

## Policy and budget updates to December 2013

Strategic	
<p><b>National Audit Office review of statistics on the cost of living</b></p> <p>The report found that the proportion of household income accounted for by expenditure on 'essential' household goods has risen from 19.9% in 2003 to 27.3% in 2013. The proportion accounted for by gas and electricity has risen from 1.8% in 2003 to 3.1% in 2013, despite very little overall change in the volume of household energy consumption. Real household disposable income has changed little since Q2 2009, despite cumulative real GDP growth of 4.2% over this period.</p>	All
<p><b>Research into the cost of training claimants to use Universal Credit</b></p> <p>The Department for Works and Pensions-funded study, carried out with three London councils (Lambeth, Lewisham and Southwark), found they would each need to spend about £6m over a two-year period to support vulnerable claimants to get online, help them open bank accounts and manage monthly budgets. A pilot exercise in Southwark found one in 10 tenants who had their housing benefit paid directly to them rather than, as previously, to the landlord, quickly ran up unmanageable arrears.</p>	All
Health/Public Health	
<p><b>NHS Mandate 2014-2015</b></p> <p>The refreshed mandate sets out the ambitions for the health service for April 2014 to March 2015. It is structured around 5 main areas where the government expects NHS England to make improvements: preventing people from dying prematurely; enhancing quality of life for people with long term conditions; helping people to recover from episodes of ill health or following injury; ensuring that people have a positive experience of care; and treating and caring for people in a safe environment and protecting them from avoidable harm. It captures key recent developments including the Integrated Transformation Fund, Winterbourne View Concordat, Improving health outcomes for children and young people's pledge, Francis Enquiry recommendations, care plans for those with long term conditions, and actions to develop seven-day care.</p>	All
<p><b>New inspections for Mental health Trusts</b></p> <p>Mental health trusts will be given Ofsted-style ratings by specialist mental health inspectors under a new inspection model unveiled by the Care Quality Commission (CQC). Each of England's 58 mental health trusts will be rated by December 2015. In a significant shift from the previous CQC inspection model's focus on in-patient care, the new system will also examine care at a sample of each trust's community services. The CQC will have the power to put failing trusts in special measures and recommend that senior management</p>	Priorities 2 and 3

<p>should be replaced. Every inspection team will also include specialist inspectors with mental health expertise, including at least one Mental Health Act expert.</p>	
<p><b>Rising A+E numbers</b></p> <p>Figures, published by the Health and Social Care Information Centre, show that attendances at A&amp;E departments were up 11%, to 21.7 million, over the past four years, compared with a 3.2% growth in the population during the same period, mainly due to a rise at minor injury units. They also show the proportion of over 65s attending major A&amp;E units has risen from 19% to 21% over the past four years, with nearly half of them being admitted to hospital. The most deprived 10% of society are twice as likely to go to A&amp;E as those in the least deprived 10%.</p>	All
<p><b>Urgent care review</b></p> <p>In the first stage of the review, Sir Bruce Keogh, the National Medical Director of NHS England, has proposed a fundamental shift in provision of urgent care, with more extensive services outside hospital, including greater use of 'emergency centres' instead of major trauma centres (A+E) for the treatment of less serious or life threatening conditions. He also proposes an enhanced 111 phone line with direct access to doctors and nurses, a greater role for pharmacists, walk in centres and minor injury units.</p>	Priority 3: improving outcomes for the vulnerable & independence
<p><b>2014/15 GP contract</b></p> <p>The next GP contract will reduce elements of performance related pay in the quality and outcomes framework, with £240million transferred into core funding. £160 million will be allocated to supporting people over 75 including risk stratification to identify people at risk of hospital admission; and a named GP, with preferential phone and appointment access, individual care plan and increased checking on discharge from hospital. Other measures include giving GPs more flexibility on appointment duration and use of same-day phone/email consultations; removing practice boundaries from October 2014 allowing free choice of provider in participating practices; requiring GPs to publish NHS earnings; and reviewing the quality of out of hours services and reporting concerns to commissioners.</p>	All
<p><b>Walk in care review</b></p> <p>Monitor, the sector regulator for health services in England, is considering whether the NHS payment system should be reformed to allow more walk-in centres to remain open. Research conducted by the regulator found that almost a quarter of walk-in centres had closed in recent years despite enjoying a high level of popularity with patients.</p>	Priority 3: improving outcomes for the vulnerable & independence
<p><b>Government response to Francis Enquiry</b></p> <p>The government has published its full response to the 290 recommendations made by the Francis Enquiry following the poor levels of care received by patients at Mid-Staffordshire hospital. The government has agreed to implement 204 recommendations in full, 57 in principle and 20 in part. These include introducing a criminal offence for wilful neglect, publication of staffing numbers online, but no</p>	All

statutory duty of candour for individuals.	
<p><b>Government loses appeal over closure of some Lewisham Hospital services</b></p> <p>During the summer, a High Court judge ruled Mr Hunt acted outside his powers when he decided the emergency and maternity units should be cut back. The government turned to the Court of Appeal in an attempt to get the decision overruled.</p>	All
<p><b>NHS Outcomes Framework for 2014 to 2015</b></p> <p>NHS England has published the NHS Outcomes Framework 2014 to 2015. This sets out the outcomes and corresponding indicators that will be used to hold NHS England to account for improvements in health outcomes, as part of the government's Mandate to NHS England.</p>	All
<p><b>Public Health England framework agreement</b></p> <p>Public Health England (PHE) has published its framework agreement with the Department of Health, defining how DH and PHE will work together to serve the public and the taxpayer, and how both discharge their accountability responsibilities.</p>	All
<p><b>NICE obesity guidelines</b></p> <p>New guidance on preventing obesity from the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence sets out recommended actions for health professionals, universal settings, communities and local government for the prevention, identification, assessment and management of overweight and obese children.</p>	Priority 1: giving children and young people the best start
<p><b>Responsibility Deal: Saturated Fat Reduction Pledge</b></p> <p>Almost half of the food manufacturing and retail industry has signed up to the Responsibility Deal Saturated Fat Reduction Pledge by agreeing to reduce the amount of saturated fat in food and change their products to make them healthier.</p>	Priority 2: healthier communities & tackling ill health
<p><b>Latest teenage conception figures</b></p> <p>Southwark had the lowest number of conceptions in the borough for any quarter on record in Q3 of 2012, the latest published figures reveal. In 2002 there were 96 teenage conceptions in the same period. Although numbers are declining, the 12 month rolling average places Southwark second in London for rates of teenage conceptions.</p>	Priority 1: giving children and young people the best start
<p><b>Chief Medical Officer focus on early intervention</b></p> <p>The Chief Medical Officer's latest report into the health of children in the UK finds more needs to be done to improve children's health, and highlights the benefits of early intervention programmes. In addition to improvements on physical health, the report highlights the need for society to support children to build emotional resilience, supporting them through better communication to learn from their</p>	Priority 1: giving children and young people the best start

mistakes and deal with life's inevitable 'ups and downs'.	
<p><b>Cold Weather Plan 2013 published</b></p> <p>The Cold Weather Plan for England provides advice for individuals, communities and agencies on how to prepare for and respond to severe cold weather.</p>	Priority 2: healthier communities & tackling ill health
<p><b>Cavendish Review on training for healthcare assistants</b></p> <p>There is currently no standard or minimum level of training for healthcare assistants (HCAs) before they are left to work unsupervised. The Cavendish Review recommended that workers should get at least two weeks' training to prepare them for providing basic care in hospitals, care homes and at home in England. HCAs should also have to earn a Certificate of Fundamental Care. The qualification would link HCA training to nurse training, making it easier for staff to progress up the career ladder. The government will make a formal response to the review's proposals in the autumn.</p>	All
<b>Social care</b>	
<p><b>The Care Bill</b></p> <p>The Care Bill completed its House of Lords' stages on 29 October 2013 and was presented to the House of Commons for first reading on 30 October 2013. A number of amendments were made during the Bill's Report stage in the Lords.</p>	Priority 3: improving outcomes for the vulnerable & independence
<p><b>Southwark signs up to Unison ethical care charter</b></p> <p>Southwark Council has formally signed up to Unison's ethical care charter, which commits local authorities to help put an end to low wage, by-the-minute home care. The majority of the elements in the charter are already in place, including introducing the London living wage for home care workers working for private providers and ensuring visits last for a minimum of 30 minutes.</p>	Priority 3: improving outcomes for the vulnerable & independence
<p><b>Adults Social Care Framework</b></p> <p>The Department of Health has published the Adult Social Care Outcomes Framework for 2014-15. Changes include increased emphasis on carers, prevention and integration provision, as well as ongoing development of measures to track outcomes around dementia and the effectiveness of reablement services.</p>	Priority 3: improving outcomes for the vulnerable & independence
<p><b>Delay to Disability Welfare Payments Reform</b></p> <p>Disability welfare changes for England, Scotland and Wales have been delayed because the government has been unable to assess claimants in time. Personal Independence Payments will replace Disability Living Allowance next week only for claimants in certain areas rather than across Britain. Ministers said assessments were taking longer than expected and the scheme would now be phased</p>	Priority 3: improving outcomes for the vulnerable & independence

in more gradually.	
<p><b>Southwark social worker of the year</b></p> <p>Southwark employee Jennifer Skirrow was named Newly Qualified Children’s Social Worker of the Year last month. Jennifer qualified as a social worker in 2012 and has since been a part of the Children Looked After Service, supporting children aged 0-12 who are looked after through family placements, adoption, fostering, or special guardianship orders.</p>	Priority 3: improving outcomes for the vulnerable & independence
<p><b>Dementia Care Map</b></p> <p>The Department of Health has produced a map of dementia care in England detailing performance at local authority level across measures of hospital and community care for people with dementia, and the future of dementia care. Southwark is rated ‘green’ for: looking for dementia in hospital; assessing people with dementia; referring people for further tests; and checking for dementia- level of diagnoses. The borough is rated amber for numbers dying in hospital, and red for the length of hospital stays, and numbers going back to hospital.</p>	Priority 3: improving outcomes for the vulnerable & independence
<p><b>CQC annual report</b></p> <p>The CQC report – its annual State of Care review – highlighted common themes found during the 35,000 inspections made in 2012-13. Evidence of poor care was found in one in 10 hospitals – in half of cases this was judged to have had a moderate or major impact on patients. Those with dementia continued to have among the worst outcomes.</p>	Priority 3: improving outcomes for the vulnerable & independence
<p><b>Ofsted annual report for social care</b></p> <p>Ofsted has published its annual report for social care 2012/13. Among the issues emerging are the high levels of referrals and assessments following high-profile incidents, the emergence of the sexual exploitation of older children and young people as a key area of concern, as well as financial constraints facing local authorities and instability in the leadership of many children’s services departments. The recently revised ‘Working Together’ guidance, the establishment of the College of Social Work and the appointment of a Chief Social Worker are all highlighted as key reforms.</p>	Priorities 1 and 3
<p><b>Serious case reviews published</b></p> <p>A number of serious case review findings have been released recently, for Daniel Pelka, Keanu Williams and Hamzah Khan.</p>	Priority 3: improving outcomes for the vulnerable & independence
<p><b>Looked after children permanence consultation</b></p> <p>The government recently consulted on measures to improve permanence for looked after children. The consultation concerned a number of proposals on strengthening the team around the looked after child, securing permanence for looked after children, improving</p>	Priority 3: improving outcomes for the vulnerable &

the status, security and stability of long term foster care and strengthening the requirements for returning children home from care.	independence
<p><b>Adoption funds</b></p> <p>Private adoption agencies and charities will be given a bigger role in tackling the backlog of children needing placement with families. Funding of £16m, that will be available from later this year until the end of 2016, is to be used to increase recruitment of adopters by voluntary sector adoption agencies. £15m will be used over the next two years in expansion grants for new and existing voluntary adoption agencies to increase the recruitment of adopters and to create innovative ways of working. The remaining funds will be used for new business support for adoption agencies, providing advice, coaching, and guidance to expand their organisations.</p>	Priority 3: improving outcomes for the vulnerable & independence
<p><b>Children to be able to stay with foster carers until age 21</b></p> <p>The government has announced it will establish, through the Children and Families Bill, a legal duty on local authorities to provide financial support for every young person who wants to stay with their foster parents until their 21st birthday. It will give local authorities £40 million over the next three years to put the support arrangements in place.</p>	Priority 3: improving outcomes for the vulnerable & independence
<p><b>Care Leavers Strategy</b></p> <p>The Care Leaver Strategy sets out in one place the steps the government is taking – from housing to health services, from the justice system to educational institutions – to support care leavers to live independently once they have left their placement.</p>	Priority 3: improving outcomes for the vulnerable & independence
<b>Children, Young People, Families and Education</b>	
<p><b>Audit of Maternity Care Services</b></p> <p>The National Audit Office looked at how services for expectant mothers and new babies had changed since the publication of the Department of Health's Maternity Matters strategy in 2007. It found good outcomes and positive experiences for most women, with a greater consultant presence on labour wards, and an increase in midwife numbers. Wide variations between some trusts in terms of quality and safety, and cost and efficiency, however, remain. The performance of individual trusts in relation to rates of complication and medical intervention varies widely, and litigation in maternity care has been rising.</p>	Priority 1: giving children and young people the best start
<p><b>Pupil premium expansion</b></p> <p>From April 2014, children in care will attract £1,900 additional funding per pupil (compared to the £900 per pupil 'Pupil Premium' rate for children from low income families awarded for 2013/14). Children will be covered as soon as they enter care, rather than if they have been looked after for six months or more as is the system currently. Children adopted from care and those who leave care under a special guardianship order or residence order will also attract the pupil premium plus.</p>	Priorities 1 and 3

<p><b>School floor standards and league table changes</b></p> <p>The Department for Education has made changes to school accountability and floor standards:</p> <p>Accountability: All schools will be required to publish core information sets on their website, in a standard format: pupils' progress across eight subjects, and how students achieve relative to expected performance; the average grade a pupil achieves in these same 'best eight' subjects, and the school average for each of the eight subjects, e.g. the school average grade for maths is a high C grade; and the percentage of pupils achieving a C grade in English and maths; and the proportion of pupils gaining the EBacc, which will continue in its current form. The DfE is also looking at including a destination measure to show the percentage of pupils who move on to further study or employment, including further training.</p> <p>Floor standards: The DfE is proposing a change to the way it measure underperformance and to the floor targets. A pupil's key stage 2 results, achieved at the end of primary school, will be used to set a reasonable expectation of what they should achieve at GCSE. Schools will get credit where pupils outperform these expectations. Pupils' progress and attainment will be assessed in eight subjects: English and maths, three further EBacc subjects, and three other 'high-value' qualifications. This final group can include further traditional academic subjects, such as art, music and drama, and vocational subjects, such as engineering and business. English and maths will be double weighted to reflect their importance. The DfE will define the new floor standard as progress half a grade lower than reasonable expectations. A school in which pupils average a full grade above reasonable expectations will not be inspected by Ofsted in the following year.</p>	<p>Priority 1: giving children and young people the best start</p>
<p><b>EYFS attainment results</b></p> <p>In summer 2013, 60% of Southwark school children achieved a good level of development at early years foundation stage, which is higher than national (52%), London (53%) and statistical neighbour averages (55%). The achievement gap between Southwark's lowest performing 20% of children and the overall cohort was 33.2% – a smaller gap than both national and London levels of 36.6% and 35.9% respectively.</p>	<p>Priority 1: giving children and young people the best start</p>
<p><b>Crime and Justice</b></p>	
<p><b>Serious and Organised Crime Strategy</b></p> <p>The government's new serious and organised crime strategy was announced alongside the formal establishment of the National Crime Agency, replacing the Serious and Organised Crime Agency, Border Policing and the Child Exploitation and On-line Protection Centre. The strategy uses the counter terrorism framework to set out action that will be taken to disrupt serious and organised criminals. It focuses on preventing people from getting involved in organised crime, improving Britain's protection against serious and organised criminality and ensuring that communities, victims and witnesses get the support they need when serious and organised crimes occur.</p>	<p>Priority 2: healthier communities &amp; tackling ill health</p>
<p><b>Stevens Commission reports</b></p> <p>The Stevens Commission report made wide ranging recommendations for reforming the police, how they operate and police</p>	<p>Priority 2: healthier communities &amp;</p>

<p>governance. The recommendation included creating a statutory definition of the role of the police; the introduction of a local policing commitment setting out what communities can expect; strengthening of accountability at a community safety partnership level; the abolition of police and crime commissioners with local authorities commissioning local policing from their force through retention of an element of the police precept, and the creation of police boards made up of council leaders to set the budget and strategic priorities; reviewing the impact of the Winsor recommendations; creating the concept of a police officer chartered by the College of Policing; the abolition of Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and the Independent Police Complaints Commission and replacing them with a single body responsible for investigating and prosecuting serious complaints; a review of the number of police forces to reduce them from the current 43; and the development of a national procurement strategy.</p>	<p>tackling ill health</p>
<p><b>Revision of PACE Codes</b></p> <p>Following statutory consultation, PACE codes A (stop and search), B (search of premises and seizure of property), C (detention of suspects), E (audio recording of interviews), F (visual recording of interviews) and H (detention of terrorism suspects) have been revised. Notable revisions include ones to Codes C and H that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• require the police to provide 17 year olds with access to an appropriate adult when detained;</li> <li>• transpose into UK domestic law European Union Directive 2010/64/EU on the right to interpretation and translation in criminal proceedings.</li> </ul>	<p>Priority 2: healthier communities &amp; tackling ill health</p>
<p><b>New Victims' Code</b></p> <p>The Victims' Code sets out what support and information victims of crime are entitled to from criminal justice agencies from the time at which they report a crime until after the trial. The revised code places a new duty on criminal justice agencies and Police and Crime Commissioners to include information about the Victims' Code on their websites to raise awareness more broadly of victims' entitlements.</p>	<p>Priority 2: healthier communities &amp; tackling ill health</p>
<p><b>MoJ figures on reoffending released</b></p> <p>The Ministry of Justice data showed more than 500,000 offenders dealt with in the 12 months up to the end of March 2013 had at least one previous conviction or caution. 148,000 criminals (more than a fifth) dealt with in England and Wales in 2012/13 had 15 or more convictions or cautions apiece. It represented a 14% rise since 2008. More than 1,600 of them were children.</p>	<p>Priority 2: healthier communities &amp; tackling ill health</p>
<p><b>Restorative justice training for Youth Offending Teams</b></p> <p>Local authorities are to receive support to boost restorative justice work with young offenders after the Youth Justice Board announced a £2m grant. The restorative justice development grant will be distributed among all 158 youth offending teams in England and Wales for basic training in the practice for all staff.</p>	<p>Priority 1: giving children and young people the best start</p>



<p><b>Police.uk re-launch</b></p> <p>Police.uk crime statistics now include data which allows the public to compare the performance of the police and courts in their area with the national average, and how the performance of the police in a local area compares with other 'most similar' forces.</p>	<p>Priorities 1 and 2</p>
<p><b>Initiatives to tackle domestic violence</b></p> <p>Following a successful pilot, the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme is to be rolled out nationally. The scheme allows individuals to request information about whether their new or current partner (or the partner of someone they know) has previously been known to police for violent offences. A disclosure can take place if it is lawful, necessary and proportionate to do so.</p> <p>Alongside the disclosure scheme, from March 2014, the police and magistrates in England and Wales will also be able to issue Domestic Violence Protection Orders (DVPOs). These can be issued where there is insufficient evidence to charge a perpetrator and provide protection to a victim via bail conditions. A DVPO can prevent the perpetrator from returning to a residence or from having contact with the victim for up to 28 days.</p>	<p>Priority 3: improving outcomes for the vulnerable &amp; independence</p>
<p><b>Housing and environment</b></p>	
<p><b>Open consultation: rents for Social Housing 2015-16</b></p> <p>The Department for Communities and Local Government is currently consulting on changes to its rent policy, namely moving annual weekly rent increases from RPI plus 0.5% to CPI plus 1%, removing landlords' flexibility to charge an addition £2 a week above formula rent, and setting cap for application of social tenant household at an income of £60,000. The consultation closes on 24 December.</p>	<p>Priority 2: healthier communities &amp; tackling ill health</p>
<p><b>Payday loan companies, pawnbrokers and bookmakers banned from renting council property</b></p> <p>Southwark Council has decided to ban payday lenders, pawn shops or bookmakers from renting properties which it owns. The local authority is also looking at what powers it could use to refuse to renew the leases of such businesses already operating in its buildings.</p>	<p>Priority 2: healthier communities &amp; tackling ill health</p>