

Policy: INFORM



Date of Meeting: 15th January 2014

Policy and Performance Coordinating Committee

Title: The new 'Single Inspection Framework'

Accountable Officer: Julia Hassall

Committee(s): Families and Wellbeing

Portfolio(s) Affected: Children's Services

Category: Guidance

Synopsis: Ofsted published, on the 25th September, its new single framework for inspecting local authority services for vulnerable children, examining help, protection and care from the time it is first needed until a young person who is looked after has been successfully helped to start their lives as a young adult.

This replaces previous plans to implement separate inspections for child protection (through a multi-agency joint inspectorate framework) and services for looked after children. Further guidance was issued in November relating to the 'Review of the LSCB' and the 'Inspection Handbook'. The new framework was implemented from November 2013.

Key Points: The inspection is universal and will be conducted in a three-year cycle. The framework brings together into one inspection: child protection; services for looked after children and care leavers; and local authority fostering and adoption services.

These inspections are conducted under section 136 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006. They focus on the effectiveness of local authority services and arrangements to help and protect children, the experiences and progress of children looked after, including adoption, fostering, the use of residential care, and children who return home.

The framework also focuses on the arrangements for permanence for children who are looked after and the experiences and progress of care leavers. The leadership, management and governance judgement addresses the effectiveness of leaders and managers and the impact they have on the lives of children and young people and the quality of professional practice locally.

It is expected that at the when the 'Single Inspection' takes place within an authority a 'Review of the LSCB' is also undertaken with a separate judgement being provided for the LSCB

Further Information: Ofsted Single Inspection Framework
<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/framework-and-evaluation-schedule-for-inspection-of-services-for-children-need-of-help-and-protectio>

Implications: Ofsted continue to provide grades for the outcome of inspections. Previous Wirral inspections have received grades of 'Good' with some 'Outstanding' areas. This new inspection framework with a broader remit

and a focus on the quality of practice and outcomes presents a markedly more challenging inspection regime than previous inspections. The inspection regime will have implications for the Children & Young People's Department, Local Safeguarding Children Board, Children's Trust Board and Partner Agencies.

Title:	Local Audit and Accountability Bill
Accountable Officer:	Joe Blott
Committee(s):	Transformation and Resources Co-ordinating Committee
Portfolio(s) Affected:	Governance and Improvement
Category:	New Legislation
Synopsis:	This bill will formally abolish the Audit Commission and replace it with a new local audit framework.
Key Points:	The main objectives are to reduce the cost of local audit and improve 'direct democracy' over Council Tax. The latter is achieved through giving local council taxpayers a veto to rises in council tax caused by bodies such as waste disposal authorities and integrated transport authorities. The bill will also cut down on the amount of council-funded newspapers produced.
Further Information:	A Local Government Information Unit briefing is available at: http://www.lgiu.org.uk/briefing/local-audit-and-accountability-bill-overview-and-update/
Implications:	Transformation and Resources will have a role in the development of a new local audit framework. Budget Strategy considerations may also be impacted by the changes to the Council Tax threshold for triggering a referendum.

Title:	Antisocial Behaviour Crime and Policing Bill
Accountable Officer:	Clare Fish
Committee(s):	Families and Wellbeing Co-ordinating Committee
Portfolio(s) Affected:	Neighbourhoods and Engagement
Category:	New Legislation
Synopsis:	This bill will include measures to tackle anti-social behaviour, forced marriage, dangerous dogs and illegal firearms.
Key Points:	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.
Further Information:	A Local Government Information Unit briefing is available at: http://www.lgiu.org.uk/briefing/anti-social-behaviour-crime-and-policing-bill-2013/

Implications: 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.

Title: **Spending Review**

Accountable Officer: **Joe Blott**

Committee(s): Co-ordinating Committee
Transformation and Resources

Portfolio(s) Affected: Finance and Leader of the Council

Category: Government Announcement

Synopsis: On 26 June, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, George Osborne, delivered his Spending Review to parliament setting out departmental spending for 2015-16.

Key Points: **Headline figures**
Total government expenditure for 2015-16 will be £745bn

The Chancellor announced that £11.5bn of savings would be found from government budgets in order to continue along Britain's path to deficit reduction, with some £5 billion coming from efficiency savings.

Until 2017-18, the total amount of government spending will continue to fall in real terms at the same average rate as today
There will be a 1% cap on public sector pay rises. Automatic progression pay to be ended in civil service, schools, hospitals, prisons and the police but not the armed forces
Capital spending plans will increase by £3 billion a year from 2015-16 and by £18 billion over the next Parliament.
The Government will continue to protect funding for health and schools in real terms in 2015-16.
The Spending Round announces that the government will, for the first time, introduce a cap on the country's welfare spending from April 2015. The cap will improve spending control, support fiscal consolidation, and ensure that the welfare system remains affordable. This will not include the state pension.

Further Information: The LGA has produced a Future funding outlook for councils from 2010/11 to 2019/20:

http://www.local.gov.uk/web/guest/media-releases/-/journal_content/56/10171/4053260/NEWS-TEMPLATE

Implications: For Wirral, the figures produced by the LGA broadly mirror our own calculations which forecast that we will be required to make savings of between £13.5m and £24m during the period 2015 to 2018. This is on top of the £109m savings the Council has to make between 2012 and 2015.

Title: **Whole Place Community Budgets**

Accountable Officer: **Emma Degg**

Committee(s): Co-ordinating Committee

Portfolio(s) Affected: Neighbourhoods and Engagement

Category: Guidance

Synopsis:	The Local Government Information Unit (LGIU) have produced a guide that brings together and updates a series of briefings on whole-place community budgets. The briefings set out the progress to date (up to 20 July 2013) with commentary and analysis.
Key Points:	This guide considers the context in which WPCBs have developed, summarises the four original pilots, and analyses what has happened since October 2012. It reflects on the key themes that have emerged so far and looks to the future after the next spending review.
	Whole-Place community budgets have demonstrated new approaches to some of the major challenges facing local government. They have also been developing a suite of tools and techniques to support consistency of analysis and modelling to further build the case for service reforms and outcome achievement.
Further Information:	Link to the Local Government Information Unit's briefing guide: http://www.lgiu.org.uk/briefing/guide-to-whole-place-community-budgets-a-new-lgiu-essential-guide/
Implications:	The LGiU briefing will be of interest to Members and Officers working towards the implementation of Community Budgets in Wirral: In the March 2013 budget the government announced the establishment of the Public Services Transformation Network (PSTN) to support new areas in taking a community budget approach. Wirral has been selected as one of nine areas that will be supported.
Recommendation:	Wirral Public Service Board to agree and deliver the above actions

Title:	More Affordable Childcare
Accountable Officer:	Clare Fish
Committee(s):	Families and Wellbeing
Portfolio(s) Affected:	Children's Services
Category:	Government Announcement
Synopsis:	The Government has published plans to deliver more childcare that is both affordable and meets the needs of working parents.
Key Points:	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.

Title:	Care Bill
Accountable Officer:	Clare Fish
Committee(s):	Families and Wellbeing

Transformation and Resources

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:	Details have been released by the NHS of the new better care funds promoting integration between health and social care. An initial proposal is to go to the Health and Wellbeing Board shortly. NHS Planning Guidance (with Better Care Fund details) http://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/bm-item6.pdf
Further Information:	Allocations Paper http://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/bm-item7.pdf
Implications:	Four key implications for the Council have been identified in collaboration with DASS: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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.
Recommendation:	Receive the proposals for the Better Care Fund.

Title:	Draft Deregulation Bill
Accountable Officer:	Joe Blott
Committee(s):	Transformation and Resources
Portfolio(s) Affected:	Finance and Leader of the Council Central Services
Category:	New Legislation
Synopsis:	This draft bill lays out how the government intends to reduce the amount of regulation with which businesses, individuals and public bodies have to comply.
Key Points:	Measures include exempting from health-and-safety legislation people who are self-employed and whose work poses no risk of harm to other

people, and removing the ability of employment tribunals to make wider recommendations in successful discrimination cases, which they were granted in the Equality Act 2010.

Further Information: A Local Government Information Unit briefing is available at:
<http://www.lgiu.org.uk/briefing/draft-deregulation-bill-what-next/>

Implications: In its current form, there may be indirect implications, such as in the area of procurement, that the Local Authority may wish to explore as the Bill is further debated and refined. There will also be direct implications in relation to employment tribunals.

Title: **Draft Consumer Rights Bill**

Accountable Officer: **Kevin Adderley**

Committee(s): Regeneration and Environment

Portfolio(s) Affected: Environment

Category: New Legislation

Synopsis: This proposed bill would update consumer-protection laws so they cover digital purchases such as downloaded music and e-books.

Key Points: Trading Standards will be granted new powers, such as being able to get a court to order a trader to pay compensation when consumer law is breached.

Implications: This draft bill will have provide Trading Standards with new powers and responsibilities. The impact on the existing work of the Trading Standards service may need to be explored as the Draft Bill develops through the legislative process.

Title: **Ofsted Early Years Good Practice: "Getting it right first time"**

Accountable Officer: **Clare Fish**

Committee(s): Families and Wellbeing

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 high quality early years provision, drawing on evidence from visits to providers, case studies, Ofsted reports and research findings.

Key Points: 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.

Further Information: A Local Government Information Unit briefing is available at:
<http://www.lgiu.org.uk/briefing/getting-it-right-first-time-ofsted-early-years-good-practice-report/>

Implications: 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.

Title: **Department for Education Review on Efficiencies in Schools**

Accountable Officer: **Clare Fish**

Committee(s):	Families and Wellbeing
Portfolio(s) Affected:	Children's Services
Category:	Consultation
Synopsis:	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.
Key Points:	<p>Schools that are managed efficiently:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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
Further Information:	A Local Government Information Unit briefing is available at: http://www.lgiu.org.uk/briefing/dfereview-of-efficiency-in-the-schools-system/
Implications:	The findings of this Review will of interest to Members and Officers with responsibilities for education and schooling..

Title:	SEND Pathfinder Evaluation
Accountable Officer:	Clare Fish
Committee(s):	Families and Wellbeing
Portfolio(s) Affected:	Children's Services
Category:	Research
Synopsis:	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:	<p>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.</p> <p>The aims of the evaluation were to establish whether the pathfinders:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.

Title: **Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs)**

Accountable Officer: **Kevin Adderley**

Committee(s): Regeneration and Environment

Portfolio(s) Affected: Economy

Category: Guidance

Synopsis: The Government has now set out the guidance and a timetable for the production of Strategic Economic Plans, which will determine the allocation to local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) of the Single Local Growth Fund (now referred to as the Local Growth Fund, or LGF).

Key Points: They can use this from April 2013 to build the capacity and capability they will need to develop their Investment Strategies. LEPs are considered to be key strategic drivers. They will:

- Work with local partners to decide which projects to support
- Help to identify match funding
- Oversee arrangements for selecting projects or for using co-financing organisations to procure European Structure Funds (ESF) provision, in discussion with Managing Authorities
- Deliver the milestones and results agreed in their strategy, including making sure that enough money is spent each year to meet annual spend targets
- Involve local partners across the spectrum.

Further Information: The Local Government Information Unit have recently produced a 'State of LEPs' briefing:
<http://www.lgiu.org.uk/briefing/the-state-of-leps/>

Implications: Local authority commitment to the Strategic Economic Plans is a key component of their acceptability and hence the allocation of LGF to LEPs. It is expected that local authority members of LEPs will put economic development at the heart of all they do and work collaboratively across the LEP area.

This guidance will be of interest to Members and Officers with particular interests and responsibilities for economic development, planning, and regeneration.

Title: **Neighbourhood Planning Areas**

Accountable Officer: **Kevin Adderley**

Committee(s): Regeneration and Environment

Portfolio(s) Affected: Environment

Category: Guidance

Synopsis: Neighbourhood Planning Regulations were introduced as part of the Localism Act and took effect in April 2012. Their purpose is to give

Key Points:	<p>communities the power to set the priorities for local development.</p> <p>Neighbourhood planning can be taken forward by two types of body - town and parish councils or 'neighbourhood forums'. Neighbourhood forums are community groups that are designated to take forward neighbourhood planning in areas without parishes. It is the role of the local planning authority to agree who should be the neighbourhood forum for the neighbourhood area.</p> <p>The Government attempted to keep the criteria for establishing neighbourhood forums as simple as possible to encourage new and existing residents' organisations, voluntary and community groups to put themselves forward.</p> <p>Neighbourhood forums and parish councils can use new neighbourhood planning powers to establish general planning policies for the development and use of land in a neighbourhood. These are described legally as 'neighbourhood development plans'.</p>
Further Information:	<p>The Local Government Information Unit (LGIU) has issued a briefing that compiles best practice examples from a number of Neighbourhood Planning Areas.</p> <p>http://www.lgiu.org.uk/briefing/policy-in-practice-neighbourhood-planning/</p>
Implications:	<p>The findings of this Review will be of interest to members and officers supporting and developing Neighbourhood Plans. In Wirral this is being progressed in four neighbourhoods: Devonshire Park Neighbourhood Forum; Hoylake Community Planning Forum; Central Liscard Area Residents Association and Greasby Community Association.</p>

Title:	Paying for Care
Accountable Officer:	Graham Hodkinson
Committee(s):	Families and Wellbeing
Portfolio(s) Affected:	Adult Social Care
Category:	Guidance
Synopsis:	The Department of Health (DH) is continuing to develop the new structure for charging for social care
Key Points:	<p>Care home charges will from 2016-17 be split into accommodation (paid by all) and care (means tested). Individuals will have a lifetime account of care costs. Once any person has paid £72,000 towards their care costs any further care will be free.</p> <p>Under current rules any person with capital exceeding £23,250 must pay the full cost of their care. The charging structure is being revised to introduce a much more gradual taper up to a capital limit of over £100,000</p> <p>There will be a universal right to a deferred payment arrangement.</p>
Further Information:	<p>A Local Government Information Unit briefing is available:</p> <p>http://www.lgiu.org.uk/briefing/consultation-on-reforming-how-people-pay-for-their-care-and-support/</p>
Further Information:	<p>The Consultation can be found here:</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/caring-for-our-future-implementing-funding-reform</p>
Implications:	Major project to prepare for the charging changes, though the replacement of SWIFT will help greatly.

The financial implications of all the Care Bill and charging changes are assessed at £500k in 2014-15, around £2m in 2015-16 and around £5m in 2016-17. (After allowing for new government grants).

Recommendation: Review the position further in October when further information is likely to be available.

Accountable Officer: Graham Hodgkinson

Committee(s): Families and Wellbeing

Portfolio(s) Affected: Adult Social Care

Category: Guidance

Synopsis: The Department of Health (DH) is continuing to develop the new structure for charging for social care

Key Points: Care home charges will from 2016-17 be split into accommodation (paid by all) and care (means tested). Individuals will have a lifetime account of care costs. Once any person has paid £72,000 towards their care costs any further care will be free.

Under current rules any person with capital exceeding £23,250 must pay the full cost of their care. The charging structure is being revised to introduce a much more gradual taper up to a capital limit of over £100,000

There will be a universal right to a deferred payment arrangement.

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: Major project to prepare for the charging changes, though the replacement of SWIFT will help greatly.

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Recommendation: Review the position further in October when further information is likely to be available.

Further Information:

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