

## Appendix 2: Emerging Policy Issues October 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

The government has refuted suggestions that plans to expand nursery provision for two year olds should be delayed until existing provision is brought up to scratch. The Sutton Trust has published new research from [Oxford University](#) which concludes that:

- The current level of quality of provision may not be high enough to deliver the expansion effectively.
- 20,000 of the existing staff nationally still need to complete extra qualifications to bring them up to the required standard.
- Pay needs to be improved in order to attract the right quality of staff.

[Establishing Free Schools](#) (National Audit Office) reports on value for money. It finds that:

- The primary factor in decision-making has been opening schools at pace, rather than maximizing value for money.
- Most primary Free Schools (87% of places) are in areas that need extra places; only 19% of free secondary schools are to be found in such areas. Overall, Free Schools have opened with 75% of planned admissions in their first year, but there are significant variations between schools.

Key messages in the [Ofsted Annual Report 2012/13: schools and further education](#) are that:

- overall, schools and colleges were performing better than they were a year ago.
- the priority remains of tackling the 'persistent variations in performance that disproportionately affect some children in particular parts of the country'.

The Select Committee for Education's [School Partnerships and Cooperation](#) report notes:

- Insufficient research evidence and ongoing evaluation about the role of school collaboration in institutional improvement.
- Continued absence of partnership from the accountability system, a timely recommendation in the annual Ofsted report. This is an important long-term recommendation, which Labour has picked up in its recent pledge that schools will not be able to be deemed 'outstanding' without having been collaborative.
- Lack of government scrutiny of the role of academies in school partnership, the right of parents to have access to public information on the effectiveness of academy chains, and the expectation that converter academies will be expected to support other schools.

Ofsted has published [Pupils Missing out on Education](#), a report on children and young people who are not in full-time education at school which includes findings about the 'failure of some local authorities to meet their statutory obligation to ensure that children and young people are receiving a suitable education... This can be a safeguarding as an educational matter.' As a result of the findings, 'Her Majesty's Inspectors will ask for detailed and specific data on school-age children, for whom the authority is responsible but who are not in full-time education, as part of the new inspections of LA children's social care'.

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

New Ofsted arrangements have begun for the [single inspection of child protection, services for looked after children and care leavers, and LA fostering and adoption services and for the review of Local Safeguarding Children Boards \(LSCBs\)](#). The first tranche of four LAs to be inspected (Derbyshire, Hartlepool, Slough and Sheffield) under the framework was announced on 19 November, and inspection started on 20 November.

[Foundation Years: Sure Start Children's Centres](#) (Commons Education Committee) recognises the popularity of Sure Start children's centres but also concludes that: "there is a lack of clarity about their function and purpose, and a need for stronger accountability measures for both children's centres and local authorities. Local authorities need to have a strong focus on early years and need to react to questions raised by Ofsted about children's centres' effectiveness as they would to questions raised about schools. Local authorities also need to work with children's centres to ensure that the right groups are being reached, including sharing data. The report welcomes the multi-agency approach to commissioning, but recognises that local authorities' short-term approach to commissioning is driven by central Government funding decisions. Early years policies continue to be characterised by too much short-term and disparate policies from central Government."

The Chief Medical Officer's 2012 annual report – [Our children deserve better: prevention pays](#) – looks at improving health and wellbeing outcomes for children and young people, with implications for local authorities with responsibilities for public health and children's services, such as:

- growing evidence for the benefits of early intervention by schools, local authorities and the NHS for benefits to individuals and the wider economy in later life.
- the importance of building resilience, so that children and young people learn how to cope effectively as adults.

Save the Children's report [Too Young to Fail: Giving all children a fair start in life](#) shows how the life chances of children born into poorer families are all but decided by the age of seven at which point 80% of the educational achievement gap between rich and poor pupils at GCSE has already been determined. The LGIU briefing urges all political parties to build into their 2015 manifestos policies that will ensure that no child is left behind by the age of seven and that all children leave primary school with a fair chance of succeeding at secondary school and in their future lives.

The Department for Education and Department of Health have published [Implementing the 0 to 25 special needs system: advice for local authorities and health partners](#) and other documents. Although non-statutory, the advice is intended to help key stakeholders understand their role in implementing the reforms to the special educational needs system being introduced through the Children and Families Bill.

The NAO published [Programmes to help families facing multiple challenges](#). The report claims that the two government programmes – the DCLG's 'Troubled Families Programme' and DWP's 'Families with Multiple Problems Programme' – aiming to help families with multiple challenges, such as employment and anti-social behaviour, are starting to provide benefits but considerable challenges remain.

[Does Money Affect Children's Outcomes?](#) (Joseph Rowntree Foundation) explores the impact money has on the wellbeing of children. Among the conclusions reached are that children from low income families have worse cognitive, social-behavioural and health outcomes than children from wealthier families and that a given sum of money has a greater impact on the life of a poorer child than the same sum invested in the family of a wealthier child.

[The Entitlements Inquiry](#) (All Party Parliamentary Group for Looked-After Children and Care Leavers) looks into the differences between what looked-after children and care leavers across England are entitled to and the support they actually receive. Over 70% of children in care and 80% of young care leavers do not think they have all the information they need about the support they should receive from their local authority. More than one third did not know if they have a care plan, and only half of care leavers say they have a pathway plan, setting the support the local authority will provide for them. Less than half are aware of key entitlements to help them stay in education, get and keep a job and set up home when they leave care. The Government has also published the [Care leaver strategy: A cross-departmental strategy for young people leaving care](#).

## Outcome 2: Safety and wellbeing for all

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

The Office of the Children's Commissioner has published [If only someone had listened](#), the final report of its two-year Inquiry into child sexual exploitation in gangs and groups. The Inquiry has, "for the first time demonstrated the true scale of sexual exploitation and violence that children and young people are suffering from perpetrators operating in both gangs and groups". It sets out a Framework for action – See Me, Hear me – based on evidence received by the Inquiry.

[Transforming rehabilitation and reducing reoffending: next steps](#) sets out government plans to revolutionise the way in which offenders are managed in the community. It summarises the new Target Operating Model which details the way the new system will work and surveys a Summary of evidence on reducing reoffending. A competitive process to identify and secure a wide range of offender management services in each of 21 new rehabilitation areas is now underway.

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

[Family values](#) (Local Government Ombudsman) reports on council services to family and friends who look after others' children. It says that some councils treat such carers unfairly, some fail to follow statutory guidance (without clear reasons) on support for family and friends foster care, and (as of July 2013) around one third of councils had still failed to publish a policy on family and friends carers – despite statutory guidance that they should have done so by September 2011. In some cases, the children and young people being cared for are put at increased risk as a result.

The Care Quality Commission is consulting on proposals contained in [A fresh start for the regulation and inspection of adult social care: working together to change how we inspect and regulate adult social care services](#). This includes a new approach to monitoring the finances of some adult social care providers will be introduced – those that would be difficult to replace if they were to go out of business.

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

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs has published a set of recommendations following its consultation on [Local air quality management in England](#).

The Department for Transport and Department for Communities and Local Government are seeking views on current [local authority parking strategies](#) and on options for changing the balance of how parking is enforced with the aim of ensuring that parking strategies complement and enhance the attractiveness of our high streets and town centres. In a Transport Select Committee report, [Parking enforcement](#), published in November 2013 with a focus on high streets, parking and public car parking, the Committee were:

- believes that every local authority should publish an annual parking report to show precisely where their parking revenues come from and how any income is being used.
- found it hard to justify fines that "substantially" exceed penalties for what they believe to be more serious offences like speeding.
- believes that it is unacceptable that local enforcement regimes are forcing some companies to incur penalties costing hundreds of thousands of pounds a year for carrying out their business.

### Priority 6: Reduce health inequalities and improve wellbeing for all

The Integration Transformation Fund has been renamed the [Better Care Fund \(BCF\)](#). An LGIU briefing summarises and comments on the BCF guidance and considers the chances of achieving seamless health and social care. Reaction to the BCF has been mixed; on proposals to move some money from the NHS to local authorities, the Medical Director of the NHS warned of fears that "NHS funds will be used to fill in potholes". Work is already well under way on Haringey's BCF bid.

It is anticipated that the [Care Bill](#), the new legal framework for adult social care, will receive Royal Assent in April 2014. Although local government has welcomed much of what is in the Bill, there are concerns about funding (both the implementation and on-going costs) particularly the £72,000 'cap' on liability for 'reasonable care costs' that will start from April 2016 and the costs of carrying out a huge number of new assessments of current self-funders. An amendment to Clause 118 gives the Secretary of State new powers to close or privatise services and local hospitals.

The Department for Work and Pensions has published its response to the consultation on the Personal Independence Payment (PIP) [Moving around activity](#). While the DWP maintains its stance that the use of 20 metres is appropriate as the distance for determining entitlement to the enhanced rate of the Mobility component, it will continue to review and improve PIP and are commissioning 2 independent reviews. These will include a consideration of how the PIP mobility criteria are working in practice and what impact they are having.

CQC has published its [2012/13 State of Health and Social Care in England](#). The main negative findings relate to the number of avoidable emergency hospital admissions of older people; instances of poor care; and worse outcomes for people with dementia. The findings support recent policy emphasis on greater integration of health and social care services and improved support and training for staff. However, some policy initiatives provide disincentives to greater integration and funding constraints impede workforce development.

[Support and Aspiration: Introducing Personal Budgets](#) sets out a framework upon which local plans to implement personal budgets for children, young people, and families can be built. The framework does not set out every detail of implementing personal budgets and as such the authors recommend that it is drawn upon to help resolve local challenges in implementation. As such, the framework should inform wider plans to introduce the changes required to meet the forthcoming reforms of the support system for children and young people with special educational needs (SEN) and disabilities, and be considered by partners in SEN, social care, health, schools, family organisations and the local market of support when developing plans.

## Outcome 3: Opportunities for all

### Priority 7: Drive economic growth in which everyone can participate

[Experiences and effects of the Benefits Cap in Haringey](#), produced jointly by the Chartered Institute of Housing (CiH) and the London Borough of Haringey concluded that measures to help claimants adjust to the cap were introduced effectively in Haringey. The Northern Housing Consortium is monitoring the impact of welfare reform in the north, through its [Real Life Reform](#) studies. There are a number of other longitudinal studies on the impact of welfare reform on social housing households, notably [Real London Lives](#), commissioned by g15, a group of London's largest housing associations.

The Work and Pensions Committee has launched a new inquiry into the effects of the welfare reforms that have been introduced and the ways in which [housing cost support](#) might be provided in future, as universal credit is rolled out nationally.

The Culture, Media and Sport Committee will conduct a short inquiry into the [work of Arts Council England](#). It will examine the economic and artistic criteria that underpin funding decisions and seek views on whether the geographical distribution of funding is fair and the justification for the current weighting of this towards London.

The Social Mobility and Child Poverty Commission's first annual report, [State of the Nation 2013](#), finds that despite efforts to date, the scale and depth of progress are unequal to the social,

economic and fiscal challenges. The Commission calls for a renewed drive and new approaches to overcoming poverty and enhancing mobility.

[The Future of Apprenticeships in England: Implementation Plan](#) details the government's reforms to the Apprenticeship system, and outlines how they will be implemented from 2017/18. The key elements include new employer-designed standards and assessment procedures; strengthened English and maths requirements; and a mandatory requirement that Apprenticeships last for a minimum of 12 months. The new standards and assessment procedures will be designed over between 2013/15 by companies and professional bodies acting as 'trailblazers' for their sector.

#### **Priority 8: Deliver regeneration at priority locations across the Borough**

The [National Infrastructure Plan 2013](#) brings together analysis of the UK's infrastructure needs to 2020 across different sectors.

Public Health England has launched [Healthy People, Healthy Places](#), a programme designed to ensure that 'health, wellbeing and inequalities are addressed in planning and development of the built environment'.

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

The Department for Communities and Local Government has published revised guidance for local authorities and tenant groups who are looking to [transfer their housing stock to a private registered provider](#).

[Local Housing Allowance Targeted Affordability Funding](#): the government has laid regulations that instruct rent officers how to set the LHA rates in January 2014 and published an equality analysis.

The Department for Work and Pensions says that it has used the responses to its call for evidence to [support for mortgage interest](#) to help develop the owner occupier element in Universal Credit and our future support for mortgage interest policy.

[Tackling illegal immigration in privately rented accommodation](#) sets out the Home Office response to its consultation and explains how the scheme will affect particular groups and types of property, which will be excluded and which documents should be checked and when.

### **Outcome 4: A better council**

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

The LGIU published [The Future Town Hall: How will local government be different 30 years from now?](#), bringing together thinking by leading local government practitioners, commentators and thinkers on what local democracy might look thirty years from now.

The Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) is seeking views about its future. [Looking ahead, staying ahead: towards a 2020 vision for information rights](#) reminds us that "the issues around data and the right of access to official information become ever more significant to the work of public, private and third sectors".

#### **Priority 11: Get the basics right for everyone**

Drawing extensively on the work of the Centre for Public Scrutiny, an LGIU briefing [Local Authority Scrutiny at a Crossroads?](#) notes that: "In the current local authority climate, the need for sound effective decision making has never been more important. Local authority leadership needs a valid mechanism of challenge and scrutiny to monitor decision making, tackle poor service provision and to ensure value for money is delivered."

## Priority 12: Strive for excellent value for money

Finance remains the biggest concern for councils with further cuts of 10% in 2015/16, announced in the June spending review. The Chancellor has also indicated that:

- the Conservatives would want to see £25 billion of more cuts if they win the general election.
- public finances will not be brought back into balance during the lifetime of the current parliament.
- Financial austerity is expected to continue until at least 2017.

Grant Thornton's [financial health checks of English local authorities](#) states that "challenges are set to increase and authorities will have to work harder to ensure they stay financially resilient."

[Tough Times 2013](#) provides the Audit Commission's assessment of the financial health of councils since 2010. The report examines how councils have coped in the face of considerable financial pressures. Despite the challenges, it finds that councils have demonstrated a high degree financial resilience to date, with the majority of councils experiencing no serious difficulties in delivering their agreed budgets. However, auditors are less confident about councils' future financial prospects and their ability to deliver their medium-term financial plans; one third of councils are considered to present a future financial risk.

The focus of the [Commons Select Committee on Local Government Procurement](#) is to assess the extent to which Local Government is delivering good value for money and meeting the objectives of local authorities. The inquiry aims to 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 Commons Select Committee for Communities and Local Government is considering whether and how [fiscal and financial powers could be devolved to London and English cities](#).

[An independent commission into local government finance](#) is to be undertaken by the Local Government Association (LGA) and the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA). The Commission, launched at the LGA's General Assembly, will explore how reforms to the local government finance system can help address the challenges facing the country such as promoting economic growth, reforming the welfare system and integrating health and social care.

The Joseph Rowntree Foundation's (JRF) report [Coping with the cuts? Local government and poorer communities](#), contends that cuts in spending power and budgeted spend are systematically greater in more deprived local authorities than in more affluent ones, with a difference of around £100 per head in both England and Scotland; cuts are also generally greater in the North and Midlands than in the south of England, and in the west rather than the east of Scotland.

The [Smart Cities](#) concept is focused on the ways in which the management of urban environments is assisted by information technology. It hinges largely on the potential for information technology not only to collect and process data but to transform it into intelligence and to integrate it across services. This paper sets out government's ambitions and how it hopes local government will help realise them. As the EU is rapidly developing its own policies for smart cities, there is also an interest in the potential for EU funding.

The research project, [Local Digital Today](#), aims to provide insight into how and where digital technologies can help local public services to provide better services to their citizens for less cost to the public purse. Respondents (predominantly from local authorities with some suppliers) reported significant barriers, such as integration with existing legacy systems and ICT infrastructure and lack of funds, along with the significant cultural change that will be required to move an organisation into a digital future. Leadership regarding best practice and raising digital ambition across the sector was seen to be key to successful digital transformation.