. This is an increase of £9.148m compared with 2018-19. The increase reflects the impact of the funding uplift for the national funding formula (NFF) and the overall increase in the numbers of pupils, for the Schools, Central and High Needs Blocks. The Early Years block remains at 18/19 allocation levels until the January 2019 census data is available.
5. The High Needs block funds children and young people with Education Health & Care Plans (EHCPs) and has been allocated as per the baselines notified to local authorities in September 2018. These baselines are calculated according to the national funding formula for high needs, 50% of which is allocated according to historic spend. Historically, Wiltshire was a low spender and therefore the allocation base does not reflect current service levels and spending patterns. The funding includes the additional £1.128m awarded to Wiltshire as part of the '*new funding to support children with Special Educational Needs*' announced on the 16th December 2018.
6. The national funding rate for Early Years providers is unchanged for 2019/20 despite inflation pressures. Due to parental preference, take up levels have averaged 96% for the past three years which means that payments to providers for 3- and 4-year olds can be increased to £4.20 per hour whilst the £5.32 funding received for 2-year olds remains unchanged and is passported direct to providers.

Childcare and early years survey of parents: 2018

7. The government has released official findings from the January 2018 to August 2018 survey of parents with children aged 0 to 14. It covers parents' use of childcare and early years provision, and their views and experiences, including: overall usage of childcare providers; receipt of the funded 15 hours and 30 hours of childcare a week, parents' perceptions of the quality and availability of childcare provision; the cost of childcare and perceptions of affordability; and factors influencing maternal employment decisions. Key headlines include:
Overall, in 2018, 75% of families in England with children aged 0 to 14 had used some form of childcare; 41% parents rated the affordability of local childcare as very or fairly good; 52% of parents who paid for childcare said it was easy or very easy to meet their childcare costs; 70% of mothers with children aged 0-14 were in work in 2018.
8. The full findings can be accessed [here](#).

Life-saving skills in school

9. The Education Secretary has underlined the importance of every child having the chance to learn life-saving skills under plans for health education to become compulsory in every school by 2020. Under the proposed new guidance, by the end of secondary school pupils will be taught how to administer CPR, the purpose of defibrillators, and basic treatments for common injuries. The proposals are part of the Department for Education's plans to strengthen teaching of health, sex and relationships education. Further information can be found [here](#).

Consultation on out-of-school settings

10. The DfE has launched a consultation on a draft voluntary safeguarding code of practice for out-of-school settings. Examples of OOSS providers include ballet classes, gymnastic training, sports tuition, instrumental music tuition, martial arts training, drama classes, the Scouts and Guides, and religious settings which offer education in their own faith. The sector is currently not regulated by education and childcare law, meaning out-of-school settings providers are not subject to the same safeguarding regulation as registered schools or childcare settings.
11. The draft consists of a code for providers and guidance for parents and carers. The consultation runs for 12 weeks closing on 24 February 2019, and can be accessed [here](#).

Introduction of T Levels

12. T Levels are due to be introduced from the academic year 2020 to 2021. Guidance has been updated with information on how T levels fit with other post-GCSE choices, the structure, funding and grading, and a new section on industry placements, and can be accessed [here](#). The T Level Action Plan has also been refreshed and can be accessed [here](#)

Academies Update

13. Number in Wiltshire at the beginning of February 2019:

Academies	94
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14. There are no new academies in this period.

Transport to education and training for people aged 16 to 18

15. Statutory guidance for local authorities on supplying transport for all post-16 students and students with SEND, older students and those in rural areas has been updated. The guidance now includes good practice suggestions and department compliance checks. A local authority transport policy template and section on sustainable transport have also been added. The updated guidance can be accessed [here](#).

SEND provision capital funding for pupils with EHC plans

16. In March 2017, the government committed £215 million of capital funding from 2018 to 2021 to help local authorities create new school places and improve existing facilities for children and young people with SEN and disabilities. In May 2018, a £50 million increase to this fund was announced and in December 2018 a further £100 million was granted, taking the total fund to £365 million. This has resulted in a £558,790 top-up to the Wiltshire allocation which has increased from £800,933 to £1,359,723.
17. This capital funding is not ring-fenced and can be used to improve special provision for children and young people with education, health and care (EHC) plans. Guidance can be found [here](#).

Autism strategy

18. The government has announced an extension of the review of its autism strategy to include children and young people as well as adults. The review will inform the new joint adults and children autism strategy to be published in autumn 2019 and will be looking at:

- Joining up health, care and education services to address autistic children's needs holistically
- Developing diagnostic services to diagnose autism earlier, in line with clinical guidance
- Improving the transition between children and adult services so that no young people miss out, and ending inappropriate reliance on inpatient hospital care
- Improving understanding of autism and all its profiles, including recently identified forms such as pathological demand avoidance (PDA).

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

Review of Children in Need – interim findings

20. The government has produced their interim findings on improving the educational outcomes of children in need of help and protection. The policy paper summarises the learning from the responses to a call for evidence, explains barriers to education faced by children in need of help and protection and outlines what is needed to improve their outcomes. It can be accessed [here](#).

21. The final part of the review will focus on identifying and addressing gaps and systemic barriers, and considering what more government can do to incentivise, equip and support practitioners through policy and guidance.

Safeguarding children affected by parental alcohol and drug use

22. Public Health England (PHE) has produced guidance for local authorities and substance misuse services to help them work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children affected by parental alcohol and drug use. The guidance can be found [here](#).

23. In conjunction with this, PHE is allocating £10.5 million of funding to LAs for projects and improving services to help improve the lives of adults and children impacted by alcohol. Funding consists of £4.5 million innovation fund for local projects working with children and families and £6 million capital fund to improve access to alcohol treatment in the community. PHE is announcing a call for bids for a share of the £6 million capital fund for LAs which can be used to improve services and facilities for people with alcohol problems. Successful projects will be announced in the spring and funding available from 2019 – 2020.

The £4.5 million innovation fund has been awarded by PHE to nine projects across the country in the following LAs: Swindon; Haringey; West Sussex; Brighton and Hove; Greater Manchester (Rochdale, Bolton, Bury, Salford and Trafford); Portsmouth; North Tyneside; Knowsley; St Helens.

24. The full press release can be found [here](#).

Consultation on draft handbooks launched

25. Ofsted has launched a consultation on its plans for regulating schools, early years and FE settings in the future. Changes to the inspection framework are proposed to come into force from September 2019. Some of the differences to the current framework for schools include:

- Maintained schools and academies waiting to be brokered or re-brokered will receive monitoring visits within nine months

- The quality of education will be assessed by looking at the intent, implementation and the impact of the school's curriculum, teaching and the outcomes achieved
- The new framework has a keen eye on gaming, exclusions and off-rolling as well as arrangements for pupils accessing off-site or alternative provision
- The safeguarding section has also been expanded to include information on the segregation of pupils whilst in school.

26. The consultation will be open until 5 April and can be accessed [here](#). Draft copies of the handbooks can be found [here](#).

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