

TheBigSource

Feb 2015



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for anything relating to *The Big Source*.

Image Above: Logo for Universal Credit, a new benefit which is being rolled out in the next few months.

To see past issues visit:
I:\Group Information\Big Source

As part of our campaigns strategy we will be responding to relevant public policy consultations. If you want to take part in any of the public policy consultations listed below, representing an area of the business, contributions need to be approved by an Assistant Director/Director within the business. Please can anyone submitting contributions inform Nic Seccombe before they are submitted so we can ensure we are not all responding to the same consultations.

TheBigSource

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PROCUREMENT

Public Contracts Regulations (2015)

The **Public Contracts Regulations (2015)** have been laid in Parliament and come into force on 26 February 2015; further details can be found at the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/procurement-policy-note-0215-public-contracts-regulations-2015>

The **Public Contracts Regulations (2015)** implement the **EU Public Sector Procurement Directive (2014)** in addition to reforms recommended by the 2013 report **Growing Your Own Business: a report on growing Microbusiness** (see link below)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/growing-your-business-a-report-on-growing-micro-businesses>

The new regulations aim to deregulate and simplify the rules for public procurement, making it more accessible for small businesses. The new rules apply to all procurements for public services except for a small number of procurements listed in the regulations.

Review of Social Value Act (2012)

The **Social Value Act (2012)** requires people who commission public services to consider securing added economic, social or environmental benefits for their local area. The

Act currently applies only to *service* contracts over the EU threshold (approx £110K). Further information can be found at the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/social-value-act-information-and-resources>

The Government has recently reviewed how this Act is functioning; details of the review can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/social-value-act-review>

The review found that the Act is having a positive effect where it is taken up. The review also makes recommendations around how to move the Act into its next phase of implementation. Furthermore the Cabinet Office has been asked to prevent the Act's thresholds from increasing when the **Public Contracts Regulations (2015)** come into force.

Social Impact Investment

Social Impact Investment (SII) is the provision of finance to organisations addressing social needs with the explicit expectation of a measurable social, as well as financial, return. In February the **OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development)** published a report on the SII market. The report, entitled '**Social Impact Investment: Building the Evidence Base**' can be found at:

<http://www.oecd.org/sti/ind/social-impact-investment.htm>

This report follows other reports on SII which were referenced in November's Big Source.

CHILDREN & FAMILIES

Early Years Pupil Premium

The **Early Years Pupil Premium** is being implemented this April. This is funding that providers can access and equates to up to £300 per year for each child who meets the eligibility criteria. Guidance on eligibility criteria can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/early-years-pupil-premium-guide-for-local-authorities>

On 12th February 2015, the Government announced additional funding to assist councils in implementing the premium. Further details can be found at the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/extra-funding-to-prepare-for-the-early-years-pupil-premium>

National Childcare Costs Survey

The **Family and Childcare Trust (FCT)** is a charity which aims to make the UK a better place for families, through research, campaigning and information provision. On 19th Feb 2015, the charity published its 14th annual **Childcare Costs Survey**, which found that the cost for all types of childcare for the under-fives has increased by at least 27 per cent in the current Parliament. As part of this report, the **FCT** has made several recommendations for the the next Parliament. Further details can be found at:

<http://www.familyandchildcaretrust.org/childcare-cost-survey-2015>

Protecting Children Online

In December the Government announced a package of measures which aim to protect

children from online abuse; these measures include the introduction of a new law to make it illegal for an adult to send a sexual communication to a child. Further details can be found at the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ending-online-child-sexual-exploitation-uk-leads-global-summit-in-london-weprotect-children-online>

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

The Criminal Justice and Courts Bill

The **Criminal Justice and Courts Bill** which was first introduced to parliament at the beginning of 2014, has been passed by The House of Lords (25th Jan 2015) and will shortly become an Act of Law. This legislation covers a wide range of topics and a range of fact sheets can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/criminal-justice-and-courts-bill-fact-sheets>

New Resettlement Prisons

In January and February, new open prison units opened at Styal and Drake Hill prisons – see MOJ press releases below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-open-prison-unit-launched-at-drake-hall>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/styal-prison-launches-new-open-unit>

These units have opened as part of **The Transforming Rehabilitation Programme** - a reform programme that aims to bring down reoffending rates by changing the way offenders are managed; policy papers for this programme can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/reducing-reoffending-and-improving-rehabilitation>

A key component of the reform programme is the opening of accessible prison resettlement units. Up until recently there were only two open female prisons in England; these new open units will enable more people to serve their sentence in open conditions close to home.

Post Prison Support

On 1st Feb 2015, the Ministry of Justice announced that – with immediate effect - anyone sentenced to more than a day in prison will receive at least 12 months rehabilitation on release. This reform stems from **The Offender Rehabilitation Act (2014)**. Probation staff will be required to draw up a plan for an offender's rehabilitation within the first few days of them entering prison. Further details of this initiative can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/post-prison-support-extended-to-45000-offenders>

Female Genital Mutilation

The Government has undertaken a consultation on how to introduce a mandatory reporting requirement in cases of **Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)**. The outcome of this consultation was published on 12th Feb 2015 and the Government has announced that front-line professionals will have a mandatory duty to report cases of FGM; further details can be found at the links below

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/introducing-mandatory-reporting-for-fgm>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/crime-prevention-minister-announces-mandatory-reporting-of-fgm>

This consultation coincided with the announcement on 5th Dec 2014 of 17 community projects that have been funded to help end FGM.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/funding-for-frontline-projects-in-fight-to-end-female-genital-mutilation>

DISABILITY

MPs Promoting Disability in the Workplace

MPs across the country are holding disability employment events in their constituencies to showcase the skills of disabled people at work, and to encourage employers to make the most of these skills. Further details can be found at the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/make-every-town-disability-confident-mps-called-on-to-support-disability-employment-drive>

DOMESTIC ABUSE

New Domestic Abuse Offence

Following a public consultation on proposals to strengthen the law on domestic abuse, on 18th Dec 2014 the Government announced plans to create a new offence of coercive and controlling behavior. The new law will help protect victims by outlawing sustained patterns of behaviour that stop short of serious physical violence, but amount to extreme psychological and emotional abuse. Further details can be found at the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-to-create-new-domestic-abuse-offence>

Funding for Refuges

In November 2014, the Government

announced a £10 million fund for local housing authorities to help them strengthen refuge services; see the link below for further details

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/funding-to-strengthen-accommodation-based-specialist-domestic-abuse-service-provision>

DRUGS & ALCOHOL

Government Policy on ‘Legal Highs’

In *December 2013* the Home Office commissioned an expert panel to look at the challenge of New Psychoactive Substances – so called ‘Legal Highs’. This report was published by the Home Office on *30th October 2014*

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/new-psychoactive-substances-review-report-of-the-expert-panel>

In response to the report, which concludes that these substances pose significant dangers to people, the Home Office has announced a range of actions. Specifically, the Home Office will develop proposals to introduce a blanket ban on legal highs. (*existing legislation is on a substance-by-substance basis - at the end of November, 2 specific ‘legal highs’ were specified as Class A substances under the **Misuse of Drugs Act 1971***). The Home Office has also published a number of other related documents.

[Home Office Response to Expert Panel Review](#)

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/368498/ResponseNPSreviewExpertPanelReport.pdf

[Home Office Evidence Paper on New Psychoactive Substances](#)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/new-psychoactive-substances-in-england-a-review-of-the-evidence>

[Government’s International Study of Drug’s Policies](#)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/drugs-international-comparators>

Extension to Mandatory Drugs Testing in Prisons

One of the consequences of **The Criminal Justice and Courts Bill** (described above) is that the secretary of state can specify non-controlled drugs (including so-called ‘legal highs’) for inclusion in the Mandatory Drug Testing Programme in prisons. From *1st February 2015* offenders found using specified ‘legal highs’ in prison could face sanctions including additional days in prison, and segregation. Please see the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-crackdown-on-dangerous-legal-highs-in-prison>

EMPLOYMENT

Shared Parental Leave

Shared Parental Leave (SPL) is a new legal right which allows couples to share maternity or adoption leave and pay. This regulation comes into force on *5 April 2015*. ACAS have produced a good practice guide for employers and employees which can be found at:

<http://www.acas.org.uk/index.aspx?articleid=4911>

Workplace Pensions

In October-November 2014, the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) undertook a public

consultation into draft regulations relating to both governance and charges in certain occupational pension schemes. The purpose of this legislation is to help ensure value-for-money in workplace pensions. The Government's response to this consultation (4th Feb 2015) can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/better-workplace-pensions-putting-savers-interests-first>

The final draft of the regulations: **Occupational Pension Schemes (Charges and Governance) Regulations 2015** should come into force in April 2015 – subject to parliamentary approval. These regulations can be found at:

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukdsi/2015/978011128329/contents>

HEALTH

King's Fund Report: NHS Reform

The King's Fund is an independent charity working to improve health care in England; it aims to shape policy through a variety of activities including research and analysis. The Fund has been reviewing the current government's record on the NHS and is producing a report in two parts. The first part (6th Feb 2015) focuses on the reforms set out in the **Health and Social Care Act (2012)** and can be downloaded at:

<http://www.kingsfund.org.uk/publications/nhs-under-coalition-government>

The key recommendations are (1) the next government should continue the emphasis on patient safety and quality of care but with less emphasis on regulation and more on supporting the NHS to improve care and (2)

Further top-down reorganisations must be avoided, with people working within the NHS being empowered to make reforms to reduce the complexity and confusion of the structures introduced by the current government.

Visible CQC Ratings

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) is the body which regulates and inspects health services in England. Following Department of Health consultation in Sep 2014, '**Transparency in care: visible ratings for health and care providers**', new rules have been announced mandating hospitals, GP surgeries and care homes to display the inspection rating that has been awarded by the CQC. These rules will come into force on 1st April 2015, subject to Parliamentary approval. Please see the link below for more detail:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/health-services-to-display-inspection-ratings>

The CQC have recently produce guidelines on how health and adult social care providers and services can meet the Government's new care regulations. These guidelines can be found at the link below:

<http://www.cqc.org.uk/content/regulations-service-providers-and-managers>

NHS: Duty of Candour – Fit and Proper Tests

Two new regulations were introduced at the end of *November*, these regulations apply to the following types of NHS Bodies: (1) NHS trusts, (2) NHS foundation trusts and (3) special health authorities:

1. **Duty of Candour** – This requires organisations to be open and honest when something goes wrong with their care and treatment.

2. **Fit and Proper Persons: Directors** – This is a test that people will need to undergo before they are appointed as board members

Further details of the regulations can be found at:

<http://www.cqc.org.uk/content/fit-and-proper-persons-requirement-and-duty-candour-nhs-bodies>

Connected with this is that several professional bodies are consulting on a **Professional Duty of Candour**. Further details can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/jere-my-hunt-message-to-nhs-staff-on-transparent-safe-healthcare>

Francis Report: Applying the Lessons Learnt

The final report of the Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust Public Inquiry – chaired by Robert Francis QC - was published on Wednesday 6 February 2013. The **Francis Report (2013)** can be found at:

<http://www.midstaffpublicinquiry.com/report>

This public inquiry was set up to investigate serious failings at the Trust. The report recommended that a fundamental culture change was needed within the NHS. The Department of Health has recently published a paper '**Culture change in the NHS**' (11th February 2015), which sets out the progress that has been made in applying the lessons learned from the **Francis Report (2013)**. This paper can be downloaded at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/culture-change-in-the-nhs>

Furthermore, Robert Francis has published a

report into whistle blowing in the NHS (11th February). The report entitled '**Freedom to Speak up**' can be found at:

<http://freedomtospeakup.org.uk/the-report/>

The Government has accepted all of the recommendations in principle including proposed new legislation to protect whistleblowers who are applying for NHS jobs from discrimination by prospective employers. The Government will shortly consult on a range of measures arising from this report – including the appointment of 'Whistleblowing Guardians' to each NHS trust

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-31362196>

HOMELESSNESS

Homelessness Monitor

The **Homelessness Monitor** (Joseph Rowntree Foundation) is a five year study (2011-2016) that aims to provide an independent analysis of the impact on homelessness of recent economic and policy developments in England. The key areas of interest to the researchers are the homelessness consequences of the post-2007 economic recession and the housing market downturn. The other main thrust of inquiry is the likely impacts of the welfare, housing and other social policy reforms, including cutbacks in public expenditure, being pursued by the Coalition Government elected in 2010. In February, the year-4 report from the study was published – (see link below)

http://www.crisis.org.uk/data/files/publications/Homelessness_Monitor_England_2015_final_web.pdf

The report has found that rough-sleeper numbers continue to rise – although there is

evidence the increase is decelerating.

IMMIGRATION

Independent Review of Welfare in Detention

The Home Secretary has announced an independent review (9th Feb 2015) of the policies and procedures affecting the welfare of those held in **Immigration Removal Centres (IRCs)**. IRCs are used to hold (1) asylum seekers on their arrival in the UK or whilst waiting for their case to be decided and (2) failed asylum seekers waiting to be deported. There are 13 IRCs in the UK:

<https://www.gov.uk/immigration-removal-centre>

This review will seek to identify whether improvements can be made to safeguard the health and wellbeing of detainees

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/home-secretary-announces-independent-review-of-welfare-in-detention>

The review will begin shortly and is expected to last 6 months. It follows the publication (9th Feb 2015) of the Tavistock Institute's review into Mental Health Issues in Immigration Removal Centres. The review has made 11 recommendations, which have been accepted either in full or in part by the Home Office. One of the accepted recommendations is to undertake a pilot project in an identified IRC to embed a new task culture that integrates the task of detention and return with care and welfare - to drive improvements in the identification of mental health and its management. The review and the Home Office response can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/mental-health-issues-in-immigration-removal-centres-tavistock-institute-review>

MENTAL HEALTH

Mental Health Act Code of Practice

The **Mental Health Act Code of Practice** is being updated. The new code will come into force on 1 April 2015, subject to Parliamentary approval. The **Mental Health Act** provides the legislation by which people diagnosed with a mental health problem can be detained in a place of safety and be assessed or treated against their wishes. The **Code of Practice** shows professionals how to carry out their roles and responsibilities under the **Mental Health Act**, to ensure that everyone receives high quality and safe care. The revised code aims to provide stronger protection for patients and clarify roles, rights and responsibilities. Further information, and a draft of the code can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-mental-health-act-code-of-practice>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/code-of-practice-mental-health-act-1983>

Funding for Mental Health/Employment Co-ordination

The Government has announced funding to test whether better co-ordination of mental health and employment services could help thousands of people find and stay in employment as well as improve their mental health. Four pilot areas have been funded including Greater Manchester. Further details can be found at the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/12-million-to-help-people-with-mental-health-problems-get-back-into-work>

Crisis-care Concordat

In 2014 the Crisis-care Concordat was launched by the Government which asks regional police, health and care services to sign up to a joint declaration spelling out the services and support they will offer and coordinate for those experiencing psychological distress. The deadline for signing declarations and formulating action plans was 31st December 2014. All plans and declarations can be downloaded from the site below.

<http://www.crisiscareconcordat.org.uk/>

Improving Children and Young People's Mental Health and Wellbeing

In December, the Government's **Children and Young People's Mental Health and Wellbeing Taskforce** undertook a consultation with professionals seeking views on how mental health services could be improved for children and young people. The Taskforce is due to report in the spring of 2015. Further details of the work of the Taskforce can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/groups/children-and-young-peoples-mental-health-and-well-being-taskforce#terms-of-reference>

The **Youngminds** website has a very helpful summary of recent CAMHS policy developments in the UK

http://www.youngminds.org.uk/training_service/policy/camhs_in_the_uk

Suicide Statistics Published

On 19th February 2015, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) published statistics for suicides in the UK in the period 1981-2013. The report can be found at:

http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/dcp171778_395145.pdf

Please be aware that this report contains some details that readers may find upsetting.

Funding for Eating Disorders Services for Young People

In December the Government announced that they will be investing £150 million in service transformation of eating disorders services for young people. The aims of this investment are to provide earlier intervention with community-based evidence-based treatments. Further details are at the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/deputy-pm-announces-150m-investment-to-transform-treatment-for-eating-disorders>

Psychosis – Cannabis Study

King's College London – Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology and Neuroscience – have recently published a paper in The Lancet on the link between cannabis use and psychosis (full paper at the link below)

http://www.thelancet.com/pb/assets/raw/Lancet/pdfs/14TLP0454_Di%20Forti.pdf

This paper concluded that there is an increased risk of developing psychosis for users of “skunk-like” cannabis compared with people who do not use cannabis. An increased risk has *not* been found for users of “hash-like” cannabis.

SCHOOLS

The Priority School Building Programme

In February 2015 The Department for Education confirmed that 277 schools would

have at least one of their buildings (or blocks) rebuilt or refurbished. This investment is phase 2 of the **Priority School Building Programme**, which concentrates on providing funding for individual school buildings (or blocks) in a poor condition to be rebuilt or refurbished. Further details, and a list of the schools that are part of scheme, can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/making-the-construction-and-maintenance-of-school-buildings-more-cost-effective/supporting-pages/priority-school-building-programme-psbp>

Investment in School Places

The Department for Education has recently provided details on investment plans for new school places up until 2018 (12th February 2015). The latest announcement relates to investment in the 2017-2018 period and *increased* investment for the 2015-2017 period. The press release can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/16-billion-to-help-ensure-every-child-has-a-school-place>

and the details of the funding allocations can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/basic-need-allocations-2015-to-2018>

Ofsted: Reforms to School Inspection Confirmed

Following an extensive programme of public consultation, Ofsted have confirmed that there will be significant changes in the way education is inspected (3rd February 2015). These reforms include more frequent but shorter inspection of schools, and the introduction of a common inspection framework to standardise the approach to all

education inspections. Implementation of the reform programme is likely to commence in September 2015. Further details can be found at the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ofsted-confirms-radical-reforms-to-education-inspection>

A report on the consultation undertaken – **Better Inspection for All** – can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/better-inspection-for-all>

THIRD SECTOR

Voluntary Community Social Enterprise (VCSE) Review

The Department of Health, NHS England and Public Health England, are undertaking a review to assess the impact upon the VCSE sector of government and statutory sector funding, commissioning and partnerships and to consider whether changes are required which would better support:

- the demonstrable contribution of the VCSE sector to achieving health and wellbeing goals
- the capacity and sustainability of the sector
- the independence, inclusivity and diversity of the sector, including its ability to promote equality and provide an effective voice for the most disadvantaged in society.

The review does welcome public engagement; people have until 2nd March to make a contribution - details can be found at:

<http://voluntarysectorhealthcare.org.uk/vcse-review/>

WELFARE REFORM AND BENEFITS

Roll out of Universal Credit

The national roll out for **Universal Credit (UC)** began in *mid February*. By April **UC** will be available in 150 job centres across the country; within a year it will be available in all job centres. DWP progress reports in the implementation of Universal Credit can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/universal-credit-at-work>

Child Poverty Action Group has recently published a review of the October 2014 progress report, which provides balance to the positive tone of the Government report. For this review please click on the link below:

<http://www.cpag.org.uk/content/universal-credit-working>

Summaries of Universal Credit are available at The **Money Advice Service** and **Citizen Advice Bureau** websites:

<https://www.moneyadviceservice.org.uk/en/articles/universal-credit-an-introduction>

http://www.adviceguide.org.uk/england/benefits_e/benefits_welfare_benefits_reform_e/benefits

[uc universal credit new.htm](#)

Employment Support Allowance Review Announced

The Prime Minister has asked an advisor to Department of Health to review the current system of ESA to determine whether it would be appropriate to withhold benefits from those who do not wish to access treatment for their health problem. Further details can be found at:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-31464897>

SOCIAL CARE

Consultation on Care Act (2014)

The Department of Health is currently undertaking a consultation soliciting views on changes to the way adult care and support is funded, through the introduction of a cap on care costs. It also seeks views on proposals for a new system of appeals. These reforms are part of the **Care Act (2014)** and are due to come into effect in April 2016. The guidance and regulations associated with the act set out how it will work in practice. The deadline to respond to the consultation is *31st March 2015*; details of the consultation and the draft regulations can be found at:

<http://careact2016.dh.gov.uk/about/>