# POLICY DIGEST, Summer 2016

Northumberland County Council

**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 30 May to Friday 30 September. Previous and subsequent editions are available at [www.northumberland.gov.uk/policy](www.northumberland.gov.uk/policy).**

| Policy Development | Action | Lead |
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| **PUBLIC SERVICE DELIVERY** | | |
| **Historic opportunity for councils to shape their financial future (5 July 2016)**<br>Councils have "an historic opportunity" to shape their financial future and to select the powers that will be devolved from Whitehall to Town Halls, Greg Clark has announced. By the end of this decade, local government will retain 100% of locally-raised business rates – which by 2020 will see councils retain an additional £12.5 billion, on top of existing business rates. The Communities Secretary said this crucial reform will make councils the drivers of economic growth in their communities, while also helping to transform the key services that their residents value. In exchange for this financial freedom, Mr Clark today published a list of responsibilities that could be transferred to councils across the country, including funding for public health. Mr Clark has also launched the first steps in a Fair Funding Review, which will provide councils with their fair share of funding according to local needs under the new system. The consultation closes on 26 September 2016.<br>https://www.gov.uk/government/news/historic-opportunity-for-councils-to-shape-their-financial-future | Officers to consider feeding comments into the consultation | Alison Elsdon, Director of Corporate Resources |
| **2018 Boundary Review initial proposals launched (12 September 2016)**<br>The independent Boundary Commission for England (BCE) has published its initial proposals for new Parliamentary constituencies. The publication marks the start of 12 weeks of consultation, during which the Commission needs to hear from individuals and organisations to help shape the proposed new constituency boundaries. Following a decision by Parliament to reduce the number of constituencies in the UK to 600 from 650, and to ensure that the number of electors in each constituency is more equal, the BCE has been asked to make independent recommendations about where the boundaries of English constituencies should be. The BCE must report to Parliament in 2018 and, if agreed by Parliament, the new constituencies will be in use at the next scheduled General Election in 2020. Publication of the initial proposals is | Officers to consider feeding comments into the consultation | Geoff Paul, Director of Planning and Economy |

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| the first time people get to see what the map of new constituencies might look like. The rules that the Commission works to are such that wide scale change is inevitable. Under the proposals announced today, only 68 of the existing 533 English constituencies remain unchanged. This consultation closes on 5 December 2016 but there will be a further two rounds of consultation in 2017. Following the conclusion of all three consultation periods, the BCE will look at all the evidence received and make final recommendations to Parliament in September 2018.<br>http://boundarycommissionforengland.independent.gov.uk/2018-boundary-review-initial-proposals-launched/ | | |
| **Securing a resilient future (12 September 2016)**<br>This report from the New Government Local Network shows how councils are investing for resilience, analysing their new agenda, setting out leading edge examples and making recommendations to help local authorities maximise the opportunities for creative economic and social investment. It shows that local authorities are using their capital investments to generate revenue to prop up hard-pressed public services, with a handful of smaller councils using their income to become independent of national grant funding. However, the report finds that there are clear risks associated with council borrowing, and that high profile failed investments could easily result in central government introducing tough new regulations.<br>http://www.nlgn.org.uk/public/2016/councils-emerging-as-one-of-the-countrys-biggest-property-investors/ | For information | Alison Elsdon, Director of Corporate Resources |
| **Local government finance settlement 2017 to 2018: technical consultation (15 September 2016)**<br>This consultation seeks views on a range of technical issues concerning the 2017 to 2018 local government finance settlement. It will be of particular interest to local authority finance departments. The consultation has 2 principal sections. With regard to the distribution of central resources, the paper outlines the Government's proposals or distributing central resources in 2017/18 to build on the four year offer announced in the 2016/17 local government finance settlement. These proposals are intended to give councils that are committed to reform long term certainty, earlier in the year, over more sources of funding. The paper also outlines changes to local resources, which include the Government's proposals for the council tax referendum principles for 2017/18. These are to retain a core principle of 2% and an Adult Social Care precept of an additional 2%; whilst introducing a referendum principle for town and parish councils whose Band D precept is higher than that of the lowest charging district council for 2016/17 (£75.46), and which have a total precept for 2016/17 of at least £500,000. The consultation closes on 28 October 2016.<br>https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/local-government-finance-settlement-2017-to-2018-technical-consultation | Officers to consider feeding comments into the consultation | Alison Elsdon, Director of Corporate Resources |
| **Government promises fairer bills for business across the country (28 September 2016)**<br>The government is set to announce a revaluation of business rates which will ensure fairer bills for businesses up and down the country as part of creating an economy that works for everyone. Local Government Minister Marcus Jones has published a consultation on the revaluation of business rates which will ensure bills accurately reflect changes in the property market. New figures published as part of the consultation show that the majority of businesses across the country will be unaffected or better off by the changes, with many looking forward to their bills falling as the system is made fairer across the whole of England. | Officers to consider feeding comments into the consultation | Alison Elsdon, Director of Corporate Resources |

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| https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-promises-fairer-bills-for-business-across-the-country | | |

| **PLACE SHAPING** | | |
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| **DfT launches £60 million competition to support sustainable travel (5 July 2016)**<br>Walking and cycling in local communities will be boosted by a £60 million competition launched which the Government has launched. Councils across England are being asked to bid for a share of the Department for Transport's green Sustainable Travel Access Fund. The fund has been launched to encourage councils to offer sustainable transport initiatives which can improve access to jobs, skills, training and education. The cash, which will support projects over 3 years from 2017 to 2020, is part of a wider government fund of over £300 million to boost walking and cycling during the current parliament. Councils are being encouraged to look at opportunities to work together on devising schemes. The successful authorities will be asked to contribute 10% of their scheme costs. They are encouraged to work alongside Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs), many of whom will be including sustainable transport measures, including walking and cycling investment, proposals to be submitted next month in a further round of Growth Deals where up to £1.8 billion will be available.<br>https://www.gov.uk/government/news/dft-launches-60-million-competition-to-support-sustainable-travel | Officers to consider submitting an application | Geoff Paul, Director of Economy and Housing |
| **Flood repairs start in Northumberland town (27 July 2016)**<br>Work to repair flood defences in a Northumberland town, which were damaged during the winter floods, is due to start. Repair work at Haydon Bridge will be carried out by the Environment Agency in two phases and will permanently repair flood defences. The first phase will start week commencing August 1, and includes: erosion repairs on the River South Tyne and repairs to the Temple Houses flood wall. The second phase of work, which is expected to start later in August, includes: repairing the flood bank at Martins Close and Rocksprings Crescent and raising low spots behind Rocksprings Crescent and repointing Brigwood flood wall and altering the outfalls along the wall. The work, which is expected to be complete by the end of September, will permanently repair flood defences to the standard of protection they provided before the winter flooding this past December. The work is part of a £3million Environment Agency recovery programme to restore damaged flood defences.<br>https://www.gov.uk/government/news/flood-repairs-start-in-northumberland-town | For information | Paul Jones, Acting Director of Local Services and Housing Delivery |
| **New Bill will boost growth and housebuilding (7 September 216)**<br>Measures in the new Neighbourhood Planning Bill will support more housebuilding and provide more local say over developments the Housing and Planning Minister has announced. The Bill will speed up and strengthen the popular neighbourhood planning process by simplifying how plans can be revised as local circumstances change and ensure that plans come into force sooner once approved by local people. There will also be a simplifying of the compulsory purchase order process to make it clearer, fairer and faster. Further Bill measures will ensure that planning conditions which require developers to take action before work starts are only used where strictly necessary, but in a way that ensures important | Officers to consider feeding comments into the consultation | Geoff Paul, Director of Planning and Economy |

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| heritage and environmental safeguards remain in place, so that once a developer has planning permission they can get on and start building as soon as possible. The Bill has been introduced into Parliament and will be debated soon. It is also supported by a number of technical consultation papers with a closing date of 19 October for comments.<br>https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-bill-will-boost-growth-and-housebuilding | | |

| **ECONOMIC PROSPERITY** | | |
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| **Cash boost to revive seaside towns and communities (30 June 2016)**<br>Coastal Communities are being offered a cash boost and the chance to join a network of experts driving regeneration across the Great British Coast. Speaking at the first-ever Great British Coastal Conference held in Brighton, Communities Minister Mark Francois offered seaside areas the chance to bid for a share of £200,000 to help set up, as many as 20 new Coastal Communities Teams and get their ideas off the ground. In the past year 118 towns, villages and cities along our coastline have already benefitted from keen locals joining forces with businesses and councils to help rejuvenate their areas. The wave of action they have created has helped the seaside regain its position as the most popular overnight holiday destination for Brits – a massive 13.7 million visits in 2015. Now because of their resounding success, Mr Francois wants even more of our coastline to benefit.<br>https://www.gov.uk/government/news/cash-boost-to-revive-seaside-towns-and-communities | For information | Geoff Paul, Director of Planning and Economy |
| **Technical education overhaul unveiled by Skills Minister (8 July 2016)**<br>Thousands of ineffective courses that short-change employers and young people will be replaced with 15 straightforward routes into technical employment creating a more skilled workforce fit for modern Britain. Currently young people considering a technical education must choose between more than 20,000 courses provided by 160 different organisations with no clear indicator of which course will give them the best chance of landing a job. A report into technical education by an independent panel, chaired by Lord Sainsbury, has recommended simplifying the current system so technical education is provided through 15 high-quality routes, with standards being set by employers. In response, Skills Minister Nick Boles has published the 'Post-16 skills plan', accepting every one of Lord Sainsbury's recommendations, while setting out the government's innovative vision for the future of technical education.<br>https://www.gov.uk/government/news/technical-education-overhaul-unveiled-by-skills-minister | For information | Andy Johnson, Director of Education and Skills |
| **Tipping the balance: Maximising the North East as a skills hub (5 August 2016)**<br>The North East has historically been considered a 'low skills' region, but there are indications that it may soon start to realise its potential as a hub for professional and technical skills. This IPPR North report considers the challenges facing the region in terms of skills, education and training, and makes practical recommendations for how these can be overcome. Despite low overall qualification levels, rates among young people and city residents are comparable with similar areas outside London, and take-up of some new forms of vocational training is high. There are good employment opportunities, and rates of pay, for technical staff in science, engineering and technology. The region's post-compulsory | For information | Andy Johnson, Director of Education and Skills |

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| education sectors perform well in attracting students from elsewhere, retaining graduates in the region, and providing programmes in areas which support the North East's industrial strengths. Challenges include forecasting future skills needs; business engagement and collaboration in providing training; and some issues around understandings of education, training and careers. We make specific recommendations for North East and Tees Valley skills bodies to address these.<br>http://www.ippr.org/publications/tipping-the-balance-maximising-the-north-east-as-a-skills-hub | | |
| **New ministerial local growth champions appointed by Business and Energy Secretary (11 August 2016)**<br>Business and Energy Secretary Greg Clark has underlined the vital role of local growth and the importance of 'place' in developing and delivering the government's comprehensive industrial strategy. For the first time, all ministers in the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy will act as local growth champions across the United Kingdom and will be tasked with building relationships with a number of Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs). The Industry and Energy Minister, Jesse Norman is charged with working with the North East LEP.<br>https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-ministerial-local-growth-champions-appointed-by-business-and-energy-secretary | For information | Geoff Paul, Director of Planning and Economy |
| **Chancellor Philip Hammond guarantees EU funding beyond date UK leaves the EU (13 August 2016)**<br>Thousands of British organisations will receive guarantees over EU funding in a new move announced by Chancellor Philip Hammond. Key projects supporting economic development across the UK will be given the green light, ending uncertainty over their future following the UK's decision to leave the European Union. Assurances set out by the Treasury include: all structural and investment fund projects, including agri-environment schemes, signed before the Autumn Statement will be fully funded, even when these projects continue beyond the UK's departure from the EU; the Treasury will also put in place arrangements for assessing whether to guarantee funding for specific structural and investment fund projects that might be signed after the Autumn Statement, but while we remain a member of the EU. Further details will be provided ahead of the Autumn Statement; and where UK organisations bid directly to the European Commission on a competitive basis for EU funding projects while we are still a member of the EU, for example universities participating in Horizon 2020, the Treasury will underwrite the payments of such awards, even when specific projects continue beyond the UK's departure from the EU. And in a new boost to the UK's agricultural sector Mr Hammond also guaranteed that the current level of agricultural funding under CAP Pillar 1 will be upheld until 2020, as part of the transition to new domestic arrangements.<br>https://www.gov.uk/government/news/chancellor-philip-hammond-guarantees-eu-funding-beyond-date-uk-leaves-the-eu | For information | Geoff Paul, Director of Planning and Economy |
| **Government announces £20 million fund for new railway stations (26 August 2016)**<br>Rail passengers across England and Wales are set for better journeys thanks to a £20 million pot to fund new stations, announced by the Department for Transport. The next round of the new stations fund will provide up to 75% of the cost for construction of new stations or to reopen previously closed stations. The funding will improve access to the rail network and create new travel, employment and housing opportunities. It follows on from an initial round of funding, | Officers to consider making an application | Geoff Paul, Director of Planning and Economy |

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| which has already made a major difference to passengers' journeys, with new stations at Newcourt in Devon, Pye Corner in Wales and Lea Bridge in London, and stations at Ilkeston near Derby and Kenilworth near Coventry in the process of being delivered. The deadline for bidders for the second round of funding is 18 November 2016 with an announcement of successful projects expected to be made early next year.<br>https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-announces-20-million-fund-for-new-railway-stations | | |
| **Government invests £40 million and cuts red tape to boost tourism across England (26 August 2016)**<br>Towns and cities from across England will benefit from a £40 million fund to deliver new tourism outside London and ease travel around Britain, helping visitors from abroad as well as Brits holidaying at home to explore the wealth of tourism opportunities across the country. The first grants from the £40 million Discover England fund have been awarded to projects and organisations in different geographic areas to join up and create offers that can attract tourism outside of London. Funding will go on projects to shine a spotlight on some of the country's great cultural and sporting assets, from music festivals to championship golf courses and our world-class cuisine. This investment will ensure that Britain remains a world beating destination for visitors from across the globe. The Government has also published its Tourism Action Plan which includes a series of new initiatives and measures to help Britain out-compete other major tourism destinations, welcoming more international visitors than ever before and see more "staycations" as Brits holiday at home. The new initiatives include: making travel easier with a new GREAT tourism rail offer; addressing industry's seasonal nature through a flexible apprenticeship scheme that allows training to be completed over 16-18 months rather than 12, with breaks included; and cutting red tape with sensible regulation by changing licensing to allow B&Bs to offer a welcome drink, and modifying vehicle licensing will allow B&B owners to pick up visitors from train stations. This work is supported by industry partners including a £10.2m partnership between VisitBritain and Expedia to market Britain abroad to key markets including USA, Germany and France.<br>https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-invests-40-million-and-cuts-red-tape-to-boost-tourism-across-england | For information | Lorraine Dwison, Chief Executive, Active Northumberland |

| **HEALTH & WELLBEING** | | |
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| **Government commits to high quality end of life care (5 July 2016)**<br>The government has made 6 commitments to the public to end variation in end of life care across the health system by 2020. These are: honest discussions between care professionals and dying people; dying people making informed choices about their care; personalised care plans for all; the discussion of personalised care plans with care professionals; the involvement of family and carers in dying people's care; and a main contact so dying people know who to contact at any time of day. The commitments are in response to an independent review of end of life care. NHS and care professionals will be expected to reflect these commitments in their work. New measures will be developed to ensure local health and care leaders are meeting the standards expected of them.<br>https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-commits-to-high-quality-end-of-life-care | For information | Penny Spring, Director of Public Health |

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| **Vision for adult social work in England (12 July 2016)**<br>The statement sets out what the Department of Health is doing and will do in the future to raise the standing and status of the social work profession, through our continuing reform programme. It includes: a commitment to social work as a single profession, with common values, skills and knowledge; the creation of a specialist regulator to raise the quality of education, training and practice; a sustained focus on continuous professional development and the creation of accredited and specialist roles; and the intention to consult on how we can make the best use of funding for social work education.<br>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/vision-for-adult-social-work-in-england | For information | Vanessa Bainbridge, Director of Adult and Community Care Services |
| **Childhood obesity: a plan for action (18 August 2016)**<br>The government has launched its action plan to reduce England's rate of childhood obesity within the next 10 years by encouraging industry to cut the amount of sugar in food and drinks; and primary school children to eat more healthily and stay active. In tandem, the Government has launched a consultation setting out proposals for the design and implementation of a new Soft Drinks Industry Levy from April 2018 and is asking for views on the impact of these proposals to help determine the final shape of the levy. The consultation closes on 13 October 2016.<br>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/childhood-obesity-a-plan-for-action | Officers to consider feeding comments into the consultation | Penny Spring, Director of Public Health |
| **Help for people with learning disabilities to live independently (15 September 2016)**<br>Local authorities are invited to apply for share of £25 million housing and technology fund for people with learning disabilities. The funding will allow the creation of a range of housing and technology options for people with learning disabilities. This could include floor sensors to monitor for falls or fingerprint technology to make access as easy as possible for residents. Local authorities, working with local community partners such as voluntary organisations, have until 28 October to apply for a share of the funds. The main aims of the fund are to: use new technologies to improve and adapt existing accommodation, enabling people to remain living independently; prevent unnecessary in-patient admissions; provide solutions for people who require urgent housing and are at risk of entering inappropriate services like hospital or residential care; encourage community-based solutions that promote independence and choice over housing; and save money and resources – specially adapted housing reduces the need for costly hands-on care<br>https://www.gov.uk/government/news/help-for-people-with-learning-disabilities-to-live-independently | Officers to consider making an application | Vanessa Bainbridge, Director of Adult and Community Care Services |
| **New funding model for supported accommodation (15 September 2016)**<br>The new funding model for supported accommodation includes women's refuges, homeless shelters and housing for those leaving care. Supported housing, which supports some of the most vulnerable people from across the country, will continue to be exempt from the Local Housing Allowance cap until 2019. From then the new funding model will protect the sector from the cap with a top up of additional ring-fenced funding. The amount of top-up funding will be set on the basis of current projections of future need. In a statement to Parliament, Work and Pensions Secretary Damian Green reiterated the government's support for this crucial sector and determination to secure its long-term future. The new ring-fenced pot of money will give local authorities greater flexibility to commission services in line with local needs. The | For information | Phil Soderquest, Head of Housing Services |

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| government will be consulting with the supported accommodation sector over the details of the funding model in the coming months.<br>https://www.gov.uk/government/news/help-for-people-with-learning-disabilities-to-live-independently | | |

| **STRONGER COMMUNITIES** | | |
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| **Local charities match fund competition launched (8 August 2016)**<br>The Office for Civil Society is seeking to support a fundraising campaign with at least £250,000 of match funding. The match funding should be used to encourage donations to local charities and community groups. It will help them to raise vital income, attract new donors, and raise awareness of their work. It is part of plans announced by the Minister for Civil Society, Rob Wilson, for a Local Charities Day, a celebration of local charities and community groups that will take place later this year. Applications are invited to deliver the match funding through a fundraising campaign. Applicants must have experience of delivering match-funded fundraising campaigns that benefit the whole or part of England, and the capacity to release the match funding through a campaign starting in December 2016 at the latest.Government is also particularly interested in proposals that bring together partnerships capable of expanding the reach and impact of the match funding campaign. Applications need to be submitted by 21 August 2016 with the Government expected to announce the successful applicant in autumn 2016.<br>https://www.gov.uk/government/news/local-charities-match-fund-competition-launched | For information | |
| **Prime Minister orders government audit to tackle racial disparities in public service outcomes (27 August 2016)**<br>Prime Minister Theresa May is today launching an unprecedented audit of public services to reveal racial disparities and help end the burning injustices many people experience across Britain. She has ordered Whitehall departments to identify and publish information showing how outcomes differ for people of different backgrounds, in a range of areas including health, education and employment. Not only will it give every person the ability to check how their race affects the way they are treated by public services, the transparent information will help government and the public to force poor-performing services to improve. This audit will also help understand where there are geographical inequalities in services that affect people of some races more than others, such as the white working class who tend to live in coastal towns or black and minority ethnic (BME) communities who tend to live in inner cities.<br>http://www.nlgn.org.uk/public/2016/emphasising-social-value-puts-people-at-the-heart-of-local-government-commissioning/ | For information | |
| **Museum Review (5 September 2016)**<br>The Museums Review will consider how museums and galleries across England can thrive and become even more inclusive. The Review will look at how the sector operates, the challenges it faces and the role of government-sponsored | Officers to consider feeding comments into the consultation | Lorraine Dewison, Chief Executive, Active Northumberland |

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| museums. To help inform this review, DCMS would welcome feedback on museums through its online calls for evidence. The consultation closes on 31 October 2016.<br>https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/review-of-museums-in-england | | |
| **£4 million grants to boost volunteering among over 50s (22 September 2016)**<br>With life expectancy in the UK increasing, a valuable opportunity has opened up for greater numbers of volunteers to share their skills and talents with others in later life - offering a rewarding experience for both sides. The Office for Civil Society has announced three new grant funds totalling £4 million to explore how more charities and public services can better tap into the skills and experience of volunteers over 50 for the benefit of all society. The three funds - the Second Half Fund, the Join In Stay In Fund, and the Give More Get More Fund - are now open for applications.<br>https://www.gov.uk/government/news/4-million-grants-to-boost-volunteering-among-over-50s | Officers to consider making an application | Geoff Paul, Director of Planning and Economy |

| **CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE** | | |
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| **Northern schools: Putting education at the heart of the northern powerhouse (23 May 2016)**<br>The North has the potential to build on its burgeoning economic strengths, generating prosperity that will benefit the whole of the country. Addressing educational disadvantage must be at the heart of this transformation. There is growing recognition that improving schools is a crucial component of efforts to create a 'northern powerhouse'. This IPPR North analysis of education data reveals why northern schools are falling behind those in London: The divide between London and the north of England starts before children reach school age. The 'early years gap' between children from poorer and wealthier homes is almost twice as large in the North as it is in London; the North performs reasonably well on primary school attainment. Places like Redcar and Cleveland, Trafford and Warrington all have results that would be the envy of most London boroughs; secondary school attainment in some parts of the North is a big cause for concern, and is the stage where educational inequalities widen sharply; focusing on failing schools is important but will not be sufficient to eradicate educational inequality. Even good and outstanding schools have attainment gaps.; educational inequality is not just a problem for satellite and coastal towns: some major northern cities such as Liverpool, Leeds and Sheffield also struggle to raise attainment among disadvantaged pupils; inputs matter: schools in the North receive significantly less money per pupil than those in London, and can struggle to attract and retain high-quality teachers and leaders. The North has the potential to build on its burgeoning economic strengths, generating prosperity that will benefit the whole of the country. Addressing educational disadvantage must be at the heart of this transformation.<br>http://www.ippr.org/publications/northern-schools-putting-education-at-the-heart-of-the-northern-powerhouse | For information | Andy Johnson, Director of Education and Skills |
| **Putting children first: our vision for children's social care (4 July 2016)**<br>This paper sets out the government's reform programme for children's social care in England over the next 5 years. It builds on a previous policy paper: 'children's social care reform: a vision for change' and represents the widest reaching reforms to children's social care and social work in a generation. This strategy aims to deliver a system staffed and led by | For information | Cath McEvoy, Director for Children's Services |

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| the best trained professionals; dynamic and free to innovate in the interests of children; with less bureaucracy; new checks and balances designed to hold the system to account in the right ways; and new ways to intervene more quickly where services consistently fail our most vulnerable children.<br>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/putting-children-first-our-vision-for-childrens-social-care | | |
| **Building a school system that works for everyone (12 September 2016)**<br>Justine Greening has announced that the Government wanted to build on the progress made over the last 6 years, which has led to 1.4 million more children in good or outstanding schools than in 2010. The proposals to be consulted on include: allowing new selective schools to open, existing ones to expand, or non-selective schools to convert where there is demand; in addition, these schools must meet certain conditions such as guaranteeing places for children from disadvantaged backgrounds or helping to establish non-selective free schools; stronger, more demanding requirements for independent schools to retain the benefits associated with charitable status; this could include offering bursaries to those less able to afford them or sponsoring schools in the state sector; requiring universities to open or sponsor schools in exchange for the right to raise their tuition fees; and lifting the cap on new faith free schools which requires them to limit the number of pupils admitted on the basis of faith to 50% and replacing it with new measures to ensure all new faith free schools are truly inclusive. The consultation runs until 12 December 2016.<br>https://www.gov.uk/government/news/building-a-school-system-that-works-for-everyone | Officers to consider feeding comments into the consultation | Andy Johnson, Director of Education and Skills |

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