

POLICY DIGEST, July 2017

This digest presents a summary of the latest policy developments at a national and regional level of strategic relevance to Northumberland and highlights Government announcements of relevance to local government. This issue covers period from Monday 3 July to Friday 28 July. Previous and subsequent editions are available at www.northumberland.gov.uk/policy.

Policy Development	Action	Lead
PUBLIC SERVICE DELIVERY		
<p>Growing a stronger local democracy, from the ground up</p> <p>A cross-party Democracy Commission established by Kirklees Council has been investigating what a strong and healthy local democracy should look like – for the next generation and beyond. Its subsequent report is based on a year of evidence-gathering and debate, in which over 1,000 people participated. It includes ideas for working with active citizens, making the most of digital technologies and culture, suggestions about councillors, decision-making and elections, and how Councils can get local voices heard in regional devolution. It makes 48 recommendations that could help shape how both local and national democracy could develop over the next decade. The Commission believes the report represents a milestone in the story of local democracy.</p> <p>http://www.democracycommission.org.uk/growing-a-stronger-local-democracy-from-the-ground-up/</p>	For information	Alison Elsdon, Director of Corporate Resources
<p>Building financial resilience</p> <p>This CIPFA report calls on local government to be alert for five warning signs of financial stress and has set out how it can build resilience into plans and operations. The key symptoms of financial stress are: a rapid decline in reserves, as using these to avoid cuts will only provide temporary relief; failure to plan and deliver savings in service provision, so that councils are not living within their resources; shortening of medium-term financial planning, which could indicate a lack of strategic thinking and an unwillingness to confront tough decisions; firm objectives missing from savings plan, such as a tendency for over optimism in timing and scale of savings; and a tendency for unplanned overspends, creating the need for greater cuts in subsequent years. On this basis, CIPFA cites four essential factors need to be in place to secure financial resilience. These are: ensure the right financial management systems are working effectively and that senior managers and political leaders understand the financial strategy; use benchmarking data for costs,</p>	For information	Alison Elsdon, Director of Corporate Resources

<p>income and activity levels with similar authorities; create a single, consolidated, living document that tracks saving plans; and manage reserves effectively but avoid dipping into these to pay for services or postpone necessary cuts.</p> <p>http://www.cipfa.org/cipfa-thinks/insight</p>		
<p>Growing places: building local public services for the future</p> <p>This paper from the Local Government Association (LGA) sets out how local government stands ready to meet the challenges of a changing world - and lays out the resources and shifts in thinking that will be needed to make this happen.</p> <p>https://www.local.gov.uk/growing-places-building-local-public-services-future</p>	For information	
<p>Governing England: devolution and mayors in England</p> <p>This new report from the British Academy has found, following a series of roundtable meetings held by the British Academy with council leaders, policy makers and academics across the country widespread concerns over new metro mayors across England. The report suggests that greater clarity over the purpose of devolution within England could help overcome this resistance and lack of public enthusiasm. Another significant finding from the report is that devolution deals are far more likely to succeed in areas with a more coherent identity. Many attendees felt that the approach to devolution had been too inflexible and that a 'one size fits all' model should be avoided'. The report concludes that without strong public support for new combined authorities and metro mayors, it is difficult to assess how English devolution will succeed, especially following the mixed picture emerging from the General Election.</p> <p>http://www.britac.ac.uk/news/british-academy-study-reveals-scepticism-and-confusion-over-newly-elected-metro-mayors</p>	For information	Geoff Paul, Director of Planning and Economy
<p>Progress in setting up combined authorities</p> <p>This report from the National Audit Office confirms that for combined authorities to deliver real progress and not just be another 'curiosity of history' like other regional structures before them, they will need to demonstrate that they can both drive economic growth and also contribute to public sector reform. It also confirms that there is a logic to establishing strategic bodies designed to function across conurbations and sub-regional areas, and there is a clear purpose to establishing combined authorities especially in metropolitan areas, as economies and transport networks operate at a scale greater than individual local authority areas. However, the introduction of combined authorities has meant that inherently complex structures have been added to England's already complicated local government arrangements. The evidence that investment, decision-making and oversight at this sub national level is linked to improved local economic outcomes is mixed and inconclusive.</p> <p>https://www.nao.org.uk/report/progress-in-setting-up-combined-authorities/</p>	For information	Geoff Paul, Director of Planning and Economy
<p>A New Deal for Counties</p> <p>This report from the County Councils Network argues that Government should reshape its relationship with rural England and offer county areas a 'new deal'. This blueprint for the next five years sets out county areas' priorities over</p>	For information	Geoff Paul, Director of Planning and

<p>the next few years, urging the government work with counties and match their ambitions for powers and address their concerns over funding. County leaders have demanded that in the wake of the general election result the Conservative Government reach out to rural areas and deliver a 'fairer' deal for those communities; with a new and fairer funding package the central demand of the largest grouping of councils in England.</p> <p>http://www.countycouncilsnetwork.org.uk/counties-call-new-deal-following-general-election/</p>		Economy
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PLACE SHAPING		
<p>Government publishes £6.1 billion programme of upgrades to major roads and motorways (30 June 2017)</p> <p>Transport Minister Jesse Norman has unveiled a £6.1 billion programme of road improvements as part of the government's £23 billion upgrade to the road network in England. Road users will benefit from shorter journey times, reduced congestion and increased capacity on roads, creating better local connections and improved passenger journeys as a result of these projects. This includes the route for the new A19 Downhill Lane junction which will support the new international manufacturing park by significantly increasing road capacity, easing traffic and improving safety — as well as boosting the local economy. Upgrades include adding capacity to sections of the A1 in Northumberland. This shortens journey times, supports economic growth and improves access to and from the county. The announcements are important next steps to progress the schemes announced in the 2014 road investment strategy, which outlines how £15.2 billion will be invested in our strategic roads between 2015 and 2021.</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-publishes-61-billion-programme-of-upgrades-to-major-roads-and-motorways</p>	For information	Geoff Paul, Director of Planning and Economy
<p>£2.3 billion investment in infrastructure for new housing (4 July 2017)</p> <p>A £2.3 billion fund which could unlock 100,000 new homes in areas of high demand has been launched by the Communities Secretary, Sajid Javid. The new investment through the Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF) aims to solve this problem and opens for bids for local authorities across England to come forward with proposals to help get homes built faster. Funding will also be available to help build new schools, healthcare centres and digital infrastructure to accommodate growing communities and alleviate pressure on public services. Once proposals have been approved, it is expected that local authorities would begin building the necessary infrastructure immediately and for the homes to follow quickly afterwards. HIF is part of the government's wider £23 billion National Productivity Investment Fund, which targets spending on areas critical to boosting productivity, including on housing, transport and digital communications.</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/news/23-billion-investment-in-infrastructure-for-new-housing</p>	Officers to consider submitting an application	Paul Jones, Director of Local Services and Housing Delivery
<p>Government launches transport investment plan for Britain (5 July 2017)</p> <p>Local roads are set to benefit from a share in a multi-billion pound improvement fund as part of a landmark investment strategy unveiled by Transport Secretary Chris Grayling. The Transport investment strategy sets out a new long-term</p>	For information	Paul Jones, Director of Local Services and

<p>approach for government infrastructure spending — meaning cash will be targeted at projects that help rebalance the economy. And it features the proposed creation of a new major road network, which would see a share of the annual National Road Fund, funded by VED, given to local authorities to improve or replace the most important A roads under their management. The plans aim to improve productivity and connectivity of towns and cities across the country — tackling bottlenecks and traffic jams for road users, and taking away the misery of lorries and through-traffic thundering through rural villages on main roads. The scheme will also aim to help people get to work or school by better connecting towns and cities, unlock land for new homes, and improve business links — forming a crucial strand of the government’s strategy to rebalance the economy by ensuring wealth is spread across the UK and not just concentrated in the south-east of England.</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-launches-transport-investment-plan-for-britain</p>		Housing Delivery
<p>Huge economic boost for the north of England as Transport Secretary confirms HS2 routes (17 July 2017)</p> <p>Transport Secretary Chris Grayling has confirmed Britain’s high speed rail lines to the north-west, East Midlands and Yorkshire. The decision will mean new connections between Birmingham, Manchester, Liverpool, Leeds, Sheffield and the East Midlands – with all of them being linked to London by the line. It is set to bring a massive economic boost for the north and the Midlands by increasing productivity and creating new business opportunities. And the new line will free up thousands of extra seats and additional services on local lines. New research shows the impact of HS2 could more than double rush hour seats from Manchester Piccadilly towards Stoke and Crewe; and from Leeds towards Wakefield. It could also almost double peak seats from London to Peterborough and east coast destinations further north. Today’s announcement will mean journeys from Birmingham to Manchester in 40 minutes – a trip that takes more than 80 minutes on services currently. By providing new routes for intercity services, HS2 will free-up space on our existing railways for new commuter, regional and freight services, taking lorries off our roads.</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/news/huge-economic-boost-for-the-north-of-england-as-transport-secretary-confirms-hs2-routes</p>	For information	
<p>Tackling unfair practices in the leasehold market (25 July 2017)</p> <p>The government’s Housing White Paper ‘Fixing our broken housing market’ published in February 2017 highlighted the government’s aim to improve consumer choice and fairness in the leasehold sector. This consultation looks at a range of measures to tackle unfair and unreasonable abuses of leasehold; in particular the sale of new leasehold houses and onerous ground rents. The consultation also seeks views on excluding leaseholders from possession orders because of arrears of ground rent; and views on freeholders being able to challenge service charges for mixed tenure estates with shared facilities.</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/tackling-unfair-practices-in-the-leasehold-market</p>	For information	Geoff Paul, Director of Planning and Economy
<p>Plan for roadside NO2 concentrations published (26 July 2017)</p> <p>The Government has confirmed today that it will end the sale of all new conventional petrol and diesel cars and vans by 2040, as it unveiled new plans to tackle air pollution. The UK Plan for Tackling Roadside Nitrogen Dioxide</p>	For information	Paul Jones, Director of Local Services and

<p>Concentrations produced by Defra and the Department for Transport outlines how councils with the worst levels of air pollution at busy road junctions and hotspots must take robust action. The announcement is focused on delivering nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) compliance at the roadside in the shortest amount of time. This is one part of the programme to deliver clean air – next year the Government will publish a comprehensive Clean Air Strategy which will address other sources of air pollution. The Government will help towns and cities by providing £255 million to implement their plans, in addition to the £2.7 billion we are already investing. Due to the highly localised nature of the problem local knowledge will be crucial in solving pollution problems in these hotspots. The government will require councils to produce local air quality plans which reduce nitrogen dioxide levels in the fastest possible time. Local authorities will be able to bid for money from a new Clean Air Fund to support improvements which will reduce the need for restrictions on polluting vehicles. This could include changing road layouts, removing traffic lights and speed humps, or upgrading bus fleets. The government will also issue a consultation in the autumn to gather views on measures to support motorists, residents and businesses affected by local plans - such as retrofitting, subsidised car club memberships, exemptions from any vehicles restrictions, or a targeted scrappage scheme for car and van drivers. Measures considered will need to target those most in need of support, provide strong value for the taxpayer and be resistant to fraud.</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/news/plan-for-roadside-no2-concentrations-published</p>		Housing Delivery
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ECONOMIC PROSPERITY		
<p>UK takes key step towards fair new fishing policy after Brexit (2 July 2017)</p> <p>The United Kingdom will take an historic step towards delivering a fairer deal for the UK fishing industry this week by triggering the withdrawal from an arrangement that allowed foreign countries access to UK waters, Environment Secretary Michael Gove has confirmed. As part of moves to prepare the UK for the opportunities of leaving the European Union, the Government will officially begin withdrawal from the London Fisheries Convention. The London Fisheries Convention, signed in 1964 before the UK joined the European Union, allows vessels from five European countries to fish within six and 12 nautical miles of the UK's coastline. It sits alongside the EU Common Fisheries Policy (CFP), which allows all European vessels access between 12 and 200 nautical miles of the UK and sets quotas for how much fish each nation can catch. On Monday the UK will notify the other Member States signed up to the London Fisheries Convention, triggering a two-year withdrawal period – in a similar way to the Article 50 letter which began a two-year withdrawal from the EU.</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-takes-key-step-towards-fair-new-fishing-policy-after-brexit</p>	For information	Geoff Paul, Director of Planning and Economy
<p>Billion pound connectivity boost to make buffering a thing of the past (3 July 2017)</p> <p>Brits will soon see the back of internet buffering and painfully slow download times, following the launch of a new fund, which will support the rollout of cutting-edge connections across the country. The government's £400 million Digital Infrastructure Investment Fund (DIIF) will unlock over £1 billion for full fibre broadband, and kick-start better broadband</p>	For information	Alison Elsdon, Director of Corporate Resources

<p>connections across the country. Ministers seek to revolutionise Britain's digital infrastructure, making internet access more reliable for homes and businesses, and enabling more people to work remotely without disruption. The flexibility to work remotely is pivotal for driving our economy forward; reducing overheads and helping businesses to start and grow. The government has already invested £1.7 billion to spur industry to roll out superfast broadband across the UK. This new fund will take that to the next level.</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/news/billion-pound-connectivity-boost-to-make-buffering-a-thing-of-the-past</p>		
<p>Business rates boost for broadband (4 July 2017)</p> <p>Homes and businesses across England are set to benefit from better broadband thanks to new laws introduced by the government. The Telecommunications Infrastructure Bill is paving the way for a gold standard of full-fibre broadband and future 5G communications. By enabling 100% business rates relief for operators who install new fibre on their networks, the Bill will incentivise operators to invest in the broadband network. By seeking to improve the speed, service quality, security and reliability of broadband services, the Bill has the potential to transform the way in which modern businesses work together, reach their consumers and target their export markets. The benefits of better broadband will be felt wider than businesses. It will also increase internet speeds for households and enable households with multiple devices and users to download and upload huge amounts of data. For example, simultaneously streaming high definition TV and films, playing online games, and working from home quicker and more reliably than ever before. These measures will provide important support for a more productive economy and boost the prospects for economic growth.</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/news/business-rates-boost-for-broadband</p>	For information	
<p>Transport investment boost to apprenticeships and skills (12 July 2017)</p> <p>Up to 35,000 apprenticeship opportunities are set to be created over the next 5 years thanks to major investment in road and rail infrastructure and technology, a Government report has revealed. In the past year the road and rail sector has delivered more than 2,000 new apprenticeships — and it's expected this number could rise to between 5,000 and 8,000 every year to 2022. Large-scale projects such as HS2 and a focus on new technology and cyber security is set to increase demand for transport skills — in particular in civil engineering, traffic management and digital technology. The proposed expansion of Heathrow could also bring opportunities for an extra 10,000 apprentices across the country. The industry report charts the progress of the government's transport investment skills strategy, highlighting how the government and transport bodies, including Network Rail and Highways England are rising to the challenge of meeting demand</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/news/transport-investment-boost-to-apprenticeships-and-skills</p>	For information	Andy Johnson, Director of Education and Skills
<p>Exiting the EU with certainty (13 July 2017)</p> <p>The Government is taking the next step in returning power from Brussels to the UK by introducing the European Union (Withdrawal) Bill. Known as the Repeal Bill, it is designed to ensure that the UK exits the EU with maximum certainty, continuity and control. As far as possible, the same rules and laws will apply on the day after exit as on the day before.</p>	For information	

<p>This will allow the UK to leave the EU while ensuring that our future laws will be made in London, Edinburgh, Belfast and Cardiff. For businesses, workers and consumers across the UK that means they can have confidence that they will not be subject to unexpected changes on the day we leave the EU. It also delivers on our promise to end the supremacy of EU law in the UK. The Bill sets out how we will prepare our statute book for exit but will not make major changes to policy or legislation beyond what is necessary to ensure the law continues to work properly on day one. As powers are repatriated from the EU, the Government will ensure they are exercised within the UK in a way that ensures no new barriers to living and doing business within the UK are created. This will protect the UK internal market, ensuring we have the ability to strike the best trade deals around the world, protect our common resources, and fulfil our international obligations.</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/news/exiting-the-eu-with-certainty</p>		
<p>Beyond Brexit: future of funding currently sourced from the EU</p> <p>Following the referendum, one of the biggest concerns from councils was addressing the potential €10.5 billion (£8.4 billion) UK-wide funding gap for local government that would immediately open up from the point we officially exited the EU, unless a viable domestic successor to EU regional aid was in place. Since then, the Local Government Association (LGA) has called for a government commitment to replace vital EU regeneration funding. In its manifesto, the Government pledged to create a UK Shared Prosperity Fund to replace the money local areas currently receive from the European Union. The LGA believes that Brexit provides a historic opportunity to give local areas greater say over how to target regional aid funding at local projects of benefit for local people and economies and best support infrastructure, environment, enterprise and social cohesion. The discussion document presents in-depth analysis of a number of options which aim to inform the design and delivery of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.</p> <p>https://www.local.gov.uk/topics/european-and-international/beyond-brexite-future-funding-currently-sourced-eu</p>	For information	Alison Elsdon, Director of Corporate Resources
<p>£200 million boost for rural England (29 July 2017)</p> <p>Funding for rural businesses that will generate thousands of jobs and provide new support to expand and improve their premises has been announced as part of a £200 million grant offer. Announcing the latest round of Rural Development Programme funding, Lord Gardiner confirmed that for the first time under the current scheme specific funding will be available to support new rural broadband projects, and provide significant amounts of funding to on-farm businesses to invest in new infrastructure such as new buildings and machinery. The grants will also fund landowners to improve farm productivity and invest in rural tourism opportunities.</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/news/200-million-boost-for-rural-england</p>	For information	Geoff Paul, Director of Planning and Economy

HEALTH & WELLBEING		
Work Local - Our vision for an integrated and devolved employment and skills services	Officers to consider feeding comments	Geoff Paul, Director of

<p>The Local Government Association (LGA) believes the fragmented national system is at best failing to address and, at worst, contributing to significant employment and skills challenges across the country, On this basis, the LGA is consulting on a practical plan to integrate and devolve employment and skills services which would help thousands of people back into work, inject hundreds of millions of pounds into local economies, close the widening skills gap, and deliver better outcomes at lower cost by taking into account local circumstances.</p> <p>https://www.local.gov.uk/work-local-our-vision-integrated-and-devolved-employment-and-skills-services-full-report</p>	<p>into the consultation</p>	<p>Planning and Economy</p>
<p>Delayed Transfers of Care (3 July 2017)</p> <p>Jeremy Hunt, the Secretary of State for Health through a written statement has updated Parliament about the action the Government are taking to address delayed discharges from hospital in advance of this winter. The mandate to NHS is that delayed transfers of care (DTocS) should equate to no more than 3.5% of all hospital beds by September. Alongside this, the spring 2017 Budget announced an additional £2 billion to councils in England over the next three years to spend on adult social care services. Since then, there has been significant improvements within the health and care system. Equally, however, the Government is clear that much faster and more significant progress is required well in advance of next winter to help free up hospital beds for the sickest patients and reduce pressures on overcrowded A&E departments. On this basis, the Secretary of State has set out a further package of measures to support both the NHS and local government to reduce delays. This announcement aims to give the health and social care workforce and their leaders clarity on how the Government expects the NHS and Local Government to work together to achieve this joint ambition.</p> <p>http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Commons/2017-07-03/HCWS24/</p>	<p>For information</p>	<p>Vanessa Bainbridge, Director of Adult & Community Care Services</p>
<p>Delivering a more efficient and modern employment service (5 July 2017)</p> <p>Final plans have been published to update the DWP's property estate so services reflect the way people access jobs and the benefits system. The announcement confirms that some smaller jobcentres will merge with larger ones, and others will be co-located with local government premises. It will mean that the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) will be able to offer a more efficient service, while delivering good value for the taxpayer and saving over £140 million a year for the next 10 years. The support provided to jobseekers will be further strengthened this year as more work coaches are recruited in every nation and region of the UK. The plans reflect the fact that eight out of ten claims for Jobseeker's Allowance and 99% of applications for Universal Credit full service claims are now made online. This means that DWP buildings are used much less with 20% of the estate currently underutilised.</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/news/delivering-a-more-efficient-and-modern-employment-service</p>	<p>For information</p>	
<p>The state of adult social care services 2014 to 2017</p> <p>In this national report, the Quality Care Commission presents the findings from its comprehensive programme of adult social care inspections undertaken since the introduction of our new regulatory regime for adult social care in October 2014. Since then, more than 33,000 inspections have been carried of around 24,000 different services. These have</p>	<p>For information</p>	<p>Vanessa Bainbridge, Director of Adult & Community</p>

<p>been rated as Outstanding, Good, Requires Improvement or Inadequate overall and under five key questions – whether they're safe, effective, caring and well-led – so that everyone is clear about the judgements. They include residential homes, nursing homes, care in people's own homes, Shared Lives schemes and supported living services. These are vital services for thousands of people, young and old, who may be living with a physical disability, learning disability, autism, dementia and/or mental health conditions. The report finds that while the majority of adult social care services are of a high quality and many are improving, too many people across England are receiving care in care homes and in their own home that is not good enough. Without a proper recognition of the importance of adult social care and a renewed commitment to quality, the numbers of people affected by poor care could increase and have a profound impact on their lives.</p> <p>http://www.cqc.org.uk/news/stories/state-adult-social-care-services-2014-2017-report-published</p>		Care Services
<p>Government employment practices reviewer outlines “7 principles for good quality work for all” (11 July 2017)</p> <p>Matthew Taylor, chief executive of the Royal Society of Arts, has set out his blueprint for a UK economy that truly works for everyone, creating more skilled, well-paid jobs to boost the nation's earning power and productivity. Matthew Taylor, who was commissioned last year by the Prime Minister to carry out this review called for a fresh look to be taken at employment laws to make it easier for workers to understand and access their rights. The Review calls on the government to adopt the ambition that all work should be fair and decent with scope for fulfilment and development. Despite the impact of the National Living Wage and tax credits, there will always be people who are in work but finding it hard to make ends meet. Our social contract with those people should include dignity at work and the realistic scope to progress in the labour market. Bad work – insecure, exploitative, controlling – is bad for health and wellbeing, something that generates cost for vulnerable individuals but also for wider society. In addition, low quality work and weak management is implicated in our productivity challenge. Improving the quality of work should be an important part of our productivity strategy. The government will now be engaging with stakeholders across the country, including those who represent employers and employees, to understand their views ahead of publishing a full government response later in the year.</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-employment-practices-reviewer-outlines-7-principles-for-good-quality-work-for-all</p>	For information	Kelly Angus, Director of Human Resources
<p>Does local government work for women?</p> <p>This report is the result of a year-long study led by the Fawcett Society in partnership with the Local Government Information Unit, which asked 'Does Local Government Work for Women?' and contains recommendations to help solve the issues faced by women in town halls. Just one in three local councillors is a woman, and the pace of change is slow, going up by just 5% points since 1997. In county councils it will take until 2065 to reach equality. The report reveals that women are outnumbered six to one in finance or economic development roles, which usually lead to the top. This helps to explain why just 17 per cent of council leaders are women – a figure that has hardly shifted for 10 years. The report makes a number of recommendations to the Government, political parties, and local councils which would drive change. To get more women into the roles, the Commission calls for all parties to for the first time set</p>	For information	Kelly Angus, Director of Human Resources

<p>targets for getting more women councillors in, and make it a legal requirement to get 45 percent women candidates if they don't make progress.</p> <p>http://www.lgiu.org.uk/report/does-local-government-work-for-women-final-report-of-the-local-government-commission</p>		
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STRONGER COMMUNITIES		
<p>Home Secretary awards £17m to tackle violence against women and girls (5 July 2017)</p> <p>Amber Rudd has announced more than 40 projects will share around £17m from the VAWG Service Transformation Fund to help prevent violence against women and girls. The 41 projects across England and Wales will carry out a range of activities including providing support to victims, working with perpetrators of abuse to change their behaviour and helping to support children affected by what they have witnessed. Specialist help will be made available for the most vulnerable victims, including providing support for those with complex needs, including those with substance misuse problems or poor mental health. The Police and Crime Commissioner for Northumbria has been awarded almost £650,000 for a programme covering four projects, which will design and develop domestic abuse practitioner standards, sexual violence witness advocates, a new response to cyber-stalking and diversion work for victims of VAWG entering the criminal justice system as female offenders.</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/news/home-secretary-awards-17m-to-tackle-violence-against-women-and-girls</p>	For information	
<p>The Place of Kindness: Combating loneliness and building stronger communities</p> <p>Kindness is at the very heart of our wellbeing. With the support of JRF, over the past nine months the Carnegie Trust has been working with seven organisations to test what, if anything, could be done to encourage kinder communities, exploring ideas around the importance of places and opportunities to connect, and the intrinsic values underpinning our interactions and relationships. This report sets out the lessons learned from this process, highlighting powerful examples of where kindness and everyday relationships can affect change and support the wellbeing of individuals and communities. But there are major factors that get in the way of engaging and encouraging kindness both in individuals and organisations, including real and imagined rules relating to risk; funders and policy makers valuing the formal and organisational over the informal and individual; and modern definitions of professionalism and good leadership crowding out everyday kindness and intuitive human interactions.</p> <p>https://www.carnegieuktrust.org.uk/publications/place-kindness-combating-loneliness-building-stronger-communities/</p>	For information	
<p>Community collaboration: councillors guide</p> <p>Engaging people in the decisions that affect their lives is an essential feature of local democracy. This goes far beyond town hall meetings and opinion surveys. In partnership with Local Trust, LGiU has undertaken a year-long project to define and promote Community Collaboration and uncover the best examples of it in practice. We have been asking how councillors can actively support communities to lead their own projects by facilitating conversations, using their network and influence, and advocating within their local authority. This report showcases the best examples of</p>	For information	

<p>community collaboration in practice that we uncovered along the way. It is a practical guide that draws on the advice and experiences of real councillors, that we hope will inspire others to try out this new approach to local democratic engagement.</p> <p>http://www.lgiu.org.uk/report/community-collaboration-a-councillors-guide/</p>		
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CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE		
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<p>A healthy state of mind - improving young people’s mental fitness</p> <p>This Localis report claims that the current mental health system is failing children and young people. Whilst in almost all areas of health and care reform the dominant trend is to encourage people to be more independent and resilient, in Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS), something has gone badly wrong. This report argues for reform of the mental health system to provide greater support for the majority of young people who will not receive treatment from specialist CAMHS whilst ensuring that those in desperate need of clinical intervention receive immediate help.</p> <p>http://www.localis.org.uk/research/a-healthy-state-of-mind-improving-young-peoples-mental-fitness/</p>	For information	Andy Johnson, Director of Education and Skills
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<p>£1.3bn for core schools budget delivers rise in per pupil funding (17 July 2017)</p> <p>A £1.3billion boost for core school funding will mean local authorities are able to increase the amount of cash going to every school, the Education Secretary has announced. She has also announced plans for a new national funding formula, with the additional investment over the next two years during the transition to the NFF allowing an increase in the basic amount of funding for all pupils – allowing gains for all schools. The new formula will maintain overall per pupil funding in real terms for the next two years; and it will allow for a cash increase for every school. In an oral statement to Parliament, Justine Greening said the additional investment would help deliver historic reforms to the funding system, balancing fairness and stability for schools. It will further build on the improved standards delivered since 2010, with 1.8 million more children in good or outstanding schools, nine out of 10 schools are now good or outstanding and the attainment gap beginning to close. The £1.3billion announced today - £416 million in 2018-19 and £884 million in 2019-20, on top of the core school budget set in the last spending review - means schools funding will be £2.6billion higher in 2019-20 compared to 2017-18. This funding boost has been found from within the Department for Education’s budget, rather than through increased taxes or more debt. This has required some difficult decisions but reflects the government’s continued belief that funding is most valuable in the hands of head teachers who have the freedom to use their professional judgement to spend money where it will have the greatest impact. The Education Secretary also confirmed that a new National Funding Formula will be introduced in 2018, ending the unfair postcode lottery on school funding that has resulted in similar children, attending similar schools, attracting very different levels of funding.</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/news/13bn-for-core-schools-budget-delivers-rise-in-per-pupil-funding</p>	For information	Andy Johnson, Director of Education and Skills
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