

Policy Update May 2022

Introduction

Congratulations to the councillors who were elected in May and to those who have been given responsibility for young people's education and skills. We hope that our updates help you and your council's officers in this important area of work.

The transition from spring to summer marks the final preparations for the exam season and we wish all young Londoners our best wishes for every success.

We hope everyone in the sector enjoyed the Jubilee Holiday celebrations and we are delighted to congratulate Mary Vine-Morris, Regional Director of the Association of Colleges (and member of the Young People's Education and Skills Board), on being awarded an MBE.

Please let us know if you wish to continue to receive our policy updates so that we can ensure that the content best meets the needs of our readers.

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Contents

Overview	2
Deadlines	2
The Queen's Speech	3
Parliament	3
<i>Legislation</i>	3
<i>House of Commons</i>	3
<i>House of Lords</i>	4
Recovery	4
Themes	4
<i>Effective Participation</i>	4
<i>Achievement</i>	6
<i>Progression</i>	6
<i>Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance</i>	6
<i>Special Educational Needs and / or Disabilities</i>	6
<i>Mental Health</i>	6
<i>Funding</i>	7
<i>Inclusion</i>	7
<i>Social Mobility</i>	7
<i>Youth Justice</i>	7
<i>Climate Change</i>	7
Statistics	8
<i>Attendance</i>	8
<i>Participation</i>	8
<i>Achievement</i>	8
<i>Progression</i>	8
<i>Other statistics</i>	8

Overview

1. May saw the Queen's Speech, which introduces the government's legislative programme for the Parliamentary Year ahead. As expected, a Schools Bill was included and we will continue coverage of the Bills passage through Parliament in coming months. A large body of statistics was released and this is a timely reminder that an analysis of official statistics can be found in [Intelligent London](#), while our own [Performance Report](#) includes interpretation of what these figures mean for London and how they inform policy priorities (this will be updated in June). As usual, there are reports across a wide range of themes that we have covered in this update.

Deadlines

2. The [Bell Foundation](#) has launched a new funding round for grant partnerships in 2022 to address the key issues facing speakers of English as a second or additional language in the criminal justice system. Expressions of interest have to be submitted by 13 June.
3. The deadline for responding to the government's Special Educational Needs and / or Disabilities (SEND) [Review](#) has been extended to 22 July.

The Queen's Speech

4. The [Queen's Speech](#), delivered by the Prince of Wales on 10 May, announced the government's Parliamentary programme for the year ahead. It included the Schools Bill (see paragraph 5). Other bills of relevance to young people's education and skills that were announced include the Mental Health Act Reform Bill and the [Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill](#), to which the Local Government Association responded with a publication, produced in conjunction with the Learning and Work Institute, stressing the need to [Work Local](#).

Parliament

Legislation

5. The [Schools Bill](#), which proposes to legislate for changes and powers set out in the Schools White Paper was introduced into the House Of Lords. Among the measures it would introduce are:
 - The Education Secretary would have new powers to close or tackle failing Multi-Academy Trusts
 - Councils would be able to apply for maintained schools in their area to become academies (not necessarily with the support of the schools concerned).
 - Ofsted would have more power to inspect illegal schools.
 - Private schools could have registration suspended if there are concerns over pupil safety.
 - A national system for fining parents over pupil absence would be introduced.
 - School attendance policies would be mandatory.
 - A register of home-educated children would be established.
 - Teacher misconduct cases would be extended.
6. The Schools Bill received its [second reading](#) on 23 May.
7. Alongside the Schools Bill, the government published the [Implementation Plan](#) for its reform programme introduced in the Schools White Paper.

House of Commons

8. The House of Commons held a session on [Education Questions](#) on 23 May.

9. The Education Select Committee published the [report](#) of its inquiry into prison education, calling for an overhaul of the system.
10. On 24 May the Education Select Committee held a [formal evidence session](#) about the government's SEND Review.
11. The government [published](#) its response to the Education Select Committee's report on the catch-up programme.
12. On 11 May the [Public Accounts Committee](#) heard from senior DfE officials on the SEND Review.

House of Lords

13. The House of Lords Committee investigating the fitness of purpose of the Children and Families Act 2014, following a visit to Barnet on 19 May, held a [formal evidence meeting](#) on 23 May.
14. Lord Laming (Crossbencher) asked a [question](#) on safeguarding of young children against abuse caused by household members on 24 May.

Recovery

15. London's Recovery Board published a plan ([Building a Fairer City](#)) that aims to reduce the inequalities that drove the disproportionate impact of the pandemic or were created by it.

Themes

Effective Participation

NEET and Risk of NEET

16. An [article](#) by the ONS shows that young people from workless households are significantly more at risk of being out of education and employment themselves.
17. The Think Tank [EDSK](#) provided its views on how to prevent young people from falling out of our education system.
18. The [Commission on Young Lives](#) has published its third thematic report looking at how thousands of vulnerable children are falling through gaps in the education system, putting them at risk not only of low attainment but also serious violence, county lines, criminal exploitation, grooming and harm.

Positive participation

19. The DfE published [guidance](#) to help schools, academy trusts, governing bodies, and local authorities maintain high levels of school attendance including roles and responsibilities.
20. The Children's Commissioner presented the initial findings of the [Attendance Audit](#) to the Attendance Action Alliance.

Learning Landscape

21. The DfE has provided [additional information](#) to support local authorities interested in setting up a multi-academy trust as part of a test and learn exercise in 2022 to 2023.

Apprenticeships

22. The DfE published [Apprenticeship evaluation 2021: learner and employer surveys](#).
23. The European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (CEDEFOP) and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)'s [Apprenticeships for greener economies and societies](#), demonstrates the importance of apprenticeships in supporting the green transition and responding to the skills gaps in sectors.

T Levels and Applied General

24. The DfE [published a list](#) of 160 level 3 qualifications that will be de-funded that overlap with waves 1 and 2 of T levels.
25. The [National Foundation for Educational Research](#) published research into the T level Transition Programme.

Quality Improvement

26. The DfE published the latest wave of its [School and College Panel omnibus survey](#).
27. The Government has announced that the new [National Institute of Teaching](#) (NioT) will be led by the School-Led Development Trust (SLDT), a charity founded by four of England's leading school trusts.
28. The [Government Social Research Unit](#) published a report of 16 to 19 year-old learners' experiences of the covid 19 pandemic.

29. Ofqual has published its [three-year plan](#); an ambition for the future of qualifications that are sought after, fair, accessible, valued and world class. Ofqual sets out its vision to steer the future of qualifications.

Achievement

30. See paragraph 51.

Progression

Progression to the Labour Market

31. The Office for National Statistics' [labour market overview: May 2022](#) shows a further improvement since the start of the pandemic, continued concerns over employment of 16 to 24 year-olds and there were more job vacancies than unemployed people in May.
32. The [Skills and Productivity Board](#), the main functions of which have transferred to the [Unit for Future Skills](#), concluded its remit by publishing a series of reports answering the questions it was convened to answer. The Unit for Future Skills published its first [report](#) on skills outlook over the next 15 to 20 years.⁴¹
33. The [Edge Foundation](#) published its May 2022 assessment of skills shortages in the UK economy.

Further and Higher Education

34. The [Open University](#) intends to work with colleges to offer more high-quality higher and technical education.

Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance

35. The OECD Career Readiness Team launched [Meet the Future: How employers gain from helping young people get career ready](#).

Special Educational Needs and / or Disabilities

36. Please see paragraphs 10 and 12

Mental Health

37. The DfE has published a [data release](#) describing progress in implementing the main strands of its programme to improve children and young people's mental health, started in 2018.
38. The government has [provided £10 million](#) to extend senior mental health lead training to reach more schools and colleges.

Funding

39. The GLA has set up a dedicated webpage that describes London's approach to the [UK Shared Prosperity Fund](#).
40. The DfE announced that funding for the [education recovery programme](#) is to double for secondary schools next year to support pupils catch up on lost learning.

Inclusion

41. [Trust for London](#) provided an assessment of poverty in London before and during the Covid 19 pandemic.
42. The charity [Gingerbread](#) published a report showing the impact of the pandemic on single parents living in London.

Social Mobility

43. [Action for Children](#) published a report comparing three generations of childhood, commenting on school and education; mental health and emotional wellbeing; poverty and hardship; and crime and safety. Action for Children also published analysis of its [Crisis Fund](#), which provides emergency grants to families for food, bills and other essentials.

Youth Justice

44. The Office for National Statistics published an [analysis](#) of the education attainment, social care background and demographics of individuals who had been imprisoned in the period to April 2017.
45. The [youth custody figures](#) for March 2022 show that 130 under 18s whose home area was in London were in custody. This is the fourth month in a row that the number decreased and another low since 2015.
46. See also paragraph 2.

Climate Change

47. Please see paragraph 22.

Statistics

Attendance

48. On 12 May 99.9 per cent of educational settings were open and 91.9 per cent of students were in attendance.
49. On 26 May, 99.9 per cent of educational settings were open and 89.6 per cent of students were in attendance.

Participation

50. The following releases are relevant to the education and training of Londoners aged 16 to 19:
 - [Local authority school places scorecard 2021](#)
 - [Pupil absence in schools: autumn term 2021](#)
 - [Young people NEET, UK \(May 2022\)](#)
 - [Youth unemployment by socioeconomic background 2014 to 2021](#)

Achievement

51. The [provisional detailed figures for A levels and other 16 – 18 results in 2021](#) show that London had the highest average point score per A level entry when compared with the other English regions (more than 20 per cent of students studied Applied General Qualifications).
52. [Provisional figures on GCSE, AS and A levels for the summer 2021 exam series were](#) also released in May.

Progression

53. The statistics most directly related to young people's education and skills are:
 - [Outcomes by ethnicity in schools in England](#)
 - [Post-16 education and employment outcomes of children in need](#)
 - [Graduate Outcomes \(Longitudinal Educational Outcomes \(LEO\)\)](#)

Other statistics

54. [Education, health and care plans: England 2022](#) (Data on the number of children and young people aged up to 24 with a statement of SEND or education, health and care (EHC) plan in England).
55. [Further Education skills index](#), which provides data about the FE system's added-value.