

Wiltshire Council

Children's Select Committee

12 November 2019

DfE Changes – Update September 2019 – October 2019.

Spending Round 2019

1. A £13.8 billion increase on day to day spending in 2020/21 has been announced by the Chancellor. All departmental budgets will increase in 2020/21: the Department for Education's budget settlement is up 3.3%, Home Office's up 6.3%, Ministry of Justice's up 4.9%, Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government's up 2.7%, Department of Health and Social Care's up 3.1% and the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport's budget will rise by 4.1%.
2. Key children's services and local government announcements include:
 - Core local government spending power is estimated to increase by £2.9 billion in 2020/21, final figures will be published later this year as part of the local government financial settlement
 - An additional £54 million of funding for homelessness services in 2020/21
 - A real terms increase to the Public Health Grant budget, which will ensure local authorities can continue to provide prevention and public health interventions
 - £30 million to tackle the sexual exploitation of children online via increased law enforcement capabilities and investing in 'cutting edge technology'
 - £66 million to uplift the hourly rate paid to providers of 30-hours childcare offer
 - School funding up by £14.5 billion over three years, £2.6 billion of which will be added in 2020/21, £4.8 billion in year two and £7.1 billion in year three
 - The Chancellor provided a commitment that per pupil funding for all schools will rise in line with inflation going forward
 - Over £700 million, an uplift of 11%, will be allocated in 2020/21, to support learners with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)
 - £400 million for FE funding (£190 million core funding uplift, £210 million targeted towards the 'high cost interventions' e.g. introduction of T-Levels)
 - £1.5 billion for social care, which includes £0.5 billion raised via a council tax precept
 - DCMS will bring forward plans for a new Youth Investment Fund to boost the number of youth workers and pay for new youth centres and refurbishments of existing ones
 - Continued funding for the Troubles Families programme
3. The full spending round policy paper can be accessed [here](#).

National funding formula tables for schools and high needs: 2020 to 2021

4. Tables showing provisional allocations for the schools, high needs and central school services blocks from 2020 to 2021 have been published. For Wiltshire, this means:
5. School Funding – the provisional increase in baseline funding for primary and secondary schools is £15.819m (5.82%). Historically, Wiltshire has been the 7th lowest funded local authority in the Country for School Funding. Schools will welcome this additional funding although it will not address funding imbalances for the South West.
 - Minimum Funding Levels will be £3,750 for Primary and £5,000 for Secondary in 2020-21
 - Minimum Funding Level for primary schools to move to £4,000 from 2021-22
 - All schools to see an increase of at least 1.84% in funding
 - An increase in the NFF's core funding factors of 4% (factors included to be confirmed)
 - 2020-21 will be a soft year again. This means that whilst there will soon be a national funding formula which is not negotiable (a hard formula), currently there is room for local influence with soft formula rules in place. A change to the flexibility of soft rules for 20-21 is the stipulation of per pupil minimum funding levels of £3,750 and £5,000.
6. Funding for pupils with High Needs (SEND) - will increase by £4.442m (provisional DfE increase on Wiltshire's baseline). This funding covers all Wiltshire's Special Schools plus support provide to pupils with SEND in the mainstream sector as well as providing specialist services. Whilst this increase is welcome, the needs of children with special educational needs and disability far outstripped the previous levels of funding. Wiltshire has taken part in national lobbying, research programmes and data collections to provide evidence to the DfE which has paid dividends.
7. Early Years funding – the DfE have stated that “following the chancellor's recent announcement on early years funding, we can now also confirm we'll increase the hourly funding rates for all local authorities for the two-year-old entitlement and the vast majority of areas for the 3 and 4 year old entitlement.” Initial funding announcements have suggested an increase in the national pot of £66m which is welcome news.
8. The full breakdown can be accessed [here](#).

Consultation on changing the dedicated schools grant

9. The Department for Education is consulting on changing the conditions and regulations applying to the dedicated schools grant (DSG), to clarify that it is a ring-fenced specific grant, separate from the general funding of local authorities.

It will also clarify that local authorities are expected to carry forward any deficits they may have on their DSG accounts, and the deficit does not have to be covered by their general reserves.

The government will then make a decision on the proposed changes, in time to inform the setting of local authorities' budgets for the 2020 to 2021 financial year.

10. Subject to the outcome of consultation, the DfE propose that future arrangements for dealing with overspends will be worded as follows:
- the local authority must carry forward the whole of the overspend to the schools budget in future years;
 - the local authority may not fund any part of the overspend from its general resources, unless it applies for and receives permission from the Secretary of State to do so.
11. The consultation closes on 15th November and can be accessed [here](#)

Early years foundation stage reforms

12. This consultation is seeking views on proposed changes to the statutory framework for the early years foundation stage, including:
- 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.
13. The consultation closes on 31 January 2020 and can be accessed [here](#).

Schools causing concern

14. Statutory guidance on local authorities' and regional schools commissioners' responsibilities relating to schools and PRUs causing concern has been updated to reflect current policy, including: removal of references to coasting and floor standards; how the school support offer will work in 2019 to 2020; how LAs have a legal obligation to inform the department when they use their intervention powers; a new section on academies causing concern; information on financial intervention in academies; and Pupil Referral Unit intervention guidance. No new policy has been introduced that has not already been publicly announced. The updated guidance can be found [here](#).

Academies Update

15. Number in Wiltshire at the end of October 2019:

Academies	103
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16. New academies in this period:

Fitzmaurice Primary School

Sutton Benger Church of England Aided Primary School
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Online schools accreditation scheme consultation

17. The DfE has launched a consultation on proposals to establish a voluntary accreditation scheme and non-statutory standards for online schools. Online schools are currently unregulated. The Department for Education is looking at how children, parents and local authorities can be assured of quality education and appropriate safeguarding arrangements. The consultation also addresses inspection arrangements for online settings that wish to join the accreditation scheme.
18. The consultation is open until the 8th November and details can be found [here](#).

SEND review

19. The DfE has announced a review into support for children with SEND. The review aims to cover:
- the evidence on how the system can provide the highest quality support that enables children and young people with SEND to thrive and prepare for adulthood, including employment
 - how to better help parents make decisions about what kind of support will be best for their child
 - making sure support in different local areas is consistent, joined up across health, care and education services, and that high-quality health and education support is available across the country
 - how to strike the right balance of state-funded provision across inclusive mainstream and specialist places
 - aligning incentives and accountability for schools, colleges and local authorities to make sure they provide the best possible support for children and young people with SEND
 - understanding what is behind the rise in demand for education, health and care (EHC) plans and the role of specific health conditions in driving demand; and
 - ensuring that public money is spent in an efficient, effective and sustainable manner, placing a premium on securing high quality outcomes for those children and young people who need additional support the most.
20. The full press release can be found [here](#).

Review of statutory guidance on youth work

21. The DCMS has published a call for evidence into youth work as part of a review in respect of the guidance relating to Section 507B of *The Education and Inspections Act (2006)*, which sets government expectations of local authorities in securing services and activities for young people aged 13 to 19

years, and those with additional needs up to 24 years, with the purpose of improving wellbeing.

22. The current guidance was last reviewed in 2012. This exercise aims to focus attention on the positive role local authorities can play in the provision of youth services, and ensure the guidance is useful and accessible for those who need it most.
23. The closing date for this call for evidence is 30 November and can be accessed [here](#).

Support for victims of domestic abuse in safe accommodation

24. The government has published their response to the consultation on future delivery of support to victims and their children in accommodation-based domestic abuse services. The government intends to amend the Domestic Abuse Bill to include a statutory duty upon every council in England to provide survivors of domestic abuse access to support in safe accommodation from 2021. It also proposes the creation of a domestic abuse local partnership board in each area to work with the local authority in carrying out these functions. The full response can be accessed [here](#).
25. 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 duty will then be funded from April 2021, subject to future spending review discussions. The press release can be found [here](#).

Independent review of Prevent

26. An independent review of Prevent, that will critically examine and report on the government strategy for supporting people vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism is currently underway.
27. A call for evidence has been launched as part of the review. This is an open call for evidence, seeking views from a broad range of individuals who can offer insight into what Prevent means, experiences of Prevent delivery and how Prevent impacts individuals, communities and organisations.
28. The call is launched in the form of a survey, which can be accessed [here](#). The deadline for responses is 9 December 2019

First state of the nation report

29. The first state of the nation report looking at the mental health and wellbeing children and young people aged 10 - 14 has been published. Key findings include:
 - 94% of children felt happy with their family, 91.6% happy with their friends and 94.5% felt they had good or very good health

- Most young people are happy with their lives, with 82.9% reporting high or very high life satisfaction
- Age is a clear factor of wellbeing: being older was associated with lower wellbeing
- Young females were more likely to report that they were recently anxious than males
- Bullying had the strongest link to teenage girls' emotional wellbeing across adolescence, with seeing friends and getting enough sleep also rating highly
- There are marked gender differences with experiences of cyberbullying: females report higher rates than males
- Women report lower satisfaction with their leisure time than men
- Social media did not have a strong association with teenage girls' psychological health.

30. The full report can be accessed [here](#) and the accompanying press release [here](#).

Inspection of local authority children's services framework: implementation review

31. Ofsted has recently published a report evaluating the extent to which the inspection of local authority children's services (ILACS) framework has been implemented as intended. The key findings include:
- The ILACS framework provides a proportionate and efficient inspection system
 - The inspection system rigorously investigates the social work practice of local authorities
 - The judgements from standard and short inspections are sufficiently reliable
 - The inspection reports are clear yet concise
 - Further work is required to support inspection teams to make full use of new methods and processes, ensuring that all teams consistently adhere to the framework.

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

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Largely taken from the DfE website 01 September – 25 October 2019.