

Safeguarding Children Information Update
Live Consultations
Updated 12th December 2018

Council Tax exemptions for care leavers (07/11/18)

As part of our commitment to improving the fairness of Council Tax, we are consulting on proposals to exempt care leavers from paying council tax until their 25th birthday.

Closing date: 19th December 2018

<https://beta.gov.wales/council-tax-exemptions-care-leavers>

<https://gov.wales/newsroom/finance1/2018/181107-young-care-leavers-to-be-exempt-from-paying-council-tax/?lang=en>

Open consultation - Independent schools: Ofsted inspection fees (22/11/18)

We are seeking views on proposals for revised fees payable by independent schools from 2019 for Ofsted inspections.

This consultation concerns the proposed replacement of 2018 regulations governing the fees charged to independent schools by Ofsted for inspections, by a new set of regulations which would set out revised fee levels payable from 2019. The regulations would not introduce any changes to the fees structure or method of calculation.

Closing date: 16th January 2018

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

Open consultation - Preventing and tackling forced marriage (15/11/18)

We are seeking views on a possible mandatory reporting duty, requiring certain professionals to report cases of forced marriage, and on how government guidance should be updated.

This consultation seeks views about whether it is necessary to introduce a new legal mandatory reporting duty relating to cases of forced marriage and, if it is, what such a reporting requirement would look like. It also seeks views on how the current guidance on forced marriage could be improved and strengthened.

The consultation is open to everyone. We are particularly interested in hearing from victims and survivors of forced marriage, those with expertise in the area of forced marriage, and relevant professionals, including those working in social care, education, the police and healthcare.

Closing date: 23rd January 2019

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/preventing-and-tackling-forced-marriage>

Youth Endowment Fund: call for proposals (10/12/18)

The £200m Fund will provide a 10 year investment to support interventions steering young people away from becoming serious offenders. It will also continue to build upon evidence to ensure that the most effective interventions for tackling serious violence are supported.

The deadline to submit proposals to run the Fund is 23 January 2019.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/youth-endowment-fund-call-for-proposals>

Open Consultation - Draft guidance to challenge bullying in schools (14/11/18)

We are consulting on the draft anti-bullying guidance and toolkit, which has been developed to prevent and challenge bullying in schools.

This consultation seeks views on:

- the draft guidance documents
- the draft resources developed for Hwb to support operational implementation of the draft guidance

Closing date: 15th February 2018

<https://beta.gov.wales/draft-guidance-challenge-bullying-schools>

School Security guidance (26/11/18)

We are seeking views on proposals for School Security guidance.

Whilst schools continue to be amongst the safest places to be, no school can afford to ignore the risk and impact of having to deal with a range of security related incidents. The department is therefore proposing to publish new school security guidance that will provide schools with access to a range of information sources and tools that will help them to develop sensible and proportionate policies and plans to meet their security needs.

Closing Date: 18th February 2019

<https://consult.education.gov.uk/teacher-regulation-safer-recruitment/non-statutory-school-security-guidance/>

Mental health of men and boys: inquiry launched (16/11/18)

The Women and Equalities Committee launches a new inquiry into the mental health of men and boys.

Awareness of the mental health problems affecting men and boys has increased in recent years, and it is recognised as a serious issue:

- According to the ONS, 3 out of 4 people who take their own lives are men; this is the biggest cause of death for men under 50 in England and Wales
- 12.5% of men in England are suffering from one of the common mental health disorders (NHS Digital)
- Men are 3 times more likely than women to become alcohol dependent (Health and Social Care Information Centre)

- In a survey conducted for the Men's Health Forum, 12% of men said that the last time they took time off work to see a GP was because they were "constantly feeling stressed or under pressure" and 11% because of "prolonged feelings of sadness."

Maria Miller MP, Chair of the Women and Equalities Committee, said:

"While there are plenty of statistics out there which vividly show how serious this problem is, still too little is known about what affects mental health for men and boys, the social and economic costs, the groups of men and boys that are most at risk and, most importantly, the action needed to tackle it.

At a time when the Government has committed unprecedented funding for mental health, we will be looking at Government plans and what more can be done to tackle this vast – but all too often invisible – problem."

The Committee is inviting written submissions to the inquiry by Monday 18 February 2019.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/women-and-equalities-committee/news-parliament-2017/mental-health-men-boys-launch-17-19/>

Out-of-school settings voluntary safeguarding code of practice (02/12/18)

We are seeking views on a draft voluntary safeguarding code of practice for out-of-school settings providers and associated parental guidance.

The DfE is consulting to inform the development and dissemination of a draft voluntary safeguarding code of practice for out-of-school settings; and accompanying guidance for parents setting out the key questions they may wish to consider when choosing an out-of-school setting for their child.

When referring to OOSS, we mean any institution which provides tuition, training, instruction, or activities to children in England without their parents' or carers' supervision, that is not a:

- School;
- College;
- 16-19 academy;
- Provider caring for children under 8 years old which is registered with Ofsted or a childminder agency.

Closing Date: 24th February 2019

<https://consult.education.gov.uk/regulatory-framework-unit/out-of-school-settings-voluntary-safeguarding-code/>