

TheBigSource

July 2015



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TheBigSource

July 2015

QUEEN'S SPEECH/BUDGET

Queen's Speech

The first **Queen's Speech** of the new government was delivered on 27th May 2015.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/queens-speech-2015>

A summary of those bills and other measures, which may affect the work of the group and the people we work with has been produced and is being circulated with this issue of the Big Source.

Budget

The first **Budget** of the new government was published on 7th July 2015.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/budget-july-2015>

A useful summary can be found at:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-33428335>

Details of some of the new measures are outlined below under the relevant headings.

DEVOLUTION

GM Devolution Update

Issues 1-3 of the GM Devo E-bulletin have been published (*May-July 2015*). In Issue 1 the following key milestones were established:

April 2015: Process for establishment of Shadow Governance arrangements agreed and initiated.

May-December 2015: Early Implementation Priorities come on line

August 2015: Production of an Outline Plan to support the Comprehensive Spending Review process which will include a specific investment fund proposal to further support primary and community care and will be the first stage of the development of the full Strategic Plan.

October 2015: Shadow arrangements in place and start for budgets, governance and accountability.

December 2015: Production of the final agreed GM Strategic Plan and individual Locality Plans ready for the start of the 2016/17 financial year. In preparation for devolution, Greater Manchester (GM) and NHS England (NHSE) will have approved the details on the funds to be devolved and supporting governance, and local authorities and CCGs will have formally agreed the integrated health and social care arrangements.

April 2016: Full devolution of agreed budgets, with the preferred governance arrangements and underpinning GM and locality S75 agreements in place. (*Section 75 partnership agreements, legally provided by the NHS Act 2006, allow budgets to be pooled between local health and social care organisations and authorities*)

One of the key current activities is the development of a strategic plan for the whole of GM. Each of the ten areas of GM are working on local plans setting out their ambitions, objectives, intentions and challenges in terms of improving the health, wealth and wellbeing of

the people in their areas. In July the 10 areas will come together to finalize local plans and work on the GM plan.

Further details on GM Devolution can be obtained by emailing gm.devo@nhs.net or at the GMCA website

<http://www.agma.gov.uk/gmca/>

In the recent budget, it was announced that additional powers would be devolved to Greater Manchester:

- The Fire Services will be placed under the control of the new directly-elected Mayor
- A Greater Manchester Land Commission will be established, giving GM more powers over planning
- A discussion will take place as to how GM and the government can collaborate further on children's services and employment programmes

<http://www.agma.gov.uk/gmca/further-devolution/index.html>

Other Areas

In the recent budget it was announced that the government is working towards devolution agreements with other areas to be agreed in parallel with the Spending Review. The following areas were specified:

- Sheffield and surrounding area
- Merseyside
- Leeds and surrounding area

THIRD SECTOR

Local Sustainability Fund

The Cabinet Office has launched an initiative

that will provide grants to increase the sustainability of around 250 organisations working in the voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) sector. The Local Sustainability Fund will be £20 million of government funding delivered over 2 years, and will be available to medium-sized VCSE organisations that deliver vital support to vulnerable and disadvantaged people. Closing date for submissions is 25th July 2015.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/charitable-organisations-given-20-million-boost-by-government>

Payment by Results

The **National Audit Office** has published a report on the government's use of payment by results (19th June 2015). Such schemes are estimated to account for at least £15 billion of current public spending, in a range of areas including welfare to work, family support, offender rehabilitation, and international aid.

<https://www.nao.org.uk/report/outcome-based-payment-schemes-governments-use-of-payment-by-results/>

CHILDREN & FAMILIES

Regional Adoption Agencies

The Government has announced funding to begin the process of setting up Regional Adoption Agencies

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/45-million-to-end-delays-for-children-awaiting-adoption>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/regional-adoption-agencies-programme>

Local authorities and voluntary adoption

agencies are invited to submit an EOI to join the programme by 7th September 2015.

Consultation on the Cost of Childcare

The government is undertaking a review of the costs of providing childcare in England. As part of this review, an open consultation is being held with a call for evidence from a range of stakeholders:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/cost-of-providing-childcare-review-call-for-evidence>

Anyone wishing to contribute to this consultation on behalf of the group, should contact Caroline Price at caroline.price@thebiglifegroup.com

Budget Announcements

From September 2017, the free childcare entitlement will be doubled from 15 hours to 30 hours a week for working parents of 3 and 4 year olds. The government will implement this extension of free hours early in some local areas from September 2016. **Tax-Free Childcare** will be introduced from early 2017. In the meantime, childcare costs will be supported by holding open the existing **Employer Supported Childcare** scheme to new entrants until **Tax-Free Childcare** is launched. Parents who wish to remain in **Employer Supported Childcare** once **Tax-Free Childcare** is launched will be able to, while their current employer continues to offer the voucher scheme.

Child Protection Taskforce

On 24th June 2015, The Prime Minister announced a new government **Child Protection Taskforce** to implement reforms to protect vulnerable children and give them the opportunity to succeed. The taskforce will be

chaired by the Secretary of State for Education; the terms of reference of are to drive improvements in the protection of vulnerable children by:

- Extending and accelerating reforms to the quality of children's social work practice and leadership
- Promoting innovative models of delivery
- Overhauling the way that police, social services and other agencies work together locally

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pm-announces-new-taskforce-to-transform-child-protection>

Child Poverty

The government intends to replace the existing child poverty measure, defined as 60% of median income. Legislation, replacing the Child Poverty Act 2010, will be brought forward. The new legislation will employ new indicators focused on levels of work within a family and improvements in education attainment

- The proportion of children living in workless household as well as long-term workless households
- The educational attainment of all pupils and the most disadvantaged pupils at age 16

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-to-strengthen-child-poverty-measure>

Joseph Rowntree Foundation's response to the proposed changes can be found at:

<http://www.jrf.org.uk/media-centre/jrf-response-changes-child-poverty-act>

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Prevent Duty Guidance

The Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015, places a duty on certain bodies in the exercise of their functions, to have “due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism”. Guidance has recently been published outlining the measures that should be adopted by the following types of organizations to comply with this act.

- Local authorities
- Schools and Registered childcare providers
- Further Education
- Higher Education
- Heath Sector

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/417943/Prevent_Duty_Guidance_England_Wales.pdf

DRUGS & ALCOHOL

Legal Highs

The government’s long term plan for legislation around Legal Highs is for a new **Psychoactive Substances Bill** (see summary of **Queens Speech 2015**). As this bill makes its way through parliament, at the end of June, the government announced that two new drugs will be illegal with immediate effect for up to 12 months while the independent Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs (ACMD) decides whether they should be permanently controlled; these two substances - 4-Methylmethylphenidate and Ethylmephedate - were being sold as replacements for previously-banned substances.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/two-new-legal-highs-to-be-banned-under-temporary->

[order](#)

EMPLOYMENT

Workplace Pensions

Automatic enrollment onto workplace pensions is being rolled out to small employers (employers of between 1 and 49 workers). This process has recently commenced and will be completed by 2018.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/millions-more-to-be-automatically-enrolled-into-workplace-pensions>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/2010-to-2015-government-policy-automatic-enrolment-in-workplace-pensio>

National Living Wage

In the recent budget, it was announced that the government will introduce a new **National Living Wage (NLW)** for workers aged 25 and above, by introducing a new premium on top of the **National Minimum Wage**. From *April 2016*, the new NLW will be set at £7.20. The government will ask the Low Pay Commission (LPC) to set out how the new NLW will reach 60% of median earnings by 2020.

Income Tax

In the recent budget, it was confirmed that the government plans to raise the personal allowance to £12,500 by the end of this parliament. In 2016-17, the personal allowance will increase by £400 to £11,000. Additionally, the government will therefore legislate to ensure that once the personal allowance has reached £12,500, it will always be set at least at the equivalent of 30 hours a week on the **National Minimum Wage**.

HOUSING

Social Housing Rent

In the recent budget it was announced that the government will reduce rents in social housing in England by 1% a year for 4 years. Social housing tenants with household incomes of £40,000 and above in London, and £30,000 and above in the rest of England, will be required to pay a market or near-market rent for their accommodation. The government will review the use of lifetime tenancies in social housing

HOMELESSNESS

Change and Platform for Life Funds

By 12th June 2015, bids have been submitted from providers for **Homelessness Change and Platform for Life Funds 2015 to 2017**. This fund set aside up to £25 million capital funding for specialist housing providers to bring forward proposals for the development of tailored hostel accommodation for rough sleepers; and shared accommodation for young people who are homeless or insecurely housed to enable them to take on or continue employment, education or training outside of London.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/homelessness-change-and-platform-for-life-funds-2015-to-2017-prospectus>

HEALTH

NHS Business Plan 2015-2016

NHS England has published its business plan for 2015/16, setting out 10 priorities.

- Improving the quality of care and access to cancer treatment

- Upgrading the quality of care and access to mental health and dementia services
- Transforming care for people with learning disabilities
- Tackling obesity and preventing diabetes
- Redesigning urgent and emergency care services
- Strengthening primary care services
- Timely access to high quality elective care
- Ensuring high quality and affordable specialised care
- Whole system change for future clinical and financial sustainability
- Foundations for improvement

Full details are at:

<http://www.england.nhs.uk/about/business-plan/>

General Practice

On 19th June 2015, The Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt MP: Secretary of State for Health, set out the first steps for a 7 day NHS in a new deal for GPs. Measures will include

- Investment to expand the workforce
- Investment in primary care infrastructure
- Reduction in the reporting burden.

Full details of the speech are at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/new-deal-for-general-practice>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/jeremy-hunt-message-to-nhs-staff-on-the-new-deal-for-gps>

Prescription Medication

In the next year, packets of prescription medication will display how much their contents have cost taxpayers. The figure and the words "funded by the UK taxpayer" will be added to all packs costing more than £20 in England.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-33345356>

Heatwave Plan

The Met Office will issue heatwave alerts from 1 June to 15 September 2015. In response NHS England, Public Health England, Department of Health, have published **The Heatwave Plan for England (2015)**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/heatwave-plan-for-england>

MENTAL HEALTH

Right here, right now

On *12th June 2015*, The Care Quality Commission published a report entitled **Right here, right now** looking at people's experience of care during a mental health crisis.

<http://www.cqc.org.uk/content/new-report-looking-peoples-experience-care-during-mental-health-crisis>

The review found that the quality of care experienced by a person in crisis can vary greatly depending on where they are and what help they require. Many people also experienced problems getting help when they needed it, and found that healthcare professionals sometimes lack compassion and warmth when caring for people who are having a crisis. Self Help Services' response to the report can be found at:

<https://www.selfhelpservices.org.uk/2015/06/self-help-services-responds-to-cqc-report-on-crisis-care/>

NHS England's National Clinical Director for Mental Health, Dr Geraldine Strathdee, has also written a blog looking at crisis care innovations in action.

<http://www.england.nhs.uk/2015/06/15/geraldine-strathdee-12/>

Mental Health Awareness Week

The **2015 Mental Health Awareness Week** took place from *11th-17th May 2015* with a particular focus on mindfulness.

<http://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/our-work/mentalhealthawarenessweek/>

SCHOOLS

Ofsted: New Inspection Regime

On *15th June 2015*, Ofsted published details of its new inspection processes commencing in September 2015 for early years provision, schools and further education and skills. The changes will include:

- Introduction of a common inspection framework for all early years settings on the Early Years Register, maintained schools and academies, non-association independent schools and further education and skills providers.
- Short inspections for maintained schools, academies and further education and skills providers that were judged good at their last full inspection. These short inspections will be conducted approximately every 3 years
- Ofsted will contract directly with inspectors for maintained schools,

academies, non-association independent schools and further education and skills inspections

<https://www.gov.uk/changes-to-education-inspection-from-september-2015>

Free Schools and Academies

A list of all free schools, currently open and those due to open September 2015 has been published.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/free-schools-open-schools-and-successful-applications>

Also published are lists of local authorities seeking academy and free school proposers, and of all academies and free schools already set up.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/new-school-proposals>

DISABILITY

Benefits

Disability Living Allowance is being discontinued for everyone over 16 years of age and born after *8th April 1948*. The allowance is being replaced by **Personal Independence Payments**. All DLA claimants in the affected age groups will be contacted by *30th September 2017*, to advise them their DLA payments will be ending; details will also be provide about **Personal Independent Payments**.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/disability-living-allowance-is-ending-claimant-journey>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the>

[-personal-independence-payment-toolkit-for-partners](#)

<http://www.nhs.uk/Conditions/social-care-and-support-guide/Pages/disability-living-allowance.aspx>

On *30th June 2015*, **The Independent Living Fund**, which delivers financial support to disabled people so they can choose to live in their communities rather than in residential care, will close. Funding will be transferred to local authorities and the devolved administrations, with the expectation that users of the current fund will receive support through the mainstream adult social care system

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/future-of-the-independent-living-fund>

Disability Rights UK have published a timetable of expected changes to the benefits, tax credits and social care system, which may affect people with disabilities

<http://www.disabilityrightsuk.org/how-we-can-help/benefits-information/timetable-forthcoming-welfare-benefits-changes>

Learning Disabilities

Learning Disability Week took place from *15th-21st June 2015*.

<https://www.mencap.org.uk/get-involved/learning-disability-week>

To mark the week, NHS Employers and NHS England launched a new national network providing advice, ideas and impetus to all NHS organisations – from local hospital trusts to national bodies – to remove barriers and take steps to accelerate employment of people with learning disabilities in the NHS.

<http://www.england.nhs.uk/2015/06/17/nhs-jobs-pledge/>

Furthermore NHS England, the Healthcare Quality Improvement Partnership (HQIP) and the University of Bristol have announced the world's first national programme to review – and ultimately reduce – premature deaths of people with learning disabilities.

<http://www.england.nhs.uk/2015/06/18/reduce-prem-mortality-ld/>

DOMESTIC ABUSE

Government Funding

In the recent budget, the government will set up a £3 million fund to encourage innovative approaches including refuge provision to help those suffering from domestic abuse. Ahead of the Spending Review, the government will draw together evidence from frontline professionals to review how services for victims of violence against women and girls are funded and delivered and feed into a refreshed **Violence Against Women and Girls** strategy in the autumn.

WELFARE REFORM/BENEFITS

Budget: Changes Linked to Tax Credits

- From *April 2016*, the government will reduce the level of earnings at which a household's tax credits and **Universal Credit** award starts to be withdrawn for every extra pound earned. In **tax credits**, this point (known as the income threshold) will be reduced from £6,420 to £3,850. The equivalents in **Universal Credit** (work allowances) will be reduced to £4,764 for those without

housing costs, £2,304 for those with housing costs, and removed altogether for non-disabled claimants without children.

- The government will also increase the rate at which a person's or household's **tax credit** award is reduced as they progress in work, by increasing the taper rate in tax credits from 41% to 48%.
- The Budget will limit support provided to families through **tax credits** to 2 children, so that any subsequent children born after *April 2017* will not be eligible for further support. An equivalent change will be made in **Housing Benefit** to ensure consistency between both benefits. This will also apply in **Universal Credit** to families who make a new claim from *April 2017*. In addition, those starting a family after *April 2017* will no longer be eligible for the **Family Element** in **tax credits**. The equivalent in **Universal Credit**, known as the first child premium, will also not be available for new claims after April 2017. In **Housing Benefit**, the family premium will be withdrawn for new claims from April 2016.
- The existing entitlement of families who remain in receipt of tax credits and **Universal Credit** will be unaffected by the reforms to limit support to 2 children and the abolition of the family premium. The **disabled child premium** in **tax credits** and UC will also continue to be paid to all children with a disability.

Budget: Other Benefits Changes

In the recent budget the following benefits changes were announced:

- The government will legislate to freeze working-age benefits, including **tax credits** and the **Local Housing**

Allowances, for 4 years from 2016-17 to 2019-20. Statutory payments, including **Maternity Allowance**, **Maternity Pay**, **Paternity Pay** and **Statutory Sick Pay** will continue to be indexed by CPI. Disability benefits will also continue to be indexed by CPI, including **Personal Independence Payment**, **Attendance Allowance**, **Disability Living Allowance** and **Employment and Support Allowance (Support Group)**

- From April 2017, within 6 months of claiming **Universal Credit**, young people (18-21 year olds) will be expected to apply for an apprenticeship or traineeship, gain work-based skills, or go on a mandatory work placement
- From April 2017 there will be no automatic entitlement to housing support for new claims in **Universal Credit** from 18-21 year olds who are out of work
- From April 2017, new claimants of

Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) who are placed in the **Work-Related Activity Group** will therefore receive the same rate as those claiming Jobseeker's Allowance

- Parents with a youngest child aged 3 or older (including lone parents) who are able to work will be expected to look for work if they are claiming **Universal Credit**

Universal Credit Rollout

The roll out of Universal Credit continues. This benefit is now available in 1 in 3 jobcentres:

<https://www.gov.uk/jobcentres-where-you-can-claim-universal-credit>