

POLICY BRIEF

Education and Children's Social Care Overview and Scrutiny

09 December 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

No current consultations

[Review of post-16 qualifications at level 2 and below](#)

Consultation Response

This consultation sought views on proposals to reform post-16 qualifications at level 1, level 2 and entry level. The report provides a summary of responses received and the government response.

Date of announcement /publication	Education and Children's Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Government Policy / Legislative Announcements:	
20 October 2022	<p>£180 million to improve children's development in the early years</p> <p>Every region in England will benefit from programmes to improve teaching of children's early speech, language and numeracy, along with professional development to build strong leadership skills and improve the understanding of children's development. New opportunities will also be provided for graduates looking to embark on a career in early years teaching, as well as staff looking to train as early years special educational needs coordinators (SENCOs).</p> <p>Up to £180 million of government funding over the three years will support the sector to focus on children's development in their earliest of years and help to address existing recruitment and retention challenges. It follows commitments by the Government to improve parents' access to affordable, flexible childcare through ambitious reforms, for which work continues.</p> <p>Plymouth City Council welcomes this announcement and awaits further details. Settings in Plymouth are already benefiting from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early maths, language, and social development training for 10,000 professionals through the third phase of the Professional Development Programme (PDP3) • The national rollout of the Expert and Mentors programme to provide bespoke leadership support to 7,500 early years settings and childminders • Graduate-level specialist training leading to early years teacher status - evidence is very clear that higher qualifications are

	<p>consistently identified as a predictor of higher quality and associated with better child outcomes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for early years professionals to achieve the National Professional Qualification in Early Years Leadership (NPQEYL) • A new network of 18 Stronger Practice Hubs (through to the final stages, results to be shared by the DfE soon)
09 October 2022	<p><u>Bumper £24 million to boost children's literacy</u></p> <p>Over £24 million is set to be invested in building children's literacy skills as the government continues to support pupils' recovery from the pandemic and work towards the target of 90% of primary children reaching the expected standard in literacy and numeracy.</p>
29 September 2022	<p><u>Exams head back to normality in 2023</u></p> <p>In line with the plans set out last September, Ofqual has confirmed a return to pre-pandemic grading in 2023.</p> <p>To protect students against the disruption of recent years, and in case students' performance is slightly lower than before the pandemic, senior examiners will use the grades achieved by previous cohorts of pupils, along with prior attainment data, to inform their decisions about where to set grade boundaries.</p>
Ofsted Announcements:	
18 November 2022	<p><u>How local authorities plan for sufficiency: children in care and care leavers</u></p> <p>This report considers how local authorities plan for sufficiency of accommodation that meets the needs of children in care and care leavers.</p>
31 October 2022	<p><u>Reading should be explicitly taught even in secondary schools</u></p> <p>Ofsted has published a research report looking at how high-performing secondary schools provide targeted support for struggling readers.</p>
26 October 2022	<p><u>Ofsted's tutoring programme review published</u></p> <p>Ofsted has published the first of two independent reviews of the Government's tutoring programme in schools and further education providers. Ofsted was commissioned by the Department for Education to look at the overall quality of tutoring provided, how it was integrated into schools' curriculum planning and delivery, and the likelihood that it will help pupils catch up.</p>
24 October 2022	<p><u>Review of the quality of T-level courses: interim report</u></p> <p>Ofsted has published an interim report evaluating the quality of the new T-level courses. It finds that providers are working hard to ensure that T-level courses equip learners with the knowledge, skills and experiences needed for future study or employment. However, the first providers to offer these new qualifications have faced some challenges.</p>

For information:	
	<p data-bbox="406 197 1406 271"><u>Government calls for urgent action to protect children with disabilities from abuse</u></p> <p data-bbox="406 286 1458 472">A national review into safeguarding children with disabilities and complex health needs has revealed serious failures at three residential special schools registered as children’s homes. The Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel has issued an urgent action to all local authorities to ensure all children with complex needs and disabilities currently living in similar children’s homes are safe and well.</p>