

Appendix 2: Emerging Policy Issues April 2013 onwards

Outcome 1: Outstanding for all

Priority 1: Work with schools, early years and post 16 providers, to deliver high quality education for all Haringey children and young people

[More affordable childcare](#) [Department for Education, July 2013] sets out the steps the government is taking to address the challenges in providing affordable childcare for parents, including:

- helping families meet the costs of childcare;
- increasing the amount of affordable provision; and,
- giving parents the right information so they can make informed choices about childcare.

It follows the January 2013 publication of [More great childcare - Raising quality and giving parents more choice](#) which set out a plan of action for how the government will achieve its vision of a dynamic childcare market for early education.

[Good early years provision for all](#) [Ofsted, August 2013]: Ofsted has announced that 'good' will be the minimum standard expected in pre-schools and nurseries. From 4 November 2013, a judgement of 'requires improvement' will replace the current 'satisfactory' for all early years providers – as it has already for schools and colleges. Providers judged to be "inadequate" – Ofsted's lowest grade – can be revisited within six months and are at risk of having their registration cancelled if they fail a second inspection.

Priority 2: Enable every child and young person to thrive and achieve their potential

[Tax-Free Childcare: consultation on design and operation](#) [HM Treasury, August 2013]: the government has launched a consultation on to provide help for working families with the cost of childcare. The scheme will be introduced from autumn 2015, and will provide eligible families with 20% of their childcare costs up to £1,200 per child a year – equivalent to the basic rate tax relief of childcare costs up to £6,000 a year. There have been [mixed reactions](#) to the proposals which, if adopted without further changes, will mean that:

- Two parents working full-time with annual salaries up to £150,000 each will be entitled to claim back 20% of childcare costs, with a maximum of £1,200 per child aged under 5, eventually rising to under-12s.
- A single parent working full-time, who does not qualify for tax credits or universal credit, earning up to £150,000 will be entitled to claim back 20% of childcare costs, with a maximum of £1,200 per child.
- If one parent works and the other does not, and the family does not qualify for tax credits or universal credit, they will not be able to claim.
- Two low-income workers who qualify for tax credits or universal credit and earn over the income tax threshold [set to be £10,000] will be able to claim 85% of childcare costs. The same applies to single parents.
- Families where both parents work, who qualify for tax credits and universal credit and one parent earns above the income tax threshold [set to be £10,000] and the other does not, will be able to claim 70% of childcare costs.

Outcome 2: Safety and wellbeing for all

Priority 3: Make Haringey one of the safest boroughs in London

[The Riot Damages Act](#) will be independently reviewed to ensure it protects the vulnerable and provides value for money. The review will examine the existing criteria which determines when compensation is payable. This includes key issues such as the definition of a riot, who should be liable and what level of compensation is suitable. The review should be concluded by September and will be followed by a public consultation.

[The Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Bill](#) was introduced into the House of Commons on 9 May 2013. It is expected to receive Royal Assent by the end of the session in spring 2014. It aims to:

- replace and condense the 19 existing powers to deal with anti-social behaviour into six
- makes forced marriage a criminal offence
- give victims the power to ensure that action is taken to deal with persistent anti-social behaviour through the new Community Trigger, and a greater say in what form of sanction an offender receives out of court through the new Community Remedy
- strengthen powers to tackle irresponsible dog ownership.

The [Offender Rehabilitation Bill](#) was introduced into the House of Lords on 9 May. It aims to:

- extend statutory supervision for at least 12 months after release to offenders serving short custodial sentences. Supervision would be created for those serving less than 12 months, and extended for those serving 1-2 years.
- offer greater flexibility to probation providers to tackle reoffending, including requirements to attend drug abuse treatment and testing, and a new rehabilitation activity requirement.
- Require offenders serving sentences in the community to seek permission before moving.

Secretary of State, Chris Grayling, has confirmed plans to restrict the probation service to the supervision of high-risk offenders and public protection issues – about 30% of their current workload. Partnerships of private sector companies and voluntary organisations would bid for payment by results contracts to supervise the rest – low and medium-risk offenders.

Priority 4: Safeguard adults and children from abuse and neglect wherever possible, and deal with it appropriately and effectively if it does occur

[Transforming Legal Aid: Delivering a more credible and efficient system](#) [Ministry of Justice, April 2013]: campaigners have warned that proposed changes to legal aid will be detrimental to victims of domestic violence.

[Single inspection framework for local authority children's social care services](#) [Ofsted, June 2013]: Ofsted has recently consulted on the way services for vulnerable children are inspected. Inspection of services for children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers proposes a single framework for inspecting local authority child protection and services for looked after children, including those leaving or who have left care.

The single framework replaces previous plans to implement separate inspections for child protection and services for children looked after. It proposes an evaluation of help, protection and care for children including the arrangements for local authority fostering and adoption services. Two other consultations, which ran at the same time, focused on Good voluntary adoption provision and Good independent fostering provision. The frameworks evaluate adoption and fostering services provided by voluntary and independent providers respectively.

Priority 5: Provide a cleaner, greener environment and safer streets

[Environment and climate change: balance of competences review](#) [Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs [DEFRA]/Department for Energy and Climate Change [DECC], May 2013]: This is an audit of what the EU does and how it affects the UK. The review, which commenced in autumn 2012, consists of 32 subject-based reports to be produced on a rolling basis over a period of 2 years. The government has now launched a [call for evidence on environment and climate change](#) which sets out the balance of competence in these fields. The final report [due to be published by the end of the year] will draw principally on evidence submitted during the 12 week consultation period.

[The waste management plan for England](#) [DEFRA, July 2013]: a compilation of existing waste management information and policies. In particular, it reflects the conclusions of the government review of waste policy in 2011 and developments since the review was published. The plan is complemented by the waste planning policy from the Department for Communities and Local Government Planning for sustainable waste management which sets out considerations relating to the location of waste infrastructure. The Department for Communities and Local Government will be consulting on an updated planning for sustainable waste management this summer.

[Local air quality management in England: review](#) [DEFRA, July 2013]: a consultation inviting discussion on the best way to address shortcomings identified in Local Air Quality Management [LAQM] delivery in England. There is a need to reinvigorate and refocus LAQM on action to help the UK meet EU air quality standards and to clarify its role alongside other actions to improve air quality [by national government etc] and to highlight what local authorities can do through working together to improve air quality.

Priority 6: Reduce health inequalities and improve wellbeing for all

[Ready for Ageing?](#) [House of Lords Select Committee on Public Service and Demographic Change, April 2013] concluded that “the Government and our society are woefully unprepared” for the rapid ageing of the UK population.

[Shaping our Age](#) [De Montfort University research document, June 2013] challenges the common perceptions of ageing and seeks to question the portrayal of older people and the assumptions that those providing services for them often make: doing things “for” older people rather than working alongside them.

[Standardised packaging of tobacco products](#) [Department of Health, July 2013]: the government has decided to wait until the emerging impacts of standardised tobacco packaging in Australia can be measured before making a final decision on the policy in England.

[Alcohol consultation: reducing problem drinking](#) [Department of Health, July 2013]: the government has decided not to proceed with Minimum Unit Pricing at the moment.

[New protection if care providers fail](#) [Department of Health, May 2013]: publication of consultation findings broadly supporting government proposals to deal with market oversight in adult social care:

- a system of checks on the finances of the largest care companies to give an early warning of potential problems, and to challenge financial systems which could be unsustainable or reduce quality.
- introduction of regulation of major care providers and, if a provider fails, plans to support a well managed exit.

[Improving corporate accountability in health and social care](#) [Department of Health, July 2013] seeks views on proposals to hold providers of health and social care to account where there are serious failures in care. It proposes that all directors of providers registered with the Care Quality Commission [CQC] – NHS hospitals, private hospitals and care homes – must meet a new fit and proper person test. The CQC will be able to insist on the removal of directors that fail this test. In cases where providers fail in the care that they provide, the CQC will be able to consider the role of the board and individual directors in that failure – with the power to prosecute in the case of serious failure.

The [CQC has recently launched its own consultation](#) on a new regulatory model which will include developing new fundamental standards as part of the requirements for registration with CQC. This will set in law a clear baseline below which care must never fall, and will allow CQC to take action against providers that do not meet these standards, including prosecuting individual directors where it can be established that they had neglected their duty to ensure that the basic standards of care are provided.

[Safeguarding power of entry: Government response](#) [Department of Health, May 2013]: following government consultation, the DH has announced that government will not be adding a new adult safeguarding power of entry to the Care and Support Bill.

[The Care Bill](#), published on 10 May 2013, brings together the government's recent announcements on social care funding reform. It also aims to implement some of the recommendations of the Francis Report, such as the introduction of Chief Inspectors for hospitals and social care and placing 'a duty of candour' on social care providers which would mean executives would have to tell health regulators if they thought their employees might be harming or neglecting people in their care.

[Caring for our future: implementing funding reform](#) [Department of Health, July 2013] seeks views on the practical details of how the changes to the funding system should happen and be organised locally, including:

- how the capped costs system should work
- how deferred payments should be administered
- how we can help people make informed choices about their care and support

The *Integration Transformation Fund* (ITF) will take forward even closer working between health and social care in local areas when delivering services to adults. The Government has made release of ITF allocations conditional on localities producing Integration Plans. Haringey must therefore produce a Local Integration Plan by March 2014 if it is to receive its' ITF allocation. The Council and CCG will work together, under the umbrella of the Health and Wellbeing Board, to ensure that Haringey's Plan is in place by this date.

The Department of Health have published their consultation document: *Caring for our Future: Consultation on reforming what and how people pay for their care and support*. DH is seeking views on two key areas:

1. Policy design and technical implementation of deferred payment agreements and the new charging rules from April 2015; and
2. The cap on care costs and extended access to financial support from April 2016.

Outcome 3: Opportunities for all

Priority 7: Drive economic growth in which everyone can participate

[Local Enterprise Partnerships](#) [Business, Innovation and Skills Committee, April 2013]: the report broadly welcomed the progress made by LEPs but highlighted the need for clearer ministerial accountability and ownership; more certainty around the government's longer term financial commitment; and monitoring mechanisms to ensure greater confidence in LEP activity and associated value for money.

[Transport and accessibility to public services](#) [Environmental Audit Committee, June 2013]: the report found that:

- Insufficient progress has been made since 2003 to address problems with transport provision and the location of services which can reinforce social exclusion by preventing people from accessing key local services and undermine government policies to tackle worklessness, increase participation in education, reduce crime and narrow health inequalities.
- There is evidence that accessibility is worsening, driven by tight budgets in central and local government. Accessibility statistics show travel times to key services steadily increasing over time, particularly for access to hospitals.
- While localism offers opportunities for better designed and more locally relevant solutions, central government cannot absolve itself from a role in coordination action across departmental silos and helping local authorities and service providers to share best practice. The government's forthcoming Transport Strategy should be an opportunity to address this.

Priority 8: Deliver regeneration at priority locations across the Borough

[Extending permitted development rights for homeowners and businesses](#) [Department for Communities and Local Government, April 2013]: part of the government's aim to cut back red tape to help people improve their homes, extend to accommodate a growing family or older generations, and help businesses to grow without having to relocate.

[Community infrastructure levy further reforms](#) [Department for Communities and Local Government, April 2013]: the consultation sought views on further regulatory reforms to the community infrastructure levy and results are yet to be published which will be of interest to local authorities, house builders, landowners, developers and key delivery partners with an interest in development and infrastructure provision and the Community Infrastructure Levy.

The **High Speed Rail [Preparation] Bill**, announced in the Queen's Speech in May, will authorise expenditure to build a High Speed Rail network from London to Birmingham and Manchester to Leeds. The Bill paves the way for the Hybrid Bill to be brought forward at the end of the year. The Hybrid Bill will give the government the powers and consents to enable the building of the line, including powers to acquire the land and planning permission.

[Planning performance and the planning guarantee](#) [Department for Communities and Local Government, June 2013] sets out the government's response to the consultation on tackling poor performance in the planning system, including its proposals for implementing Section 1 of the Growth and Infrastructure Act 2013 and measures to underpin the planning guarantee.

[Streamlining the planning application process](#) [Department for Communities and Local Government, June 2013] sets out the government's response to the public consultation on measures to streamline the planning application process, including proposed changes to design and access statements, the validation stage and decision notices.

[Review of planning practice guidance](#) [Department for Communities and Local Government, May 2013] sets out the government's response to the consultation and the report from Lord Taylor.

[Registration of new town or village greens: proposed amendments to the Commons Act 2006](#) [Department for Communities and Local Government/ Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, July 2013]: following reforms in the [Growth and Infrastructure Act 2013](#) to the system for registering new town or village greens, the government is seeking views on a draft order to provide further detail and to extend the reforms to circumstances not currently covered by the reforms.

Priority 9: Ensure that everyone has a decent place to live

[The Deregulation Bill](#) has been published in draft for pre-legislative scrutiny. Its aims include:

- reducing/removing burdens on businesses, civil society, public bodies and the taxpayer
- reducing the qualifying period for Right to Buy and Right to Acquire from five years to three years
- ensuring that non-economic regulators will now have a duty to have regard to the impact of their actions on growth.

The Communities and Local Government Committee is conducting an inquiry into the [regulation of social housing in England](#) and has published its report on [private rented housing](#), and levels of rent within the sector.

[Local Housing Allowance Targeted Affordability Funding](#) [Department for Work and Pensions, July 2013]: the findings of a consultation are awaiting on how the Local Housing Allowance Affordability Funding is targeted. The government announced in the Autumn Statement 2012 that most Local Housing Allowance rates will be increased by a maximum of 1% in 2014/15 and 2015/16. The government also committed to using 30% of the potential savings from this measure [as at Autumn Statement 2012] to increase some rates by more than the 1% limit, which will help prevent more areas becoming unaffordable for Housing Benefit claimants.

Outcome 4: A better council

Priority 10: Ensure the whole council works in a customer focussed way

Priority 11: Get the basics right for everyone

Priority 12: Strive for excellent value for money

[The Barriers to Choice Review: how are people using choice in public services?](#) [independent Boyle Review, April 2013] looks at how effective choice is in health, social care and schools, and concludes that while the public like the idea of choice, they are confused by what it means in practice and find it difficult to actually exercise. This is especially the case for those from disadvantaged groups.

[Public Service Transformation Network](#) [DCLG, July 2013]: The first nine areas¹ to be championed by the PSTN will receive dedicated support to help them develop practical reforms and deliver better services for less in a partnership approach. The Public Transformation Network will help to spread the opportunities created by [Community Budgets](#) around the country, leading to more joint working and shared services. The network is composed of people with expertise from across the public and private sectors to provide direct links between government departments, councils and local places.

The Communities and Local Government Committee has decided to carry out an [inquiry into local government procurement](#). The central focus will be to assess the extent to which it is delivering

¹ Bath and North East Somerset; Bournemouth, Poole and Dorset; Hampshire; Lewisham, Lambeth and Southwark; Sheffield; Surrey; Swindon; the West London Alliance [Barnet, Brent, Ealing, Harrow, Hillingdon and Hounslow]; Wirral

good value for money and meeting the objectives of local authorities. The inquiry will highlight and examine good practice and initiatives within local authority procurement and elsewhere and explore how and to what extent local authorities can adopt and take advantage of them.

The CLG Committee has also launched an inquiry into [how community budgets are developing](#), following their initial 2012 inquiry.

The Public Accounts Committee has published its third report, [Department for Communities and Local Government: Financial sustainability of local authorities](#) which notes that: “So far, the highest reductions in terms of spending power have tended to be for councils that depend most on government grant, where needs for local services tend to be greatest. New reforms to the funding system—allowing councils to retain a portion of Business Rates income they raise locally—will reward councils who enjoy growth in Business Rates income, but will also remove resources from those which experience a relative decline. It will become increasingly important for the Department to improve its ability to foresee what effects the full package of funding reductions and reforms will have on local authority areas, particularly for those authorities which face higher deprivation levels.”

The [Local Audit and Accountability Bill](#) was introduced into the House of Lords on 9 May. It:

- provides for the formal closure of the Audit Commission and the introduction of new arrangements for the audit of local public bodies.
- would allow local taxpayers to veto “excessive” council tax rises through the extension of the council tax referendum provision “to unelected local quangos” – such as Waste Disposal Authorities, Integrated Transport Authorities, Pension Authorities and Internal Drainage Boards.
- would deliver the Coalition’s pledge to “protect the independent free press from unfair competition by town hall publications” by strengthening the legal status of the Code of Recommended Practice on Local Authority Publicity [[consultation outcome](#) published in May].

The Bill has clarified the powers of the auditor general to look into ‘the economy, efficiency and effectiveness’ with which local public bodies use their resources – the National Audit Office will undertake ‘value for money’ examinations of councils once the Audit Commission is abolished. Under these plans, the NAO will prepare and maintain a Code of Audit Practice to set out the framework within which local auditors will work.

The government has launched [two consultations seeking views on proposed immigration legislation](#):

- Migrant access to health services in the UK to ensure that migrants contribute fairly to the costs of their healthcare
- Tackling illegal migration in privately rented accommodation.