

<p style="text-align: center;">Safeguarding Children Information Update Live Consultations – Updated 20th December 2016</p>
--

Consultations on the CPS public policy statements on Crimes against Disabled People, offences involving hostility on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity and Racially and Religiously Aggravated Hate Crime (10/10/16)

We are publishing revised public policy statements on offences involving hostility on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity and Racially and Religiously Aggravated Hate Crime. We are also publishing the first public policy statement on Crimes Against Disabled People.

We are publishing these statements because we want victims and witnesses and their families and communities, as well as the general public, to be confident that we understand the serious nature of these crimes.

The policy statements acknowledge the damaging and wide ranging effects of racially and religiously aggravated hate crimes, homophobic and transphobic hate crimes and crimes against disabled people on individuals and wider communities.

There are three separate public policy statements and therefore three separate consultations.

Closing date: 9th January 2017

http://www.cps.gov.uk/consultations/hate_crime_consultation_2016_index.html

Children's social care providers: fees and inspection frequency (13/12/16)

The aim of this consultation is to seek the views of interested parties on proposed changes to Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills (Fees and Frequency of Inspections) (Children's Homes etc.) Regulations 2015.

This consultation seeks views on:

A 10% increase on current fees, for those settings where fees are not already at full cost recovery.

A reduction in the annual fee for residential holiday schemes for disabled children.

Amending the frequency of Ofsted inspections for those registered children's homes (excluding those children's homes approved as secure homes) which currently have an overall effectiveness judgement of "good" or "outstanding" so that they receive a minimum of one full inspection during the next inspection period (i.e. April 2017 - March 2018) and each subsequent year.

Closing date: 17th January 2017

<https://consult.education.gov.uk/children-in-care/fees-and-frequency-of-inspection-regulations/>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/childrens-social-care-providers-fees-and-inspection-frequency>

Have your say on the Children and Social Work Bill (06/12/16)

Do you have relevant expertise and experience or a special interest in the Children and Social Work Bill [Lords], which is currently passing through Parliament?

If so, you can submit your views in writing to the House of Commons Public Bill Committee which is going to consider this Bill.

The Public Bill Committee is now able to receive written evidence. The sooner you send in your submission, the more time the Committee will have to take it into consideration. Once the Committee has dealt with an amendment it will not revisit it.

The Committee is expected to meet for the first time on Tuesday 13 December 2016; it will stop receiving written evidence at the end of the Committee stage, which is scheduled to be 5.00pm on Tuesday 17 January 2017. However, please note that when the Committee concludes its consideration of the Bill it is no longer able to receive written evidence and it can conclude earlier than expected.

The Bill relates to:

- support for, and education of, looked after and previously looked after children;
- adoption;
- child safeguarding and proper performance;
- pre-employment protection of whistleblowers; and
- the regulation of Social Workers.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/news/2016/december/have-your-say-on-the-children-and-social-work-bill/>

Consolidation and revision of the school governance regulatory framework in Wales

(11/11/16)

Parents, teachers and the wider public are being asked for their views on plans to make major changes to school governing bodies from today (Fri 11th Nov).

Education Secretary Kirsty Williams has launched a consultation on a range of new proposals to provide governing bodies with the flexibility to appoint governors with the necessary skills and to organise themselves in a way that meets their needs.

Suggested reforms include:

- Greater flexibility to make their own decisions about their structure and membership, with a focus on skilled governors.
- A minimum of seven governors in all schools except voluntary and foundation schools, consisting of parent, staff, LA, and community governors, as well as the head teacher.
- A new category of 'co-opted governors' recruited specifically for their skills with no upper limit on the overall size of any type of governing body.
- Audits of members to identify any gaps in the skills they need to carry out their responsibilities effectively.
- Extend the category of parent governor so there will be appointed parent governors alongside their elected colleagues.
- Flexibility to have as many parent governors as they wish as long as elected parent governors do not outnumber appointed parent governors.
- Allowing parents of former pupils to be appointed as parent governor and ending the current system where governing bodies have restrictions on the number of parent governors they may have.

- Giving governing bodies the flexibility to increase or decrease their numbers more easily, including appointing ‘associate members’ or non-governors to committees, whenever specific expertise or experience is needed.
- The requirement for an independent person – which currently only applies where a staff disciplinary and dismissal committee is dealing with a matter involving harm to a pupil - will be extended to all staff disciplinary and dismissal committees, as well as head and deputy head teacher selection committees.

Closing date: 17th February 2017

<http://gov.wales/newsroom/educationandskills/2016/views-sought-on-major-changes-to-school-governing-bodies/?lang=en>

<https://consultations.gov.wales/consultations/consolidation-and-revision-school-governance-regulatory-framework-wales>

High needs national funding formula: stage 2 (14/12/16)

We are introducing a national funding formula to make funding fair for local areas, children and young people. This consultations seeks views on the detailed design of the formula, building on the earlier consultation on the principles and structure.

The executive summary outlines our proposals and the effect on LAs, and the consultation document explains these in detail. The effect on each area is shown in full in the impact tables. We will be publishing the technical notes to accompany these tables shortly.

The equality impact assessment considers how our proposals relate to the 8 protected characteristics identified by the Equality Act 2010.

Closing date: 22nd Mar 2017

<https://consult.education.gov.uk/funding-policy-unit/high-needs-funding-reform-2/>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/high-needs-national-funding-formula-stage-2>