

TheBigSource

May 2015



You can contact Nic Seccombe on:
0161 848 2420 or:
nic.seccombe@selfhelpservices.org.uk
for anything relating to *The Big Source*.

To see past issues visit:
[I:\Group Information\Big Source](#)

TheBigSource

May 2015

GENERAL ELECTION

The **UK General Election** is due to take place on *May 7th 2015*. Useful information, updates and analysis can be found at the following news outlet's websites:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/election/2015>

<http://news.channel4.com/election2015/04/30/>

<http://news.sky.com/election>

A summary of the Labour, Liberal Democrat and Conservative manifestos pledges has been circulated with this issue of The Big Source. The manifestos themselves can be found at:

Labour

<http://www.labour.org.uk/page//BritainCanBeBetter-TheLabourPartyManifesto2015.pdf>

Liberal Democrat

https://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/libdems/pages/8907/attachments/original/1429028133/Liberal_Democrat_General_Election_Manifesto_2015.pdf

Conservative

<https://s3-eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/manifesto2015/ConservativeManifesto2015.pdf>

SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

Downing Street Conference

On *3rd March 2015* new measures to tackle child sexual exploitation were announced at a Downing Street summit. The overall package includes the following reforms

- New helpline to report bad practice
- Tackling the culture of denial
- Consequences for those failing to protect children
- Prioritising the prevention of child sexual abuse
- Support for survivors

Full details can be found at the link below

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pm-unveils-tough-new-measures-to-tackle-child-sexual-exploitation>

CHILDREN & FAMILIES

First Aid Training for Nursery Staff Members

On *12th March*, new Government proposals have been announced to require all newly qualified staff with a childcare level 2 and 3 qualification must have an emergency pediatric first aid or full pediatric first aid certificate. The proposals will cover all early years' settings except child minders. The training proposals will be subject to a full consultation during the next Parliamentary session, and are expected to come into effect by September 2015. Full details can be found at the links below:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-manchester-31843120>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/first-aid->

[training-to-be-made-compulsory-for-new-nursery-recruits](#)

Integrated Reviews for 2 year olds

The Government has announced (10th March 2015) that as of September 2015, 2-year olds in educational settings will receive integrated health and education reviews. There will also be pilots to trial reviews for children who are not in education settings. Full details are at the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/parents-to-get-complete-picture-of-childs-development>

Children in Family Courts

In February, the Government announced changes to make it easier for children and young people to communicate their views in court proceedings. The plans are expected to complement reforms to guidance on judges seeing children which are being considered by a judge-led working group. Full details can be found at the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/voice-of-the-child-children-to-be-more-clearly-heard-in-decisions-about-their-future>

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

The Modern Slavery Act (2015)

The **Modern Slavery Act (2015)** was passed on 26th March 2015. The Act aims to:

- strengthen the response of law enforcement and the courts
- ensure victims receive the protection and support they deserve

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/historic-law-to-end-modern-slavery-passed>

The Act accompanies the **Modern Slavery Strategy** launched in November 2014. This strategy can be found at the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/modern-slavery-strategy>

Ending Gang and Youth Violence (EGYV) Programme

The 2014-2015 **EGYV Programme Annual Report** has been published and is available at the link below:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/412233/Ending_gang_and_youth_violence_2_.pdf

DISABILITY

Access-to-Work Reforms

On 12th March the Government announced in parliament a range of reforms to the '**Access to Work**' scheme. The aim of the reforms is to support thousands more disabled people to be supported into mainstream employment, while being given new choices and control over the type of practical help they receive. Full details can be found at the link below.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-measures-to-support-more-disabled-people-into-work>

DRUGS & ALCOHOL

Legal Highs

March 2015

On 11th March, two groups of 'legal highs' were banned. The stimulant compound drug, 4,4'-DMAR, and the synthetic opioid, MT-45, were

outlawed as Class A substances. Full details can be found at the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/no-let-up-in-drive-to-combat-legal-highs>

April 2015

As of 10th April, 5 substances have been banned for 12 months via a Temporary Class Drug Order. These substances are related to methylphenidate, a Class B drug, and have been banned owing to concerns pertaining to their misuse as new psychoactive substances (Legal Highs). The **Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs** (ACMD) will decide whether these substances should be permanently controlled. Further details can be found at the link below:

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

Cannabis

In March, the Government accepted advice from the **Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs**, to ban new types of manmade cannabis as Class B drugs. Full details of the council's advice can be found at the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/advice-on-third-generation-synthetic-cannabinoids>

Draft legislation is being prepared to take action against the latest generation of synthetic cannabinoids in the next Parliament.

EMPLOYMENT

Specialist Employment Support Programme

On 24th March, the Government announced those providers that have been successful in being awarded contracts to deliver the **Specialized Employment Support Programme** for people with disabilities. The

programme is anticipated to ensure 1,700 disabled people across the country receive work-related support annually. The expectation is that this support will help 1,250 disabled people into jobs over the course of an initial 2 year contract. The support goes live in September 2015

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/improved-specialist-employment-scheme-will-double-number-of-disabled-people-supported-into-work>

IMMIGRATION

Access to Universal Credit

New regulations came into effect in March, which restrict access to Universal Credit for EU migrants. The impact of these regulations is that under Universal Credit, EU households will not be able to access means-tested benefits in the UK without having previously worked in the UK. Further details are available at the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/eu-jobseekers-barred-from-claiming-universal-credit>

Exit Checks

In April, exit checks were introduced for everyone leaving the UK by commercial air, sea and rail transport. Further details can be found at the links below:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-32205970>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/operators-ready-for-introduction-of-exit-checks>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/research/briefing-papers/SN06750/reintroducing-exit-checks-on-passengers-departing-the-uk>

Health Surcharge

Legislation coming into effect on 6 April will require nationals from outside the European Economic Area (EEA) coming to the UK for longer than six months to pay a 'health surcharge' when they make their immigration application. Full details can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/migrant-health-surcharge-to-raise-200-million-a-year>

HOMELESSNESS

Government Funding

Funding has been announced to upgrade existing accommodation and provide new housing, for people who do not have permanent accommodation.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-fund-to-improve-the-health-of-homeless-people>

HEALTH

GM devolution

At the end of February a plan was unveiled for devolution of the entire Health and Social Care budget (approx £6billion in 2015-2016) to Greater Manchester.

The devolution will involve the whole of the health and social care system – (the scope below)

- Acute care (including specialized services)
- Primary care (including management of GP contracts)
- Community services
- Mental health services
- Social care
- Public Health

- Health Education
- Research and Development

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-manchester-31615218>

The signed **Memorandum of Understanding** can be found at:

<http://www.agma.gov.uk/gmca/gmca-devolution-agreement1/caring-for-gm-together/index.html>

Health and Social Care (Quality and Safety) Act 2015

On 27th March, The Department of Health announced that **The Health and Social Care (Safety and Quality) Act (2015)** has received royal assent. This Act aims to improve safety and quality of care. The measures introduced include:

- a duty on health and adult social care providers to share information about a person's care with other health and care professionals
- a requirement for Relevant health and adult social care bodies to use a consistent identifier - the NHS Number - when processing and/or sharing information about an individual for their direct care

The Act is summarized at:

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2015/28/notes/division/2>

NHS Charges April 2015

In March regulations were laid before Parliament to increase certain National Health Service charges in England from 1 April 2015.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/nhs-charges-from-april-2015>

Evening and Weekend GP Appointments

On 28th March, the Department of Health announced extra funding to improve access to GPs, modernize GP surgeries and improve out-of-hospital care. The aim is that this fund will achieve 8000 more appointments a day delivered in the evening or over the weekend, or via video, email or telephone. Full details can be found at the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/gp-evening-and-weekend-appointments-to-increase>

Dementia Strategy

On the 21st February the Government set out a new long-term strategy focused on boosting research, improving care and raising public awareness about dementia. Full details can be found at the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pm-launches-next-phase-of-britains-fight-against-dementia>

MENTAL HEALTH

CAMHS Mental Health

In March, a report was released on the work of the **Children and Young People's Mental Health Taskforce**. The report entitled '**Future in mind: Promoting, protecting and improving our children and young people's mental health and wellbeing**'. This report makes a number of proposals the Government wishes to see by 2020. These include:

- tackling stigma and improving attitudes to mental illness
- introducing more access and waiting

time standards for services

- establishing 'one stop shop' support services in the community
- improving access for children and young people who are particularly vulnerable

Details of the report and other associated documents can be found at the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/improving-mental-health-services-for-young-people>

Mental Health Taskforce

In March 2015, NHS England announced a new **Mental Health Taskforce** which will develop a five year national strategy for Mental Health, covering all ages.

<http://www.england.nhs.uk/2015/03/26/geraldine-strathdee-10/>

The task force met for the first time at the end of April and **Mind** and **Rethink Mental Illness** are currently gathering the views and ideas of a wide range of people, including people with mental health problems, families, professionals and wider stakeholders.

A survey is available at the link below

www.surveymonkey.com/s/mh2020

Written evidence can be sent to:

england.mhtaskforce@nhs.net

If you want to contribute on behalf of the business/service you work in please speak to your Assistant Director/Director first.

Mental Health in Sport Initiative

The Government announced at the end of March that a number of sport organizations will sign a charter committing to removing the stigma and prejudice around mental health in sport. The organisations that have signed the charter include

- Rugby Football Union
- England and Wales Cricket Board
- Football Association

Further details of the initiative can be found at the link below

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/deputy-prime-minister-launches-mental-health-in-sport-initiative>

This move follows a report from Mind in *October 2014*, which called for a national network to tackle mental health in sport following an increasing number of testimonies from high profile sports people about their own mental health struggles. See below for a link to this report

<http://www.mind.org.uk/media/1085139/Mental-Health-and-Elite-Sport.pdf>

SCHOOLS

Mental Health Stigma in Schools

At the end of March, the Department for Education announced an action plan to tackle mental health stigma in schools. This plan consists of the following elements:

- Guidance for schools, which will help schools provide age-appropriate teaching on mental health problems from anxiety and depression to eating disorders and self-harm

- Blueprint for schools on counselling services, developed in conjunction with children and young people, which provides head teachers with practical advice on how to deliver top-quality school-based counselling services that meet the needs of those it intends to support
- Funding injection for voluntary organisations to boost support on offer for young people struggling with mental health - a new funding commitment worth £4.9 million - through the government's voluntary and community sector funding programme

Further details can be found at the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-action-plan-to-tackle-mental-health-stigma-in-schools>

Disqualification from Childcare

On 26th Feb Statutory guidance was issued for schools about the employment of staff disqualified from childcare. This guidance can be found at the link below and is due for review in September 2015

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/disqualification-under-the-childcare-act-2006>

Assessment without Levels Commission

On 26th February, the Department for Education announced plans for a **Commission** to help improve primary school assessment and testing. A new teacher-led commission will be set up to help primary schools as they move away from the system of **Levels for Assessment**. The **Commission** will:

- Identify and share best practice in assessment with schools across

England

- Ensure schools have the information to choose effective assessment systems
- Highlight the work that is already being done in many schools
- Help to foster innovation and success in assessment practice more widely

Further details can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/groups/commission-on-assessment-without-levels>

New Free Schools

On 9th March, The Department for Education announced approval for 49 new free schools. A full list of the newly-approved schools can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/prime-minister-announces-landmark-wave-of-free-schools>

Teacher Training Reforms

The Department for Education has appointed an independent expert group to lead on reforms with the aim of improving the quality of initial teacher training (ITT) courses in England (announcement 24th March 2015). Further details can be found at the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/carter-review-recommendations-get-underway>

This work is being launched following a review of the quality and effectiveness of ITT courses in England. The review was chaired by Sir Andrew Carter and the resulting report (*January 2015*) has 18 recommendations. The report can be found at:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/399957/Carter_Review.pdf

New College of Teaching

The Government has announced (20th March 2015) plans to support the creation of a new, independent **College of Teaching**. A new fund to facilitate additional professional development for teachers has also been announced. Full details can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-announces-plans-to-help-raise-the-status-of-teaching>

Publishing Childcare Provision

It has been announced that from next year, alongside school performance tables, the childcare (i.e. services for 4 year olds and younger) individual schools offer will also be published. The provision of childcare will not be included in the assessment of a school's performance. Further details are at the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/all-schools-to-list-childcare-options>

New Action Plan to Encourage Children to Read

The Government has announced a new action plan to inspire thousands more pupils to read. This plan includes new funding for book clubs and a drive to get every primary school child a library card. Full details are available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-action-plan-to-inspire-thousands-more-pupils-to-read>

SOCIAL CARE

Care Certificate

On 25th March, The Department of Health announced that all new healthcare assistants and social care support workers would be expected to get a **Care Certificate** within 12 weeks of employment. It is awarded to staff in health and care roles who can demonstrate that they meet each of the 15 Care Certificate standards, including:

- caring with privacy and dignity
- awareness of mental health (including dementia and learning difficulties)
- safeguarding
- communication

- infection control

Further details of the announcement can be found at the link below

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/care-certificate-launching-on-1-april-2015>

Social Care employers have been expected to use the certificate since April. The requirement will be extended to NHS funded student nurses in 2016. Details of the **Care Certificate** can be found at:

<http://www.skillsforcare.org.uk/Standards/Care-Certificate/Care-Certificate.aspx>