

Weekly Policy Bulletin

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News

The government [announced](#) last week that 20 pathfinders will test out the main proposals in the **SEN and disabilities Green Paper**. Manchester is one of the successful pathfinder bidders and will receive up to £150,000 a year to test new ways of working. Manchester will focus on young people in transition (aged 14-25). Our vision is to create a single, person centred, aspirational Education, Health and Care Plan for all eligible young people with flexible funding to deliver the plan. The plan will be holistic, owned by the young person and based on individual choices from the whole range of options, including employment, leisure and independent living. We will work with the PCT, develop even stronger links with Adult Services and share learning with Greater Manchester partner authorities, 4 of which were also successful bidders.

The LGiU conducted a survey of 80 Lead Members and Directors of Children's Services in August 2011 on [the future of local government's role in the school system](#). Two-fifths of respondents expect 80% or more of secondary schools in their area will choose to convert to academy status within three years. Nearly all respondents believe that performing a "strong, strategic role" in education will require councils to have additional powers, such as the ability to intervene in a poorly performing academy. Ninety per cent of respondents believe academies will continue to purchase council-provided services.

Conservative Party Conference will be taking place in Manchester from 2nd-5th October. I have compiled a list of fringe events on children, schools, families, youth etc. Many of these are outside the secure zone and are therefore open to all. Please let me know if you would like my list.

Best Practice

The Children's Workforce Development Council has published an [evaluation](#) of a three-year pilot developed to allow local authorities to explore different ways of delivering social work. The Director of Social Work at CWDC believes the report will be extremely helpful to those reshaping social work in the light of the Munro review. Small changes, such as basing social workers in accessible settings like schools and increasing the time social workers spend with families are seen to make the biggest difference.

Policy Consultations and legislation

Consultations open for the next 4 weeks:

[Establishing a new office of the Children's Commissioner for England](#)

[A Revised Early Years Foundation Stage](#)

[Qualifications for 14-16 year olds and Performance Tables](#)

[Arrangements for the inspection of local authority children's services](#)
[School funding reform: Proposals for a fairer system](#)
[Implementation of the 2010-11 review of capital education](#)
[Strategy for the Secure Estate for Children and Young People](#)
[Reforms proposed by Public Bodies Bill](#)
[Proposed changes to the disciplinary and induction regulations for teachers in England](#)
[Changes to the Care to Learn Childcare Support Scheme](#)

Please let me know if you would like more information on any of these.

The [Education Bill](#) will be in the committee stage in the House of Lords until 4th October.

The [Health and Social Care Bill](#) will receive its second reading in the House of Lords on 11th October

The [Public Bodies Bill](#) which proposes, amongst other things, the abolition of the Youth Justice Board, has been sent to the Public Bill Committee, which next meets on 11th October

Thanks to Quay for help in improving the look of this bulletin. I welcome any feedback. ideas or items for inclusion in this bulletin.

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