

## Families and Wellbeing

<b>Title:</b>	<b>Antisocial Behaviour Crime and Policing Bill</b>
<b>Accountable Officer:</b>	Clare Fish
<b>Portfolio(s) Affected:</b>	Neighbourhoods and Engagement
<b>Category:</b>	New Legislation
<b>Synopsis:</b>	This bill will include measures to tackle anti-social behaviour, forced marriage, dangerous dogs and illegal firearms.
<b>Key Points:</b>	The crime bill includes the new "community trigger", where police, councils and agencies would be forced to act if five households made a complaint about anti-social behaviour. The offence of being in charge of an out-of-control dog will be extended to cover private property, including people's houses. Forced marriage will become a criminal offence, as will a breach of a forced-marriage protection order. The police will be able to prosecute uncontested minor offences of shoplifting, and the witness-protection scheme will be extended to other vulnerable individuals. Magistrates will no longer have the power to reduce the victim surcharge by giving additional days in prison as a substitute. The police will also be reformed, with a new Police Remuneration Review Body replacing the Police Negotiating Board. This bill applies mainly to England and Wales, with some provisions extending to the rest of the UK.
<b>Further Information:</b>	A Local Government Information Unit briefing is available at: <a href="http://www.lgiu.org.uk/briefing/anti-social-behaviour-crime-and-policing-bill-2013/">http://www.lgiu.org.uk/briefing/anti-social-behaviour-crime-and-policing-bill-2013/</a>
<b>Implications:</b>	The Authority – through the Community Safety Partnership – will be affected by measures brought in to tackle anti-social behaviour. It is also likely that anti-social behaviour issues will be raised in the new Constituency Committees. The Council will have to ensure that mechanisms are in place to record and provide a unified response to these issues, with implications for the ASB team in Children's Services and Lifelong Learning.

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<b>Title:</b>	<b>More Affordable Childcare</b>
<b>Accountable Officer:</b>	Clare Fish
<b>Portfolio(s) Affected:</b>	Children's Services
<b>Category:</b>	Government Announcement
<b>Synopsis:</b>	The Government has published plans to deliver more childcare that is both affordable and meets the needs of working parents.
<b>Key Points:</b>	The main barriers identified by the Government are cost, confusing regulations that hinder providers, the role of local authorities, lack of flexibility when childcare is available, and confusing information about available childcare. The report outlines the Government's solutions, including plans for a new tax-free childcare scheme and the childcare element of Universal Credit. Some aspects of the plans require amendment of primary legislation, regulations and statutory guidance.

**Further Information:** A Local Government Information Unit briefing is available at:  
<http://www.lgiu.org.uk/briefing/more-affordable-childcare-dfe-statement-statutory-guidance-and-consultation/>

**Implications:** The Government believes that deregulation and reducing bureaucracy for providers will encourage more providers to enter the market, while opening up schools will potentially allow providers to access cheaper premises and to operate across more than one site. The role of local authorities will be limited to supporting providers that require help and ensuring that those families who may benefit the most from early education and care are able to access provision.

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**Title:** Care Bill

**Accountable Officer:** Clare Fish

**Portfolio(s) Affected:** Adult Social Care  
Health and Wellbeing

**Category:** New Legislation

**Synopsis:** The Care Bill introduces major changes to Social Care sector; emphasising wellbeing, prevention, carers' rights, choice and personalisation.

**Key Points:** This bill will introduce a cap on the cost of social care, and give carers the legal right to support from their local council. Key changes relate to the way Councils deliver Public Health and the NHS structure as well as the LA role. It will provide protection to people whose care provider goes out of business and give everyone a legal entitlement to a personal care budget, which they can receive as a direct payment to spend as they wish. In light of the issues at Stafford Hospital, the bill will introduce an Ofsted-style rating system for hospitals and care homes and give new powers of intervention to the chief inspector of hospitals. It will create two new public bodies, Health Education England and the Health Research Authority. These will provide additional training and support for health professionals.

**Further Information:** A Local Government Information Unit briefing is available at:  
<http://www.lgiu.org.uk/briefing/the-care-bill/>

**Implications:** Four key implications for the Council have been identified in collaboration with DASS:

- How is the cap to be resourced? The cap is likely to drive additional demand from people who would have been self funders. Wirral Council will need to forecast cost of implementation and build into financial projections as well as monitoring additional cost.
  - Increasing focus on integration and a fully joined up health and social care system is required.
  - Need to respond to new eligibility framework when published, no scope to review eligibility criteria in the short term.
  - Safeguarding review of thresholds and need to focus on personalisation and prevention in addition to simply keeping people safe.
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**Title:** Ofsted Early Years Good Practice: "Getting it right first time"

**Accountable Officer:** Clare Fish

**Portfolio(s) Affected:** Children's Services

**Category:** Guidance

**Synopsis:** Ofsted's good practice report Getting it right first time: Achieving and maintaining high-quality early years provision identifies key features of

<b>Key Points:</b>	high quality early years provision, drawing on evidence from visits to providers, case studies, Ofsted reports and research findings. The report, aimed to support those early years settings not improving at a fast enough rate, identifies the key features of settings providing good or outstanding early years provision. Strong and effective leadership is considered key.
<b>Further Information:</b>	A Local Government Information Unit briefing is available at: <a href="http://www.lgiu.org.uk/briefing/getting-it-right-first-time-ofsted-early-years-good-practice-report/">http://www.lgiu.org.uk/briefing/getting-it-right-first-time-ofsted-early-years-good-practice-report/</a>
<b>Implications:</b>	The report provides a useful insight into what makes an early years setting good or outstanding. Strong leadership is seen as key, with such leaders having the vision and commitment to “get it right first time”. Their focus is on the quality of the interaction between adults and children as the main factor in children’s development. Consequently, it is also clear that well qualified staff and continued staff development are also crucial in securing improvement within a setting.

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<b>Title:</b>	<b>Department for Education Review on Efficiencies in Schools</b>
<b>Accountable Officer:</b>	Clare Fish
<b>Portfolio(s) Affected:</b>	Children's Services
<b>Category:</b>	Consultation
<b>Synopsis:</b>	The Department for Education published, alongside the Chancellor’s Spending Review, the Review of efficiency in the schools system. The report identifies a number of characteristics which are common to many of the more efficient schools and proposes a number of actions that schools and government can take to support greater efficiency.
<b>Key Points:</b>	Schools that are managed efficiently: Deploy the workforce effectively, with a focus on developing high quality teachers Make use of evidence to determine the right mix of teaching and education support staff Employ or have access to a skilled school business manager who takes on a leadership role Make good use of financial benchmarking information to inform the school’s own spending decisions Make use of school clusters, sharing expertise, experience and data, as well as accessing economies of scale when making shared purchases Manage down back office and running costs Have in place a strong governing body and leadership team that challenges the school’s spending
<b>Further Information:</b>	A Local Government Information Unit briefing is available at: <a href="http://www.lgiu.org.uk/briefing/dfe-review-of-efficiency-in-the-schools-system/">http://www.lgiu.org.uk/briefing/dfe-review-of-efficiency-in-the-schools-system/</a>
<b>Implications:</b>	The findings of this Review will of interest to Members and Officers with responsibilities for education and schooling..

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<b>Title:</b>	<b>SEND Pathfinder Evaluation</b>
<b>Accountable Officer:</b>	Clare Fish
<b>Portfolio(s) Affected:</b>	Children's Services
<b>Category:</b>	Research
<b>Synopsis:</b>	The Children and Families Bill makes provision to change the way the needs of those with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND)

are assessed and met. This report considers how effective pathfinder authorities have been in implementing the proposals made in the act and some of the difficulties they have encountered.

**Key Points:**

Thirty-one local authority areas became pathfinders to develop and trial some of the ideas published in the Children and Families Bill. These include an integrated assessment process, a single 'Education, Health and Care Plan'; and personal budgets across education, social care, health, and adult services for children and young people from birth to 25 years. The evaluation is based on self-reporting of progress by all pathfinders and in-depth case study work in 10 selected areas.

The aims of the evaluation were to establish whether the pathfinders:

Increased real choice and control, and improved outcomes for families with disabled children and young people and those who have special educational needs

Made the current support system for disabled children and young people and those with SEN and their parents or carers more transparent, less adversarial and less bureaucratic

Introduced greater independence into the assessment process by using the voluntary sector

Demonstrated value for money, by looking at the cost of reform and associated benefits

**Further Information:**

A Local Government Information Unit briefing is available at:

<http://www.lgiu.org.uk/briefing/send-pathfinder-evaluation-process-and-implementation/>

**Implications:**

The findings of this Review will be of interest to members and officers working with schools, children's services, health and disability teams.

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<b>Title:</b>	<b>OFSTED Consultation: "Single Inspection Framework for Children in need"</b>
<b>Accountable Officer:</b>	Clare Fish
<b>Portfolio(s) Affected:</b>	Children's Services
<b>Category:</b>	Consultation
<b>Synopsis:</b>	Ofsted is consulting (until 12 July 2013) on a single framework for the inspection of local authority child protection services and services for looked after children.
<b>Key Points:</b>	<p>The single framework will focus on local authority child protection services and services for looked after children., including those leaving (or who have left) care Inspection of services for children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers.</p> <p>This replaces previous plans to implement separate inspections for child protection (through a multi-agency joint inspectorate framework) and services for looked after children. The new framework is to be implemented from November 2013.</p>
<b>Further Information:</b>	Link to the Local Government Information Unit's briefing: <a href="http://www.lgiu.org.uk/briefing/ofsted-consultation-single-inspection-framework-for-children-in-need-of-help-etc/">http://www.lgiu.org.uk/briefing/ofsted-consultation-single-inspection-framework-for-children-in-need-of-help-etc/</a>
<b>Implications:</b>	The findings of this Review will of interest to Members and Officers with responsibilities for Child protection and Children in need.

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**Title:** Consultation on Paying for Care

**Accountable Officer:** Graham Hodgkinson

**Portfolio(s) Affected:** Adult Social Care

**Category:** Consultation

**Synopsis:** The Department of Health (DH) is consulting on how to implement major reforms to adult social care.

**Key Points:** The consultation covers:

how to manage the large increase in demand from people who pay for their own care and support  
major changes to social care practices and systems including assessment and charging.

**Further Information:** A Local Government Information Unit briefing is available:  
<http://www.lgiu.org.uk/briefing/consultation-on-reforming-how-people-pay-for-their-care-and-support/>

**Further Information:** The Consultation can be found here:  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/caring-for-our-future-implementing-funding-reform>

**Implications:** The consultation is focused on how practical details of the changes to social care should be managed. It has three types of question - views, evidence and implementation, and runs until 25th October 2013.

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## Further Information:

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