

# *TheBigSource*

**November 2015**

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# TheBigSource

## November 2015

### COMPREHENSIVE SPENDING REVIEW/ AUTUMN STATEMENT

In November, the UK chancellor concluded the comprehensive spending review, to set firm expenditure limits over the next few years. He announced the outcome of the review in parliament along with the **Autumn Statement 2015**, on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2015.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-34908612>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/spending-review-and-autumn-statement-2015-key-announcements>

On 26<sup>th</sup> November 2015, The **Institute for Fiscal Studies** presented analyses of the **Autumn Statement** and **Comprehensive Spending Review** at a lunchtime briefing. The presentations can be found at:

[http://www.ifs.org.uk/tools\\_and\\_resources/budget/509](http://www.ifs.org.uk/tools_and_resources/budget/509)

#### Welfare/Benefits

- The **Tax Credit** taper rate and thresholds will remain unchanged. No further changes to the **Universal Credit** taper, or to the work allowances beyond those that passed through Parliament, were proposed.
- Two-child limit on child tax credit claims will go ahead from *April 2017*
- Family element of tax credits will be scrapped for new claimants

- Housing benefit for new social tenants will be capped at same level as private sector. Housing benefit and pension credit payments to be stopped for people who leave the country for more than one month
- From April 2016, the basic state pension will rise to £119.30 per week, an increase of £3.35.

#### Housing

- **Help to Buy Shared Ownership:** From April 1<sup>st</sup> 2016 anyone who has a household income of less than £80,000 can buy a home through shared ownership. Only military personnel will be given priority over other groups
- **Starter Homes:** £2.3 billion will be spent on building 200,000 **Starter Homes** over the next five years. Starter Homes are available at 20% off the market price. They are only open to first-time buyers under 40.
- **Stamp Duty:** From 1 April 2016 people purchasing additional properties such as buy to let properties and second homes will pay an extra 3% in stamp duty.
- **Right to Buy:** During 2016, **Right to Buy** will be extended to housing association tenants.

#### Criminal Justice

- **Police Budget:** The government will protect overall police spending in line with inflation. From next April, police forces will be able to increase the amount they require from council tax collections by 2%.
- Holloway women's prison in London will close as part of modernisation of estate, including nine new prisons

### Local Government/Social Care/Homelessness

- **Local Government Spending:** in 'cash terms', will be the same in 2020 as 2015 (1.7% cut per year in real terms)
- **Council Tax:** Local councils will be able to add 2% on council tax to pay towards social care in their areas, if they wish. From 2020 they will be able to keep money from business rates collected from shops and businesses, to spend on local services like street repairs, libraries and transport.
- **Homelessness:** Councils will receive extra £10m to help homeless people

### NHS and Health

- NHS England will receive £10 billion more a year in real terms by 2020 than in 2014-15.
- An extra £600m will be allocated to mental health services
- Grants for health students will also be replaced by loans, and the cap on the number of nurses and midwives that can go into training each year will be removed
- From 2020, people with suspected cancer will be diagnosed or given the all clear within 28 days of being referred by a GP.
- Over £500 million will also be spent on new hospitals
- All VAT raised from the sale of sanitary products will be given to women's health charities

### Education

- **Schools funding** will be protected in line with inflation. In total, 600,000 extra school places and 500 free schools will

be created.

- **Maintenance loans** will also be available to higher education students who study part time from 2018
- **School funding formula** in England will be phased out
- New **30-hour free childcare** subsidy for parents of three-and four-year-olds to be limited to those working more than 16 hours a week. Only those earning less than £100,000 will be eligible for the subsidy from 2017
- Sixth-form colleges will be allowed to become academies
- Funding for Further Education colleges will be "protected in cash terms"

### Employment

- **Apprenticeship Levy:** Employers with a wage bill of over £3 million will be required to pay an apprenticeship levy of 0.5% from April 2017 (tax free allowance = £15000)

## DEVOLUTION

### Liverpool City Region

The following authorities have signed up to the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Devolution Agreement (17<sup>th</sup> November 2015).

- St Helens
- Halton
- Sefton
- Wirral
- Liverpool
- Knowsley

The combined authority chaired by an elected mayor, will receive the following powers:

- Responsibility for a devolved and consolidated local transport budget

(including a franchised bus service)

- Powers over strategic planning (i.e. town planning)
- Control of a £30 million a year funding allocation over 30 years, to be invested in supporting economic opportunities
- Responsibility for chairing an area-based review of 16+ skills provision and devolved 19+ adult skills funding from 2018/19.
- Joint responsibility with the government to co-design employment support for the harder-to-help claimants

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/477385/Liverpool\\_devolution\\_deal\\_unsigned.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/477385/Liverpool_devolution_deal_unsigned.pdf)

### **Greater Manchester (GM) Devolution**

The latest GM Devolution updates can be found at:

<https://www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/homepage/59/devolution>

## **CHILDREN & FAMILIES**

### **'Tax-Free' Childcare**

This scheme is intended to help parents with the cost of childcare. Parents can open an online account, which they can pay into to cover the cost of childcare with a registered provider. The government will top up the account with 20% of childcare costs up to a total of £10,000 - the equivalent of up to £2,000 support per child per year. Full details are at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/tax-free-childcare-10-things-parents-should-know>

## **CRIMINAL JUSTICE**

### **Deaths in Police Custody Review**

In October, the Home Secretary published terms of reference for an independent review into deaths and serious incidents in police custody.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/home-secretary-announces-chair-for-deaths-in-custody-review>

## **DISABILITY**

### **Disability Confident Event**

The event – a 'Reverse Jobs Fair' held on 23<sup>rd</sup> October in Swindon– trialed a new format where local employers, rather than jobseekers, gathered to discuss their specific recruitment needs. The event, part of the government's **Disability Confident** initiative was hosted by the Minister for Disabled People, with the support of specialist disability work-providers Pluss and Shaw Trust. Following the event, 30 employers made pledges to increase employment opportunities for disabled people.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/30-employer-pledges-made-following-disability-confident-event>

## **DRUGS/ALCOHOL**

### **Methiopropamine Banned**

Methiopropamine (commonly known as MPA), a new psychoactive substance, has been banned under temporary power. The Government has issued a Temporary Class Drug Order (TCDO) following advice from the independent Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs (ACMD).

The order, which came into effect on 27<sup>th</sup> November 2015, will last for up to 12 months while the ACMD considers whether MPA should be classified and controlled under the Misuse of Drugs Act

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-psychoactive-substance-banned-under-temporary-power>

## **EMPLOYMENT**

### **Gender Pay Inequality**

In October, the government announced pledges to:

- require larger employers to publish information about their bonuses for men and women as part of their gender pay gap reporting
- extend plans for gender pay gap reporting beyond private and voluntary sector employers to include the public sector
- work with business to eliminate all-male boards in the FTSE 350

Regulations, on when and where the data should be published, will be set out in due course.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pm-announces-new-measures-to-eradicate-gender-pay-inequality>

## **IMMIGRATION**

### **Immigration Bill: Amendment**

In November, an amendment was made to the Immigration Bill, which is currently making its way through parliament. If passed, the proposals will require licensing authorities to conduct checks on applicants to ensure they

are in the UK lawfully, and that they have permission to work before granting a licence. Driver and operator licences will not be issuable for a period any longer than the length of a person's permission to live and work in the UK. Immigration offences and penalties will also be grounds for a licensing authority to revoke a licence.

It will also be an offence for someone disqualified from continuing to hold a driver or operator licence for immigration reasons not to return their licence to the licensing authority.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/measure-s-to-introduce-mandatory-right-to-work-checks-on-taxi-and-private-hire-drivers>

## **HEALTH**

### **Patient Safety Investigation Service**

In September's Big Source, it was noted that the Expert Advisory Group - tasked with developing recommendations for the new **Patient Safety Investigation Service** (to be launched in 2016) - has launched a public consultation. As part of the consultation people are invited to complete a questionnaire:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/IPSIS2015>

### **7-Day NHS**

In October the Prime Minister pledged to deliver 7-day access to GPs and hospitals by 2020. The plans include:

- A new GP contract to support doctors to deliver 7-day services and integrate care
- All patients to have access to 7-day GP care by 2020
- 7-day hospital services rolled out to half the country by 2018

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/prime-minister-pledges-to-deliver-7-day-gp-services-by-2020>

### **Mandatory FGM Reporting**

As of 31<sup>st</sup> October 2015, healthcare professionals must report to the police any cases of female genital mutilation (FGM) in girls under 18 that they come across in their work. Full guidance is available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/fgm-mandatory-reporting-in-healthcare>

### **Healthcare 'Ratings'**

From June 2016, new 'Ofsted style' ratings will show people how their local area's health service is performing in several areas including

- cancer
- dementia
- diabetes
- mental health
- learning disabilities
- maternity care

The ratings will be broken down by Clinical Commissioning Group.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/health-secretary-outlines-measures-for-greater-patient-power>

## **HOUSING**

### **Housing and Planning Bill**

The government's **Housing and Planning Bill** passed its second reading on *2nd November 2015* and is now being considered by a public bill committee who are expected to report in mid December.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/historic-housing-and-planning-bill-will-transform-generation-rent-into-generation-buy>

The bill sets out a range of measures with the intention of making it easier to buy homes and increasing the quality of rented accommodation.

### **Overcrowded Housing**

In November, the government published discussion paper, setting out plans to improve standards of the England's shared homes by extending mandatory licensing to smaller and medium sized properties.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/extending-mandatory-licensing-of-houses-in-multiple-occupation-and-related-reforms>

A consultation on the discussion paper is currently underway. (closing date = 18<sup>th</sup> December 2015).

### **Social Housing Rents**

During October and November the government undertook a consultation on proposals requiring households in social housing with a total income of more than £40,000 in London and over £30,000 elsewhere, to pay a rent at market or near market levels.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/fair-rents-will-ensure-higher-earning-tenants-pay-to-stay>

## **MENTAL HEALTH**

### **Kings Fund Briefing on Pressures in the Mental Health Sector**

In early November (prior to the Comprehensive Spending Review announcements), The Kings Fund published a briefing paper analyzing pressures within the mental health sector. The paper aimed to focus on mental health as a system of care, examining individual pressures within the wider context of provider and commissioner actions.

[http://www.kingsfund.org.uk/sites/files/kf/field/field\\_publication\\_file/mental-health-under-pressure-nov15\\_0.pdf](http://www.kingsfund.org.uk/sites/files/kf/field/field_publication_file/mental-health-under-pressure-nov15_0.pdf)

It should be noted that this paper focuses on services for those aged 16-65. Both **Self Help** and **Mind** have issued responses to this briefing.

<https://www.selfhelpservices.org.uk/2015/11/self-help-response-to-kings-fund-briefing-on-mental-health-services/>

<http://www.mind.org.uk/news-campaigns/news/mind-response-to-kings-fund-briefing-on-mental-health-services/#.VlyCHnbhDIU>

### **Equality for Mental Health Campaign**

In early November, a campaign calling for an increase in funding for mental health services in England was launched. It was led by former mental health minister Norman Lamb, Conservative MP Andrew Mitchell and former Labour Director of Communications Alastair Campbell, and has over 200 celebratory signatories.

<http://www.equality4mentalhealth.uk/>

### **Young Person's Mental Health: 'Passport' style brief**

In October it was announced by NHS England that the Passport style brief has been launched for children and young people using mental health services. This brief comprises key facts and can be used to help people avoid repeating their history and preferences.

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/mentalhealth/2015/10/15/passport-brief-yp-mh/>

## **PUBLIC HEALTH**

### **Smoking in Cars**

As of *1<sup>st</sup> October 2015*, it is illegal to smoke in a vehicle carrying someone who is under 18. It is also against the law for a driver not to stop someone smoking in these circumstances. The new laws don't apply to e-cigarettes or convertible cars that have the roof completely down.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/smoking-in-cars-with-children-banned-from-today>

From the *1<sup>st</sup> October* it is illegal for retailers to sell e-cigarettes or e-liquids to someone under 18 and for adults to try to buy tobacco products or e-cigarettes for someone under 18.

### **Public Health Outcomes Framework**

The Public Health Outcomes Framework (PHOF) quarterly data update for November 2015 can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/public-health-outcomes-framework-november-2015-data-update>

## **SCHOOLS**

### **Consultation: Government Intervention**

A consultation has been launched on the government's proposals to address underperformance in local-authority-maintained schools. Views are sought on how:

- local-authority-maintained schools that are eligible for intervention are defined
- regional schools commissioners (RSCs) and local authorities should use their intervention powers
- the government proposes to identify coasting schools

The consultation closes on *18<sup>th</sup> December 2015*.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/intervening-in-failing-underperforming-and-coasting-schools>

### **EYFS Profile Results 2014-2015**

Early years foundation stage profile (EYFSP) results for the 2014-2015 academic year have been published, at national and local authority level.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/early-years-foundation-stage-profile-results-2014-to-2015>

### **Special Educational Needs Provision Inspections**

Under proposals announced in October, inspectors from Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) will assess how effectively local areas are fulfilling their obligations towards children and young people with special educational needs.

A consultation has been launched asking for responses to the following proposals:

- inspectors will evaluate how effectively the local area identifies disabled children and young people and those who have special educational needs
- inspectors will evaluate how effectively the local area meets the needs and improves the outcomes of disabled children and young people and those with special educational needs
- a wide range of information will be used to evaluate the effectiveness of local area arrangements. This will include the views of children and young people, parents and carers, recent inspection reports and visits to a number of local education and health service providers
- a wide range of approaches will be used during the inspection to obtain the views of disabled children and young people, and their parents and carers, including meetings, online questionnaires and social media

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/local-area-send-consultation>

The consultation closes on *4<sup>th</sup> January 2016*.

## **SEXUAL EXPLOITATION**

### **Child Abuse Image Database (CAID)**

All UK police forces are now signed up to a single secure database of indecent images of children

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/weprotect-summit-tackles-online-child-sexual-exploitation-on-global-scale>

This enables a case with a large number of images to be reviewed very quickly, and shifts



resources from reviewing images to identifying victims.

In another development, the world's biggest search engine, social media and software firms (including Google, Microsoft, Facebook, Twitter, Yahoo and Tencent) have pledged to continue fighting the abuse of the internet for online child sexual exploitation by developing

new technology, tools and expertise.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/tech-industry-fights-online-child-sexual-exploitation>