

POLICY BRIEF

Education and Children's Social Care Overview and Scrutiny

04 March 2020



The information contained within this Brief is correct at the time of publication (Tuesday 25 February 2020).


HEADLINES

- [Budget set for 11 March 2020](#)
- [Full Universal Credit rollout delayed until 2024](#)
- [KS4 performance released](#)
- Government's SEND review will be published in the first quarter of this year
- [LGIU: State of Local Government Finance Survey 2020](#) was released, showing most councils (97 per cent) are planning on increasing council tax in the next year, with Children's Services & Education being the top immediate pressure, while Adult Social Care remains the top long-term pressure

Cabinet reshuffle finalised;

- Education Ministers confirmed as: Education Secretary Gavin Williamson will continue to have overall responsibility for the Department for Education.
- Nick Gibb will continue as Minister of State for School Standards.
- Michelle Donelan takes on a new portfolio and has been appointed as Minister of State for Universities.
- Vicky Ford has been appointed as Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Children and Families.
- Gillian Keegan has been appointed as the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Apprenticeships and Skills.
- Baroness Berridge has been appointed as Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for the School System.

GOVERNMENT POLICY, LEGISLATIVE ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NEWS

Date of publication	Education and Children's Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee	 GOV
7 January	Department for Education Struggling schools set for specialist support Schools Minister announces six successful new Teaching School Hubs to support struggling schools.	Announcement
8 January	Department for Education Raising expectations of children and parents, high standards for teachers and tackling bad behaviour: how schools in 'left behind' areas can improve.	Announcement
10 January	Department for Education Government announces plans for universal school inspections.	Announcement
16 January	Department for Education Councils urged to prioritise adoption. Councils should review adoption practices so that potential adopters are not wrongly turned down from offering children a stable home.	Announcement

20 January	Department for Education Britain set for post-Brexit education revolution A school exchange scheme is being extended as part of plans for Britain's outward-looking education ambitions after the UK leaves the EU.	Announcement
22 January	Department for Education High-tech products to level the playing field for disabled pupils. Trials of pioneering technology to help disabled pupils in the classroom will take place across the country in the first programme of its kind in the world.	Announcement
23 January	Department for Education College leaders appointed to boost standards of further education.	Announcement
29 January	Department for Education Youth projects to benefit from £7 million government investment.	Funding
5 February	Department for Education Multi-million pound support package to boost the FE workforce £24 million package will strengthen the FE workforce and help to level up skills and opportunities up and down the country.	Announcement
7 February	Department for Education T Level providers to benefit from £110 million boost. The government is investing up to £95 million through the T Level Capital Fund so young people taking the new technical qualifications from 2021 will have access to industry standard equipment and high-quality facilities.	Announcement
12 February	Department for Education Strict new measures to protect vulnerable children in care. Proposals to stop children in care from being placed in inappropriate accommodation will be published as part of a consultation, tackling growing concerns about the number of under-16s being left at risk of exploitation. The consultation also proposes new legal powers for Ofsted to crack down on illegal unregistered providers – those providing care for children without being registered to do so – and new measures requiring councils and local police forces to work together before placements in unregulated settings are made out of area, putting the interests of young people at the heart of decisions. (Link to consultation below)	Announcement/ consultation
13 February	Department for Education Plans to remove funding for courses with low student numbers More than 5,000 qualifications which are not being taken by anyone or are being studied by less than 100 students each year may lose government funding, under plans announced by Education Secretary Gavin Williamson.	Announcement
14 February	Department for Education Further crackdown on illegal schools The Education Secretary Gavin Williamson has pledged to continue to crack down on dangerous illegal schools to make sure children are safe and not exposed to risky practices or extreme influences. Ofsted will be given an extra £400,000 to help investigate unregistered independent schools and support the regulator in bringing together evidence for prosecution. The Secretary of State has also reiterated the Department for Education's commitment to bring forward new legislation to strengthen the watchdog's powers.	Announcement
21 February	Department for Education Early years apps approved to help families kick start learning at home.	Announcement

OPEN CONSULTATIONS

Education and Skills Funding Agency [Reforms to subcontracting education for learners over 16](#)
(Closes 17 March 2020).

Department for Education [Music education: call for evidence](#) (Closes 13 March).

Department for Education [Unregulated provision for children in care and care leavers.](#) (Closes 08 April 2020).