

POLICY BRIEF

Education and Children's Social Care Overview and Scrutiny

15 June 2022



The information within this Brief is correct at the time of approval for publication and contains relevant policy announcements made by Government and its departments and regulators.

Consultations and Calls for Evidence

[SEND review: right support, right place, right time](#)

Open consultation

The government is committed to improving outcomes for children and young people with SEND and those in alternative provision. They have published proposals set out in a green paper. A separate summary covering the [SEND and AP green paper and responding to the consultation](#) is also available.

The consultation closes at 11:45pm on 22 July 2022.

The Council will be responding to this consultation as part of a collective local response from the SEND strategic group. The general direction is welcomed as it aligns well with the activity set out in the Inclusion Transformation Programme already underway.

[School attendance: improving consistency of support](#)

Consultation response

The Department for Education launched a consultation on proposals to improve the consistency of school attendance. They were seeking views on the following measures:

- Requiring schools to have an attendance policy
- Guidance on the expectations of LA attendance services
- A clearer more consistent national framework for the use of attendance legal intervention, including a new regulatory framework for issuing fixed penalty notices for absence
- Bringing the rules for granting leaves of absence in academies in line with other state funded schools

It is DfE's view that these proposals will in fact improve the individual and collective support available to such pupils to help overcome the barriers they face to attendance earlier. This includes expectations in guidance for better use of attendance data to spot issues earlier and target interventions, more joined up working between schools, parents and local services, and increased sharing of effective practice. Specific concerns raised in this consultation have also been reflected in the development of the new guidance and will continue to be used as the DfE develop the measures further.

The Department for Education has conducted a new burdens assessment with local authorities, the Association of Directors of Children's Services, the Local Government Association and the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities which shows the proposal does not constitute a new burden and can be delivered within existing budgets.

Plymouth City Council responded to this consultation. The Council also took part in the Children's Commissioner's attendance survey and the DfE attendance project.

[Revised behaviour in schools guidance and suspension and permanent exclusions guidance](#)

Awaiting consultation outcome

In response to the [Timpson review of school exclusions](#), the government committed to working with sector experts to publish clearer, more consistent guidance. The aim of this guidance is to support schools to:

- create positive behaviour cultures
- ensure suspensions and permanent exclusions are conducted in a lawful, reasonable and procedurally fair way

[New Ofqual guidance on making assessments accessible for students](#)

Consultation outcome

New guidance has been published (12 May 2022) in response to a **12-week consultation**, in which there was strong support from respondents, students and their representatives, including those with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). The guidance supports awarding organisations to design assessments to meet rules on accessibility. The guidance explains that, in their exams and assessments, awarding organisations should:

- use accessible and appropriate language
- use clear and consistent layout
- use source material, context, images and colour in ways that do not disadvantage students
- consider how Reasonable Adjustments could be made to the exam or assessment to make sure disabled students are not disadvantaged

Date of announcement /publication	Education and Children's Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Government Policy / Legislative Announcements:	
02 April 2022	<p>Package of support for vulnerable families announced which will help every child get the best possible start in life.</p> <p>This forms part of the wide-ranging support across the government's flagship family programmes for those who need extra help to fulfil their potential, levelling up opportunities for children across the country. To support parents, 75 local authorities were announced as eligible for a share of £302 million to create new Family Hubs in their areas. These hubs aim to give parents advice on how to take care of their child and make sure they are safe and healthy – providing services including parenting and breastfeeding support.</p> <p><i>Plymouth was announced as one of the 75 eligible local authorities, and we await more details of the programme plan and confirmation of the amount of funding.</i></p> <p><i>We know that the programme will include funding specifically to develop Family Hubs, to publish a local Start for Life offer, delivery of parenting programmes and infant/parental mental health support, as well as cash for breastfeeding initiatives.</i></p> <p><i>The eligible local authorities will need to commit to delivery of the programme in order to be able to access the funding, and the Council is working as part of the newly formed Early Help Partnership to make sure we are in a position to proceed at pace once the detail of the programme is confirmed.</i></p>

	<p>The Early Help Partnership was formed in December 2021 following a procurement to put in place a 10 year partnership to drive the development of Family Hubs in Plymouth. The partners include Livewell Southwest, Action for Children, Lark Children’s Centres, Harbour and Hamoaze.</p>
12 April 2022	<p>Families supported by £33 million to drive down parental conflict</p> <p>The government has announced £33 million to support families with children to resolve conflict at home and improve children’s life chances. The funding comes as the programme’s third evaluation report is published. It details the positive effect of the support on family relationships and improvements in their children’s behaviour.</p> <p>In 2018 the government launched the Reducing Parental Conflict Programme (RPC). The next phase of the RPC Programme will run from April 2022 to March 2025. It continues to support local areas to embed help for parents experiencing conflict and improving local capability to identify these parents.</p> <p>Plymouth were successful in receiving grant funding to continue to develop its RCP programme for the next 2 years. This grant will be used to continue to fund the Restoring Relationships Co-ordinator to undertake the following work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a social media account that will be used to provide advice and guidance and will be updated daily to ensure any queries are responded to in a timely way. • Promote the Restoring Relationships / RPC programme across the city and provide training to those agencies working with children and families. • Create a bespoke local programme that is focused on local need. • Develop and deliver the parents programme and manage all referrals. • Create individual workshops on RPC themes • Deliver workshops in Early Help settings i.e. Children Centres • Create a group programme / series of workshops to deliver to young people • Engage schools on the healthy relationships programme <p>The aim is to upskill and build confidence across the workforce to be able to identify and support those families where parental conflict impacts on their lives - embedding the programme into all areas of the early help system will ensure that children and families can access this support from a trusted professional at the time they need it.</p>
02 May 2022	<p>Education Secretary urges remaining schools to participate in National Tutoring Programme</p> <p>New data to be published this autumn showing individual schools' involvement in the National Tutoring Programme. The data will also be shared with Ofsted, with the department working with Ofsted over the coming months on the best use of that data. Schools yet to offer tuition through the programme will be contacted individually from this week to discuss their plans and offer support.</p>

	<p><i>For children who are eligible for Pupil Premium, Plymouth schools have made use of the 1:1 tuition programme, and put in place quality intervention strategies to address small group and individual needs. Many schools have used research-based methods with outcomes regularly monitored.</i></p> <p><i>Where schools have found that the use of the Government funded tutor scheme has failed to show impact, several have employed experienced teachers locally to provide focused intervention/catch up teaching for pivotal groups exhibiting greatest gaps in progress. All schools have used teacher assessment to identify gaps and focused core intervention in reading, writing and maths.</i></p> <p><i>A survey was carried out in May 2022 to gauge the current use of NTP, feedback pending.</i></p>
13 May 2022	<p><i>Teacher bonuses and funding for schools to level up education</i></p> <p>STEM teachers in disadvantaged schools to receive £3,000 tax-free payments per year over next three years along with new funding to improve school buildings. The Levelling Up Premium is intended to improve pupil outcomes across the country by helping to retain specialist teachers working in disadvantaged areas.</p> <p><i>Plymouth is one of the 55 Education Investment Areas which means the city can attract additional funding and support.</i></p> <p><i>20 Plymouth schools are eligible for the Levelling Up premium (7 maintained schools and 13 academies). However, it is uncertain how much funding Plymouth will attract over the next three academic years as this will depend on the number of eligible STEM teachers within these schools who make a claim. STEM teachers must be classed as early career teachers to claim the levelling up premium, but cannot claim this premium alongside any existing early-careers payment.</i></p>
23 May 2022	<p>The <i>Independent Review of Children’s Social Care</i> final report has been published. The report found that the current system is increasingly skewed to crisis intervention, with outcomes for children that continue to be unacceptably poor, and costs that continue to rise. Over 60 recommendations have been made in the review that would, if implemented, result in a dramatic whole system reset.</p> <p>Government is setting out initial measures in <i>response</i> to the recommendations in the report. As part of this, the government has revealed plans to set up a new National Implementation Board of sector experts and people with experience of leading transformational change and the care system. It will also boost efforts to recruit more foster carers, increase support for social workers including on leadership, recruitment and retention, improve data sharing, and implement a new evidence-based framework for all the professionals working in children’s social care.</p> <p><i>An ‘in service’ review will be carried out over the coming months around the recommendations of this report with the intention of aligning current policy and practice where possible, and to understand the scale and impact of some of the recommendations so that the council is in a better</i></p>

	<i>position to respond when government announces further proposals to address the recommendations.</i>
26 May 2022	<p>National Child Safeguarding Practice Review National review into the murders of Arthur Labinjo-Hughes and Star Hobson. The review sets out recommendations and findings for national government and local safeguarding partners to protect children at risk of serious harm. It examines the circumstances leading up to the deaths of Arthur Labinjo-Hughes and Star Hobson and considers whether their murders reflect wider national issues in child protection.</p> <p>The review has made eight national recommendations, in summary;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A new expert-led, multi-agency model for child protection investigation, planning, intervention, and review. 2. Establishing National Multi-Agency Practice Standards for Child Protection. 3. Strengthening the local Safeguarding Partners to ensure proper co-ordination and involvement of all agencies. 4. Changes to multi-agency inspection to better understand local performance and drive improvement. 5. A new role for the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel in driving practice improvement in Safeguarding Partners. 6. A sharper performance focus and better co-ordination of child protection policy in central Government. 7. Using the potential of data to help professionals protect children. 8. Specific practice improvements in relation to domestic abuse. <p><i>These recommendations will be reviewed within the Children’s Social Care Service, alongside those from the Independent Review of Children’s Social Care (above) as a holistic piece of work.</i></p>
25 May 2022	<p>Next steps towards a stronger school system with all schools in strong trusts The Schools Bill, announced in the Queen’s Speech, will pave the way for all schools to join a strong multi-academy trust. It provides the framework for a new, legally enforceable set of standards for academy trusts, replacing disparate standards agreed with each trust at the point it was created - so that parents will know what they can expect for their children. It introduces a new legal tool for local authorities to request some or all of their schools join a strong academy trust, in addition to the existing powers that individual school governing boards hold.</p> <p>Detailed plans for moving all schools into strong academy trusts have now been published, kickstarting work towards the goal set out in the Schools White Paper for every school to be in, or in the process of joining, a trust by 2030.</p> <p>The Department has also published details of how local authorities can apply to establish a multi-academy trust.</p> <p><i>The Council is currently working with schools and the DfE Regional Director’s Office to explore ways forward for Plymouth schools.</i></p>
27 May 2022	<p>Phase I of the Youth Investment Fund: successful grantees Phase I of the The Youth Investment Fund, delivered by BBC Children In Need, has granted up to £12 million to 418 youth organisations across England.</p>

	<p>Plymouth has secured just under £64k for three projects: Creative Curiosities, Barnardo's and the Mount Batten Centre. This Phase 1 was a standalone funding round for small VCSE capital projects that had to be defrayed by 31 March 2022.</p> <p>Phase 2 will be a scheme for local authorities, which is due to launch in July 2022. The council will be preparing a bid for funding, ensuring there is read across to the developing Family Hubs programme, to develop existing and new multi-functional youth spaces which aim to offer a range of support for young people across the city.</p>																									
	<p>Education recovery funding doubles for secondary schools</p> <p>Funding for the Government's education recovery programme is to double for secondary schools next year, supporting pupils to catch up on lost learning.</p> <p>The table below shows the Recovery Premium rates for 2022/23 compared to 2021/22;</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="411 779 1453 1189"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Per Pupil rate 2021/22 AY (£)</th> <th>Per Pupil rate 2022/23 AY (£)</th> <th>Per Pupil Increase/ (decrease) (£)</th> <th>Per Pupil increase / (decrease) (%)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Mainstream Primary</td> <td>145</td> <td>145</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mainstream Secondary</td> <td>145</td> <td>290</td> <td>145</td> <td>100%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other eligible Primary settings; special schools, PRU, AP, SEND units in mainstream schools</td> <td>290</td> <td>276</td> <td>(14)</td> <td>(4.8%)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other eligible Secondary settings; special schools, PRU, AP, SEND units in mainstream schools</td> <td>290</td> <td>552</td> <td>262</td> <td>90.3%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The funding rate for mainstream secondary schools has increased by £145 per pupil (100%), whilst there has been no uplift to the per pupil rate for primary schools. • The funding rate for other eligible Secondary settings has increased by £262 per pupil (90.3%), whilst the funding rate for other eligible Primary settings has reduced by £14 per pupil (4.8%). <p>The total funding increase/decrease per school will be determined once Central Government has published the school-level allocations for 2022/23.</p>		Per Pupil rate 2021/22 AY (£)	Per Pupil rate 2022/23 AY (£)	Per Pupil Increase/ (decrease) (£)	Per Pupil increase / (decrease) (%)	Mainstream Primary	145	145	-	-	Mainstream Secondary	145	290	145	100%	Other eligible Primary settings; special schools, PRU, AP, SEND units in mainstream schools	290	276	(14)	(4.8%)	Other eligible Secondary settings; special schools, PRU, AP, SEND units in mainstream schools	290	552	262	90.3%
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Ofsted Announcements:																										
26 May 2022	<p>Ofsted's strategy 2022 to 2027</p> <p>HM Chief Inspector Amanda Spielman introduces Ofsted's new 5-year strategy, setting the direction until 2027. Amanda Spielman said "both education and social care are under great pressure, grappling with the effects of the pandemic, lockdowns and restrictions on children and young people: their education, their social development, their physical and mental health, and their welfare. Ofsted's role has never been more important, and we will continue to play our part in this recovery phase, working as always for children to raise standards and improve lives.</p>																									

	Over the next 5 years we will continue to use data and intelligence, often augmented by further research, to make the case for change and improvement. We will use it to inform and equip policymakers; we hope providers will use it to inform their work; and, of course, we will use it to evaluate our own policies and practices.”
For information:	
28 April 2022	<p>Skills and Post-16 Education Act</p> <p>New laws have been passed through the Skills and Post-16 Education Act that will help transform the skills and training landscape, and level up opportunities across the country. Skills that support the green economy will be prioritised, to create a workforce for jobs available now and in the future. Schools will be required to make sure all children have the opportunity to access technical education routes such as apprenticeships, T Levels or traineeships.</p>
04 May 2022	<p>Letter to councils and schools about supporting Ukrainian children to integrate into English schools</p> <p>The Secretary of State for Education, Rt Hon Nadhim Zahawi MP, has written to councils and schools about supporting Ukrainian children to integrate into English schools. This signposts to additional Ukrainian learning materials, which can be used to complement, not supplement, their mainstream English education.</p> <p><i>As of May 2022, nine pupils have been allocated places in schools, with support packages in place. The nine pupils have settled into school well and are making good, early progress. It is worth noting that children from Ukraine have not suffered the prolonged displacement and trauma evident amongst the Syrian children we welcomed into our schools, and they have previously attended schools similar to our own, and most are able to speak some English. Visas initially awarded to Ukrainian refugees are for three years, however, as we know it may not be possible for all families to return, it is essential that children learn well in English, in order to reach age related expectations as quickly as possible.</i></p>
25 May 2022	<p>Skills boost for local communities</p> <p>Under the scheme, announced by Higher and Further Education Minister Michelle Donelan, The Open University will work with colleges that do not currently offer higher technical education, or want to expand the range of courses they offer.</p>