

Safeguarding Children Information Update
Live Consultations
Updated 16th November 2017

Revised guidance for virtual school heads and designated teachers (16/10/17)

The consultation seeks views on changes to two statutory guidance documents: Promoting the education of looked after children; and Roles and responsibilities of designated teachers for looked after children following the Children and Social Work Act 2017.

The Children and Social Work Act 2017 expanded the role of Virtual School Heads and designated teachers to include providing information and advice to certain previously looked after children and their families. For many previously looked after children the impact of their pre-care experiences can continue to act as a barrier to educational progress after leaving care.

The changes to the Virtual School Head and designated teacher role will help ensure previously looked after children receive support to help them achieve their full potential.

For the purposes of this consultation, the key changes introduced by the children and social work act 2017 are:

- a duty on LAs in England to make advice and information available to those with parental responsibility; designated teachers in maintained schools and academies; and any other person the authority considers appropriate, for the purpose of promoting the educational achievement of certain previously looked after children.
- a duty on the governing body of a maintained school or academy proprietor in England to designate a member of staff at the school to have responsibility for promoting the educational achievement of certain previously looked after pupils.

These new duties apply to children who leave care as a result of adoption, special guardianship or child arrangement order and children adopted from state care abroad.

Closing date: 27th November 2017

<https://consult.education.gov.uk/children-in-care/revised-guidance-for-virtual-school-heads-and-desi/>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/revised-guidance-for-virtual-school-heads-and-designated-teachers>

Corporate parenting, the local offer and personal adviser support (16/10/17)

The Children and Social Work Act 2017 received Royal Assent on 27 April 2017. During passage of the Bill and as part of legislation, the government committed to consulting on and providing guidance to support the delivery of the new legislative requirements.

We are seeking views on:

- Draft statutory guidance for LAs on applying the corporate parenting principles to care and pathway planning;
- An illustrative local offer for care leavers and accompanying guidance on the local offer for LAs; and
- Draft statutory guidance on extending the offer of personal adviser support for care leavers to age 25.

Closing date: 27th November 2017

<https://consult.education.gov.uk/children-in-care/corporate-parenting-the-local-offer-and-personal-a/>

Child abuse and neglect

Tell us about the 5 key areas for quality improvement which you consider as having the greatest potential to improve the quality of care in this area.

Closing date: 28th November 2017

<https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/indevelopment/gid-qs10054/consultation/html-content>

Independent school inspection fees, and standards (12/10/17)

We are consulting on the following:

- the proposed replacement of regulations governing the fees charged to independent schools by Ofsted for inspections, by a new set of regulations which set out revised fee levels and new categories of inspection for which fees would be payable; and
- the proposed amendment of regulations which prescribe independent school standards.

These amendments are minor, and designed to bring up to date references in the regulations to the National Minimum Standards for Boarding applicable to independent schools and residential special schools, so that regulatory action may be based on the current (2015) NMS.

Closing date: 6th December 2017

<https://consult.education.gov.uk/school-frameworks/independent-school-inspection-fees-and-standards/>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/independent-school-inspection-fees-and-standards>

Children's social care providers: fees and inspection frequency (12/10/17)

We are seeking views on the following proposed changes to HMCI Education, Children's Services and Skills (Fees and Frequency of Inspections) (Children's Homes etc.) Regulations 2015, with a view to regulations coming into force in April 2018:

- a 10% increase on current fees for most settings where fees are not already at full cost recovery;
- reviewing the structure of future fees;
- ceasing inspections for closed children's homes.

Closing date: 7th December 2017

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

Open consultation - Internet Safety Strategy green paper (11/10/17)

The Internet Safety Strategy looks at how we can ensure Britain is the safest place in the world to be online. The Strategy considers the responsibilities of companies to their users, the use of technical solutions to prevent online harms and government's role in supporting users.

The consultation covers various aspects of online safety including:

- the introduction of a social media code of practice, transparency reporting and a social media levy,
- technological solutions to online harms
- developing children's digital literacy
- support for parents and carers
- adults' experience of online abuse, and
- young people's use of online dating websites/ applications

Closing date: 7th December 2017

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/internet-safety-strategy-green-paper>

Consultations on standards and ratings for inspecting probation and youth offending services (November 2017)

In these consultations we are asking your views on the way we intend to structure standards, and on the draft standards themselves.

We have also been considering how best to rate probation and youth offending services. We are suggesting a composite rating for each inspection and also sub-ratings, so that those inspected can see where they have done well and where they can improve, in order to improve the quality of the service they are delivering.

We would now like to hear your views.

Closing date: 8th December 2017

<https://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmiprobation/about-hmi-probation/consultations/>

Offensive and dangerous weapons: new legislation (14/10/17)

The HO are consulting on new laws on offensive weapons, in response to public concerns about violent crime.

Stopping serious violence is a priority for the government and we are determined to take effective action to protect the public. Police recorded violent crime has increased since 2014 and in the 12 months period ending March 2017, violent crime recorded by the police increased by 18%.

The ONS have said some of this increase can be attributed to:

- improvements in how police forces record crime

- more victims of domestic violence being willing to come forward to the police
- the creation of new offences and greater awareness of these crimes

However, some of the increases in certain types of violent crime are thought to be genuine, including rises in offences involving knives and firearms.

The government has already been taking significant action including:

- supporting police enforcement action through ‘Operation Sceptre’ - an ongoing series of weeks of intensified action on knife crime, including:
 - targeted stop and searches
 - targeting habitual knife carriers
 - weapon sweeps
 - test purchases of knives from retailers
 - surrender bins
 - legislating where necessary (for example banning zombie knives in August 2016)
 - working with retailers to enforce sales restrictions
 - working on prevention through engaging with young people through voluntary sector groups.
- an action plan to stop the use of acid and other corrosives in violent attacks which is based on:
 - support for victims and survivors
 - effective law enforcement
 - ensuring legislation is applied effectively
 - working with retailers to restrict access to acid and other corrosive substances of concern
 - tightening up the legislative framework on firearms including new offences in the Policing and Crime Act 2017.

We have now identified the need for new primary legislation to respond to public concerns and provide the police with the powers they need. The consultation paper seeks views on the legislative proposals on offensive and dangerous weapons.

Closing date: 9th December 2017

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/offensive-and-dangerous-weapons-new-legislation>

Securing student success: risk-based regulation for teaching excellence, social mobility and informed choice in higher education (19/10/17)

The government is seeking views on behalf of the new Office for Students (OfS) regarding the regulation of the higher education sector. The OfS will introduce the new regulatory framework: a risk-based approach to higher education with an unflinching focus on the student.

This consultation sets out the proposed new regulatory approach and what this will mean for the sector and students. It includes proposals for how higher education providers will enter the system, how they will be risk-assessed, the conditions they will have to meet, how they will be monitored, and what potential actions the OfS will be able to take.

Closing date: 22nd December 2017

<https://consult.education.gov.uk/higher-education/higher-education-regulatory-framework/>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/office-for-students-regulatory-framework-for-higher-education>

Inspection visits to further education and skills providers judged to require improvement (10/11/17)

Ofsted is seeking your views on proposed changes to inspection visits to further education and skills providers who are judged to require improvement.

We currently carry out support and challenge visits to providers that require improvement, resulting in unpublished letters. We propose instead to carry out a single monitoring visit, which will result in a published report with progress judgements.

Closing date: 22nd December 2017

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/inspection-visits-to-further-education-and-skills-providers-judged-to-require-improvement>

Working Together to Safeguard Children: changes to statutory guidance (25/10/17)

The Department for Education invites your views on changes to the statutory guidance 'Working Together to Safeguard Children', new 'child death review' guidance, and new regulations.

This consultation seeks views on significant revisions to 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' – the statutory guidance which sets out what is expected of organisations, individually and jointly, to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

These revisions are being made largely to reflect the legislative changes introduced through the Children and Social Work Act 2017 and new 'child death review' guidance.

Closing date: 31st December 2017

<https://consult.education.gov.uk/child-protection-safeguarding-and-family-law/working-together-to-safeguard-children-revisions-t/>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/working-together-to-safeguard-children-revisions-to-statutory-guidance>

Residential Accommodation for 16-18 year olds: National Minimum Standards (07/11/17)

This consultation seeks your views on updated national minimum standards for residential accommodation in FE colleges, sixth form colleges, designated institutions and 16-19 academies. These standards are published by the Secretary of State under section 87C of the Children Act 1989 and are relevant to the duty to safeguard and promote the well-being of children accommodated at these types of institutions.

Ofsted inspects against these standards in order to decide whether the corporation, governing body or proprietor of the institution is complying with the duty to safeguard and promote the well-being of such children (under section 87(1) of the Children Act 1989), and they may also be used for self-assessment and staff training.

Closing date: 26th January 2018

<https://consult.education.gov.uk/fe-college-quality-and-resilience-team/residential-accommodation-for-16-18-year-olds-nati-1/>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/fe-residential-accommodation-national-minimum-standards>