

Coalition Summary – Select Committee

This document provides a summary of Coalition decisions / announcements that relate to or impact on Children's Services.

The first version detailed information as of 14/10/10 @ 12:15pm. This has now been updated to include any subsequent announcements and details from the comprehensive spending review (new entries in red text).

Information detailed is correct as of 27/10/10 @ 12pm.

Less regulation / inspection / data

- CAA abolished with immediate effect. Children's Service continue to be assessed by Ofsted. OfSTED is under a statutory duty to produce an annual assessment of the quality of children's services for each local authority, and will continue to do so until the duty is changed. (This duty is likely to be considered as part of the forthcoming DfE White Paper.) <http://www.ofsted.gov.uk> 13/8/10
- Councils free to appoint independent, external auditors for Local Government Value for money assessments – these will be regulated within a statutory framework overseen by NAO. <http://www.ft.com/> 7/9/10

Ofsted

- Michael Gove asks Ofsted to abolish schools SEF. The next step to abolishing bureaucracy for teachers is to remove the obligation to produce a Self Evaluation Form. <http://www.education.gov.uk/> 23/9/10
- Coalition in the process of reviewing the role of Ofsted.
 - Schools will no longer be scrutinised on how well they promote pupil wellbeing or community cohesion
 - Checks will focus on the core functions of teaching and learning
 - Any school rated as outstanding including academies will not be subject to routine inspection as long as the maintain high performance
- School Inspections to be slimmed down. Schools will be judged on <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/> 23/9/10
 - quality of teaching;
 - leadership;
 - pupils' behaviour and safety;
 - pupil achievements.
- Eric Pickles to replace national indicator set from April 2011 and enabling LAs to amend or drop indicators included in LAA without the need for ministerial agreement <http://www.communities.gov.uk/>

Quangos / Agencies Axed

- Becta (British Educational Communications and Technology Agency) being scrapped.
- Government abolishes the remaining eight Government Offices, subject to the satisfactory resolution of consequential issues through the Spending Review <http://www.communities.gov.uk> 23/7/10
- General Social Care Council scrapped. Responsibility for regulating social workers will be transferred to the Health Professions Council (HPC) <http://www.cypnow.co.uk/> 26/7/10
- General Teaching Council for England to be scrapped
- According to a report in the Telegraph, 177 Quangos are to be abolished – includes: School Food Trust; Equality and Human Rights Commission; General Social Care Council; General Teaching Council; Independent Advisory Group on Teenage Pregnancy; Museums; Libraries and Archives Council; School Support Staff Negotiating Body; Teachers TV Board; National Information Governance Board <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/> 23/9/10
- [List of 192 quangos to be axed released 14/10/10](http://www.education.gov.uk/) <http://www.education.gov.uk/>
 - For DCS Quangos to close include

- The Teenage Pregnancy IAG
- The Teachers TV board of governance and
- The Youth Justice Board

Also lists quangos still under review:

- Children and Family Court Advisory Support Service
- Partnerships for Schools
- Office of the Children's Commissioner
- Training and Development Agency for Schools
- National College for Leadership of Schools and Children's Services
- School Support Staff Negotiating Body
- Children's Workforce Development Council
- Young People's Learning Agency

Budget / In year reductions

- £311m cut to area based grant for Children's Service
- The National College for Leadership of Schools and Children's Services budget is to be cut back by £16m
- £15m is to be slashed from the Children's Workforce Development Council,
- The Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA), budget will be cut by £20m, £13m of which come from getting rid of a development fund, the remainder of which is a surplus of cash that is yet to be allocated to schools and colleges.
- S31 - The Children and Young People (Revenue) Grant for 2010-11 is to be an un-ring fenced grant. This grant integrates the Think Family Grant, Youth Opportunity Fund, Challenge and Support Fund and Youth Crime Action Plan. It also includes top-up funding for the LSC Staff Transfer Special Purpose Grant.
<http://www.education.gov.uk> (21/7/10)
- Educational Savings – Capital Programs. Letter from Michael Gove regarding programmes to be cut. <http://www.education.gov.uk> (14/10/10)
- Consultation opened on school funding in particular the pupil premium and distribution of the Dedicated Schools Grant for 2011-2012
<http://www.education.gov.uk> 26/7/10
- Arts Council England is to withdraw its funding for the creative learning programme for schools at the end of the current academic year. <http://www.cypnow.co.uk/> 14/9/10
- Training and Development Agency grant cut by £30m
 - The TDA announced that it has suspended all funding for support staff qualifications in the financial year 2010-11.
- Central funding for 14-19 workforce development activity coming to end in present form 31/8/10
- Local authority funding to be cut by 27% over the spending review period
- Capital funding from all departments will fall by around 45% dependent on how LA deals with council tax
- There will be a real terms increase in school expenditure of 0.1 per cent a year, with an increase in the 5-16 schools grant of £3.6 billion (includes £2.5 billion pupil premium for disadvantaged children)
- Non schools budget to be cut by 12%
<https://member.lgiu.org.uk/> 22/10/10
- Government funding to improve the care system and narrow the gap between children in care and their peers will be halved by 2014 <http://www.cypnow.co.uk/>

Phase out ring fencing around grants

- To assist LA helps make the required efficiency savings, the Government intend to remove the ring fencing around £1.7 billion in grants to LAs during 2010/11.
- Ring fences around schools and sure start centres will remain in place for this year
http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/press_06_10.htm
- All ring fencing ended except Simplified School Grant and Public Health Grant – (aims to offer more control to Local authorities from 2011-12)
<https://member.lgiu.org.uk/> 22/10/10

Baseline school funding from which the increase is calculated includes the following grants, the ringfencing around which has been removed :

- Funds allocated for one-to-one tuition
- Funds allocated for 'every child programmes' such as Every Child a Reader
- Extended schools (worth £70.6m in 2010/11)
- School lunch grant
- School Standards Grant (£168.3m in 2010/11)
- School Development Grant
- Specialist schools grant
- Ethnic Minority Achievement grant
- The National Strategies' budgets that were allocated to schools (£73.7m in 2010/11)
- Dedicated Schools Grant
- Academies running costs

(Sources: [click here](#) and for 2010-11 ABG settlement figures [click here](#))

BSF

- DfE press notice 5/7/10 – BSF program brought to an end
The key elements of today's announcement are:
 - That the Government is launching a comprehensive Review of all capital investment in schools, early years, colleges and sixth forms.
 - The review will guide future spending decisions over the next Spending Review period (2011-12 to 2014-15). It will look at how best to meet parental demand; make current design and procurement cost-effective and efficient; and overhaul how capital is allocated and targeted.
 - That the department is reducing its End Year Flexibility (EYF) requirements by £1bn to help ensure no additional borrowing this year.
 - The Secretary of State is also announcing today that he will be ending the £972,000 annual funding for the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE) design advice service associated with the BSF programme.

<http://www.education.gov.uk/>
- Education capital spending cut, school capital projects to receive £15.8 billion in government funding to pay for 600 rebuilding/refurbishing projects plus investment where there are areas of demographic pressure <https://member.lgiu.org.uk/> CSR 22/10/10

Academies bill / Free Schools

- Academies Bill passed and became law. <http://www.cypnow.co.uk/> 27/7/10
- Bill enables primary, secondary and special schools to change to become academies (those rated as outstanding can be fast tracked through the system)
- In summary academies are:
 - Funded by central government rather than through the local council
 - Free to set their own curriculum as long as it is "broad and balanced"
 - Responsible for their own admissions, but bound by the Admissions Code
 - Able to set terms and conditions for teachers and other staff
 - Receiving money previously spent on their behalf by councils for services such as those for children with special needs or excluded from school
- Particular provisions included in the Academies Act:- 2 parent governors on governing body; must promote community cohesion; a designate teacher for LAC; Sec of State has final say on SEN funding <http://www.education.gov.uk/academies> 4/8/10
- The bill also enables 'Free Schools' to be set up. Free schools can be set up by any suitable proposer, where there is evidence of parental demand such as a petition or declaration from interested parents. This could include one or more of the following groups:
 - charities
 - academy sponsors
 - universities

- independent schools
- community and faith groups
- teachers
- parents
- businesses.

The Secretary of State will consider each proposal on its merits, and take into account all matters relevant to that proposal.

- Funding for specialist schools, including High Performing Specialist Schools (HPSS) mainstreamed from April 2011. The £450 million will continue to be routed to schools through the Dedicated schools grant <http://www.education.gov.uk/>
- Consultation on proposed changes to Town and Country Planning Order 1995 opened 14/10 closes 10/12 – aims to facilitate development of free schools <http://www.communities.gov.uk> 14/10
- Changes to specialist schools programme <http://www.education.gov.uk/> 20/10/10
 - Schools will not have to designate or re-designate as specialist reducing bureaucratic burden
 - Funding for Specialist Schools and Academies Trust ends April 2011
 - Funding for Youth Sports Trust ends April 2011
 - School sport funding no longer ringfenced.
 - Many of requirements of PE and Sport Strategy to be lifted immediately
 - Competitive sports to be encouraged

Education and Children's Bill

- The main elements of the bill are:
 - To provide schools with the freedoms to deliver an excellent education in the way they see fit.
 - To reform Ofsted and other accountability frameworks to ensure that head teachers are held properly accountable for the core educational goals of attainment and closing the gap between rich and poor.
 - To introduce a slimmer curriculum giving more space for teachers to decide how to teach.
 - To introduce a reading test for 6 year olds to make sure that young children are learning and to identify problems early.
 - To give teachers and head teachers the powers to improve behaviour and tackle bullying.
 - To raise standards across the education sector through the creation of more Academies and giving more freedom to head teachers and teachers. Also ensure that money follows pupils, introducing a 'pupil premium' so that more money follows the poorest pupils.

Pupil premium

- From September 2011 schools will be given a cash (£2400 approx) incentive for every underprivileged child they teach, as part of a shake-up of schools funding. The payments, which will come from outside the budget for schools, are intended to stop the middle classes dominating the best schools and correct the "significant underachievement" of disadvantaged pupils compared with their peers. <http://www.education.gov.uk>
- Consultation paper on school funding for 2011/12 closes on 18/10/10 <http://www.education.gov.uk/consultations>
- Gov't confirmed the introduction of £2.5 billion pupil premium relating to disadvantaged children <https://member.lgiu.org.uk/> 22/10/10 Included as part of the overall increase in schools budget

14-19

- June letter to Ed Balls detailed spending cuts in 14-19 provision at £59.9 million. These included:
 - Ending Activity Agreement and Entry to Learning pilots
 - Cutting earmarked funding for enterprise education

- Reducing funding for development of Diplomas
- Ending the role of the 14-19 Regional Advisers from September 2010
<http://www.education.gov.uk/>
- DfE press notice 9/9/10 - Review of vocational training
- Michael Gove has asked Prof Alison Wolf to carry out an independent review of vocational training for 14-19 year olds looking at:
 - institutional arrangements
 - funding mechanisms including arrangements for who bears the cost of qualifications
 - progression from vocational education to work, higher education and higher-level training
 - the role of the third sector, private providers, employers and awarding bodies.<http://www.education.gov.uk/>
- The Government will “*move towards raising the participation age to 18 by 2015*”. In the context of raising the participation age, there will be unit cost reductions in the 16 to 19 participation budget and the support currently provided by Education Maintenance Allowances will be focused on the most disadvantaged children, saving around £0.5 billion

16 – 19

- DfE press notice: Government cuts more red tape to simplify college funding- 20/7/10. Schools Minister Nick Gibb said the current funding processes were too complex and had too many layers

Further moves to reduce bureaucracy and red tape in 16 to 19 education have been announced by the Government.
 - Freeing up local authorities to focus on their strategic role in 16-19 education
 - Scrapping the need for local authorities to set up ‘sub-regional groups’ and ‘regional planning groups’
 - From August, paying further education colleges, sixth form colleges and other training providers direct from the Young People’s Learning Agency
 - The National commissioning framework will not be replaced until the publication of the Education White Paper (due 1 November)
<http://www.education.gov.uk/childrenandyoungpeople>
- DfE press notice 7/6/10 - Government announces changes to qualifications and the curriculum
 - From September, state schools will be able to offer iGCSE qualifications in key subjects and that these results will be included in school league tables. This will bring state schools in line with independent schools.
 - The development of the new Diplomas in science, humanities and languages, due to be introduced from September 2011, will cease immediately - diplomas becoming vocational rather than general
<http://www.education.gov.uk/16to19/>
- Education Maintenance Allowance to be scrapped and replaced with ‘targeted support’ for the most disadvantaged
- There will be a decrease in per pupil funding for 16-19 <https://member.lgiu.org.uk/>
- The Further Education resource budget will be reduced by 25%, or £1.1 billion, from £4.3 billion to £3.2 billion by 2014-15. ([source](#))
- Colleges will benefit from:
 - reduced bureaucracy by simplifying funding arrangements to a single source;
 - streamlining Arms Length Bodies; and
 - abolishing central targets.
- Colleges will be expected to make savings including through greater efficiencies and pay restraint

- Information and advice for learners will be improved with an “all age careers service”
- The Government will significantly lower the overall cost of the further education system by abolishing Train to Gain. This will be replaced by a “SME focused scheme” ([Source](#))

SEN

- Green paper due out in the autumn will set out the Coalition programme for ending the bias towards inclusion for children with SEN and how to involve parents more in the decision making process. <http://www.education.gov.uk/>
- Ofsted review published on how well the legislative framework and arrangements served children and young people who had SEN <http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/>
- DfE annual analysis of Children with SEN published, states that 1 in 4 boys have some sort of SEN. <http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/> 19/10/10
- Personal budgets expanded for SEN children LGIU <https://member.lgiu.org.uk/> 22/10/10

Free School Meals

- DfE press notice – 9/6/10 - Free school meals continue; costly expansion plans shelved
 - Previous Government’s plan to extend the eligibility for free school meals has been scrapped.

Safeguarding

- Ministerial letter to all LSCB outlining Governments intention to publish serious case review overview reports and executive summaries from 10/6/10 unless there is compelling evidence not to do so. <http://www.education.gov.uk/>
- Sarah’s Law to be extended to 8 more areas. The Child Sex Offender Disclosure Scheme to be rolled out nationally. (West Midlands between 1 Aug and Oct 2010) <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/media> 2/8/10
- Following the abolition of Government Offices, revised arrangements for gathering information on serious child care incidents and handling correspondence on child protection were issued <http://www.dcsf.gov.uk> 28/9/10
- Part one of the Munroe Review of Child Protection sets out the initial analysis of child protection system in England <http://www.education.gov.uk/> 1/10/10. Issues identified:
 - professionals too focused on complying with rules and regulations and so spending less time assessing children’s needs
 - a target-driven culture meaning social workers are unable to exercise their professional judgement
 - too much emphasis on identifying families and not enough attention to putting children’s needs first
 - serious case reviews concentrating only on errors when things have gone wrong, rather than looking at good practice and continually reflecting on what could be done better
 - concerns about the impact of delays in the family courts on the welfare of children.
 - professionals becoming demoralised over time as organisations fail to recognise the emotional impact of the work they do and the support they need.
- Decision to extend media’s right to report on family court proceedings has been held until completion of the family justice review in the autumn. <http://www.cypnow.co.uk>
- MoJ have reversed plans to abolish fees incurred by Local authorities bringing care cases to court. <http://www.cypnow.co.uk/> 21/10/10
- More than £4 billion of revenue grants will be rolled into formula grant. This includes the £114.05m funding previously received from DfE (which will reduce to £66.34m by 2014-15) for the following:
 - LSC Staff transfer (baseline £50m – reducing to £34.6m in 2014 -15)
 - Services for Children in Care (£54.8m reducing to £28.2 in 2014-15)
 - Child Death review process (£7.7m reducing to 3.5m in 2014 -15);

- The contribution from DoH to the “Personal Social Services” portion of the formula grant appears to include money previously allocated to CAHMS

Contact Point

- Ministerial statement detailing arrangements for the formal closure of ContactPoint from 6 August 2010
- Proposal to develop alternative signposting approach. As LAs have continued to incur costs there will be additional ring fenced funding from 1 July to 31 August. When ContactPoint is switched off, local authorities statutory responsibilities will no longer apply. Implications for the eCAF system will be dealt with in due course.
<http://media.education.gov.uk/> 22/7/10

Vetting & Barring

- The Government have made clear their intention to bring the criminal records and vetting and barring regimes back to common-sense levels (15/6/10).
 - June 2010 voluntary registration halted.
 - Aspects already in place to continue but nothing further to be added
 - Home Office Review of registration scheme (not whole process) launched
 - Decision to be announced in December
- <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/>
- Review of scheme starts 22/10/10. Terms of reference include:
 - Evaluating scope
 - Examining functions and structure of safeguarding bodies
 - Recommending what is needed now and how to raise general awareness<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/> 22/10/10

NHS Whitepaper

- <http://www.dh.gov.uk/en>
- The NHS White Paper, Equity and excellence: Liberating the NHS, sets out the Government's long-term vision for the future of the NHS. The vision builds on the core values and principles of the NHS - a comprehensive service, available to all, free at the point of use, based on need, not ability to pay. <http://www.dh.gov.uk/> 12/7/10
- It sets out how the NHS will:
 - put patients at the heart of everything the NHS does;
 - focus on continuously improving those things that really matter to patients - the outcome of their healthcare; and
 - empower and liberate clinicians to innovate, with the freedom to focus on improving healthcare services
- Key elements of the white paper include
 - PCT's to be replaced by GPs Consortia
 - Strategic Health authorities abolished.
 - LA's to take on the function of joining up the commissioning of local NHS services, social care and health improvement. This includes:
 - Promoting integration and partnership working
 - Leading joint strategic needs assessments
 - Building partnership for service changes and priorities
- Transparency in Outcomes – framework for the NHS. Consultation to get the public's views on the development of an NHS Outcomes Framework, which the new Commissioning Board will use to ensure the NHS is delivering better healthcare http://www.dh.gov.uk 19/7/10
- Independent review by Prof Sir Ian Kennedy amid widespread concerns about services provided by the NHS to children and young people, Getting it right for children and young people: Overcoming cultural barriers in the NHS so as to meet their needs
- Government response to the Kennedy Review, this paper sets out what the NHS White Paper will mean for children, young people and families and seeks views on how can make the most of these important opportunities. Also makes it clear that no new policies are being created. <http://www.dh.gov.uk> 16/9/10

Play Strategy

- Treasury identify the Play Strategy as an example of wasteful spending
 - June 2010 DfE to reduce £5m from Play strategy
 - Play England has been asked to propose a reduced national delivery partner role for the remainder of the financial year
<http://cypnow.co.uk/>
- Secretary of State revised local authority allocations for play capital funding
<http://www.education.gov.uk> 20/10/10

Youth Offending

- MOJ blunder leaves councils in charge of offender education. A delay order published on 29/7/10 delaying councils becoming responsible for young offenders education until April 2011 was never put into place leaving councils forced to take over in September 2010 as originally planned by the 2009 Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act <http://www.cypnow.co.uk/>
- Although responsibility for funding and contracts for young offender education was to be transferred from the YPLA to councils immediately the MoJ is apparently now considering "whether it makes sense for the duties to transfer from the YPLA to local authorities". <http://www.cypnow.co.uk/>
- YJB IT project cancelled. Project had been designed to deliver a new Youth Offending Team Case Management Service, the aspects of the software completed will still be available. <http://www.cypnow.co.uk/>
- Justice Minister outlines plans to tackle Youth Offending – implementing Northern Ireland successful restorative justice system in England and Wales
<http://www.cypnow.co.uk/> CYP Now 25/10/10

Tellus and Lifestyle Survey

- Tellus 5 survey will not be delivered due to Govt commitment to reducing bureaucracy <http://www.tellussurvey.org.uk/> 23/7/10. Survey previously used to collect data for reporting against the following indicators included in the CYPP and Council Plan:
 - NI 69: Percentage of children who have experienced bullying
 - NI 110: Young people participating in positive activities
 - NI 115: Reduce the proportion of young people frequently using illicit drugs, alcohol or volatile substances
- Lifestyle survey stopped. This was previously used to collect data for the following measures which are included in the Community Strategy
 - % of YP in each group who feel that views and opinions are listened to in school
 - % of young people in secondary schools who had ever tried drugs
 - % of young people certain they know someone who uses drugs

Children's Trust

- DfE press notice – 22/7/10 – Reform of Children's Trusts:
 - remove the duty on schools to co-operate through children's trusts via the forthcoming Education Bill
 - remove the requirement on local authorities to set up children's trust Boards and the requirement on those Boards to prepare and publish a joint Children and Young People's Plan, at the first available legislative opportunity
 - revoke the regulations underpinning the Children and Young People's Plan and withdraw the statutory guidance on children's trusts, in the autumn.
<http://www.education.gov.uk/>

Sure Start & Early Years

- Sure Start will receive £1.3 billion plus a further £0.6 billion for related spending and its budget is maintained <https://member.lgiu.org.uk/>

- Fairness premium worth £7bn to be introduced for all disadvantaged two year olds entitling them to 15 free hours of early education and care 15/10/10 <http://www.education.gov.uk/>
- 4,200 Sure Start Health visitors to be recruited. The level of funding will be announced in due course. Health visitors will also be trained in the SAFER referral technique ([Source](#))
- Sure Start will be refocused on its original purpose of improving the life chances of disadvantaged children and targeting early intervention on families who need the most support
- Reforms to Sure Start children's centres will encourage more community providers to enter the market, including through payment by results
- The introduction of an early years single funding formula will also "*make the market more fair and equitable.*"
- 15 hours of free child care for the most deprived 2 year olds will be funded from the pupil premium.

Early Intervention

- Independent review on early intervention delivery. The review will focus on:
 - the identification of best practice in the field of early intervention
 - the dissemination and delivery of best practice
 - new ways to fund early intervention in the future<http://www.education.gov.uk/>
 - Call for evidence to support the Graham Allen Review on early intervention due by 5/11/10 <http://www.education.gov.uk/>
- Non-ring fenced early intervention grant worth £2 billion by 2014-15 (one of the few separate core grants) <https://member.lgiu.org.uk/> 22/10/10
 - Others are:
 - DSG
 - Learning Disabilities
 - Public Health grant from 2013 -14
 - New Homes Bonus (250m a year from 2013-14)
 - Council tax freeze grant
 - Housing benefit and Council tax benefit admin grant
 - PFI grant
 - Preventing Homelessness grant (increasing from £70.9 to £90m in 2011-12).
- Independent providers to provide a proportion of early intervention services for families in need. <https://member.lgiu.org.uk/> 22/10/10
- The Department for Education has confirmed that the early intervention grant will be made up of funds formerly allocated for tackling issues such as teenage pregnancy, substance and alcohol misuse, young people at risk of becoming Neet or committing anti-social behaviour and Sure Start funding <http://www.cypnow.co.uk/> 26/10/10

Teacher Qualifications

- 2 part review looking at updating 2007 teacher qualifications to ensure they will meet the needs of future pupils. <http://www.wired-gov.net/>
- DoE report setting out recommendations to establish strong professional careers services <http://publications.education.gov.uk/>

Health & Safety

- Lord Young's report looking at health & safety laws in the compensation culture proposes a common sense approach. 'Common Sense, Common Safety' <http://www.number10.gov.uk/>
 - Proposes reducing the paperwork involved with school trips

Community Budgets

- Pooled departmental budgets to be lemented across 16 areas from April 2011.
 - Focusing on improving outcomes in health, policing, worklessness and child poverty.
 - First phase to tackle families with complex needs
<http://www.communities.gov.uk/> 22/10/10

DfE & the Spending Review

- Statement about the spending review from the DfE
 - Reduction in resource spending of 3% by 2014-15
 - Capital spending will be reduced by 60% in real terms by end of SR period from baseline £7.6bn falling each year to £3.4bn by 2014-15
 - Schools- funding increased by £3.6 billion by end of 2014-15 = 0.1% increase annually.
 - Pupil premium to support educational development of disadvantaged pupils and provide incentives to good schools to take pupils from poorer backgrounds
 - 33% reduction in real terms by 2014-15 from Departments administrative budget
 - Applying measures suggested through the Spending Challenge
 - Next Steps include a Schools' White Paper and an SEN and Disability Green paper, further announcements about allocating voluntary sector grants, and confirmation of LA allocations for schools and early years provision. We will announce further programmes and further bureaucracy we intend to end in the next three months
 - **Revenue** expenditure by DfE will rise each year, from a baseline of £50.8bn to £51.2;£52.1; £52.9; and £53.9 in 2014-15. This represents a percentage change of 3.4% in real terms
<http://www.education.gov.uk/>
- Later this year, each Government department will publish a business plan setting out the details of its reform plans, including its:
 - vision and priorities to 2014-15
 - structural reform plan, including actions and deadlines for implementing reforms over the next two years; and
 - a consultation on the key indicators against which it will publish data to show the cost and impact of public services and departmental activities to ensure that the Government agrees the most relevant and robust indicators in time for the beginning of the Spending Review period in April 2011.

Higher Education

- Lord Browne's review of HE and more specifically funding and student finance where he recommends sweeping changes.
 - Full review <http://www.bis.gov.uk/>
 - Summary of key points <http://www.bbc.co.uk/>
- Funding for adult apprenticeships will be increased by £250 million a year by 2014-15, relative to the level inherited from the previous government.
- In further education, individuals aged 24 years and above wishing to gain a level 3 qualification (A-Level or equivalent) will be supported by the offer of a Government backed student loan to meet tuition costs. Loans will be available to learners with repayment on an income contingent basis.
- The Government will continue to support basic skills provision in order to ensure individuals are given the chance to gain basic numeracy and literacy skills. Spending on Adult Community Learning will be protected and reformed.

Others

- Home Secretary, Theresa May has suggested **ASBOs may be scrapped** as part of the Government's review of Policing <http://www.bbc.co.uk> 28/7/10
- **Schools will no longer be required tell parents when a member of staff uses force on their child** following the government's decision to scrap legislation introduced under the last administration. <http://www.cypnow.co.uk> 10/8/10
- **Revoked legislation** includes the:- <https://member.lgiu.org.uk/csn> 10/9/10
 - allocation of values to examination results for league tables
 - regulations requiring school governors to provide full statement of school's ethos and values
 - duty to record and report use of force in schools and colleges
 - use of legislation to ensure all schools became membership of behaviour partnerships
 - 'relevant partner' status of PRUs and Short Stay Schools
 - requirement that careers education teachers must include advice about apprenticeships
 - 6 new sections of the Children Act regarding the Children's Trust Board.
- **Green Paper: Children And Young People With Special Educational Needs And Disabilities.** Call for views from those with an interest in services for children and young people with SEN and disabilities to be considered in developing a green paper. <http://www.education.gov.uk/> 10/9/10
- **Children's services mapping.** This service will be discontinued from June 2011, no further data collection (NI51 CAMHS effectiveness may be the exception). A final analysis, research and database will be produced. <http://www.childrensmapping.org.uk>
- **Social Work Practice Pilot.** Pilot programme being expanded and expressions of interest are being requested <http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/> 15/9/10
- Michael Gove has launched an independent **review of music education**, which will be led by Darren Henley, Managing Director of Classic FM, stating broadening the access and opportunities young people have to experience and understand music is central to raising standards.
- Letter from Michael Gove to National Association of Head Teachers re: **review of national curriculum tests at KS2** and outlining key aspects of review and inviting NAHT to be involved in the review. <http://www.education.gov.uk/> 21/9/10
 - Head teachers' will not be repeating SATs boycott in 2011 <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news> 27/9/10
- Appeal court has ruled that **Local authorities must provide accommodation for asylum seekers who are leaving care.** <http://www.cypnow.co.uk/>
- Dept of Health announced that **4200 new health visitors** to be funded aimed at supporting young children and families in the community. An increase of almost 50% <http://nds.coi.gov.uk/>
- The government is planning to **publish a national charter for foster carers** early next year <http://www.cypnow.co.uk/>

Big society

Big Society is the Conservatives vision for handing power back to communities. It highlights three main areas:

1. Strengthen and support social enterprises to help deliver public service reform
 - Create an independent Big Society Bank, funded from unclaimed bank assets, which will leverage private sector investment to provide hundreds of millions of pounds of new finance for neighbourhood groups, charities, social enterprises and other non-governmental bodies.
 - One of the purposes of the Big Society Bank will be to provide funds to intermediary bodies with a track record of supporting and growing social enterprises.
2. Stimulate the creation and development of neighbourhood groups in every area
 - Establish National Centres for Community Organising and fund the training of 5,000 independent community organisers over the lifetime of the next Parliament. Organisers will have the skills needed to raise funds to pay for their own salaries,

- help communities to establish and operate neighbourhood groups, and help neighbourhood groups to tackle difficult social challenges.
- Providing neighbourhood grants for the UK's poorest areas. (micro-funding will go to charities and social enterprises to work with new and existing neighbourhood groups in the most deprived and broken communities).
3. Encourage mass engagement in neighbourhood groups and social projects
- Transforming the civil service into a 'civic service' by making regular community service a key element in staff appraisals. This will help to bring about a culture change throughout the civil service.
 - Launching an annual national 'Big Society Day' to celebrate the work of neighbourhood groups and encourage more people to take part in social action projects.
 - Big Society / National Citizen Service Pilots. Aimed at school leavers aged 16, pilots 2011 June to Sept. Activities designed introduce young people to the concept of civic responsibility. Both residential and home based. Potential providers to submit bids 1/8/10. Subject to Spending Review <http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk> 22/7/10
 - The Big Society Bank will bring in private sector funding in addition to receiving all funding available to England from dormant accounts