

**HWB policy and budgetary updates to March 2014**

<b>Housing, employment &amp; environment</b>	
<p><b>Government programme to build up to 165,000 new affordable homes over 3 years</b></p> <p>Housing associations, councils and house builders will be invited to bid for government funding that, when combined with private investment, will deliver a £23 billion programme between 2015 and 2018. The Autumn Statement announced that the government would launch a review into the role that local authorities can play in housing supply. The review will consider how councils can maximise the use of their portfolio, and work more closely with housing associations, house builders and businesses to build more new homes.</p>	Priority 3
<p><b>Above inflation increase of the national minimum wage</b></p> <p>The Low Pay Commission has recommended a 3% increase in the minimum wage to £6.50 an hour for adults. At present, the minimum wage is £6.31 an hour for adults and £5.03 an hour for 18 to 20-year-olds. Those earning less than £7.70 per hour are considered to be low paid. Southwark pays and promotes locally the London Living Wage, which is currently £8.80.</p>	Priority 2
<b>Health</b>	
<p><b>Health secretary given new powers on hospital closures</b></p> <p>MPs have voted to give England's health secretary powers to reconfigure local hospitals including closure, even if they are performing well. Clause 119 in the Care Bill allows a hospital to be closed or downgraded if a neighbouring trust is struggling financially by giving trust special administrators the power to make changes to neighbouring services while trying to rescue failing NHS trusts.</p>	Priority 3
<p><b>Keogh NHS inquiry</b></p> <p>Professor Sir Bruce Keogh, NHS England's national medical director, has published proposals that set out 10 new clinical standards for hospitals. These include: that all emergency admissions should be seen by a consultant within 14 hours; there should be seven-day access to diagnostic tests, such as X-rays, ultrasound, MRI scans and pathology; patients in intensive care and other high dependency units should be reviewed by a consultant twice a day; and there should be weekend access to multi-disciplinary teams, which include expert nurses, physios and other support staff.</p>	Priority 3
<p><b>CQC inspections of GP practices</b></p> <p>From April 2014, the Care Quality Commission will introduce more inquisitive and robust inspections of GP surgeries. Inspectors will visit all of the NHS's 211 clinical commissioning groups once every six months, inspecting a quarter of the practices in that area. From October 2014 all GP surgeries in England have been given an Ofsted-style rating. From April GPs will be given at least two weeks' notice prior to inspection following CQC findings in December that one in three surgeries were failing to meet the inspection standards introduced in October.</p>	Priority 2
<p><b>NHS strategic and operational planning framework</b></p> <p>NHS England has published Everyone Counts: Planning for Patients 2014/15 to 2018/19 which describes NHS England's framework within which commissioners will need to work with providers and partners in local government to develop five year plans for the delivery of health and care services.</p>	Priority 2

<p><b>Good practice guide to major service change published</b></p> <p>NHS England has published a good practice guide for commissioners, to assist clinical commissioning groups to develop proposals for major service changes and reconfiguration. The guidance is supplemented by an assurance toolkit which sets out how NHS England will support and assure local commissioning proposals.</p>	Priority 2
<p><b>0-5 Public Health commissioning</b></p> <p>The government has announced that the responsibility for children's public health commissioning for 0-5 year olds, including health visiting and the Family Nurse Partnership programme, will transfer from NHS England to local authorities on 1 October 2015. This will mark the final part of the public health transfer.</p>	Priority 1
<p><b>Children and Young People's Health Outcomes Framework</b></p> <p>The Child and Maternal Health Intelligence Network has published a first version of the Children and Young People's Health Outcomes Framework. This new resource brings together and builds on health outcomes data from the Public Health Outcomes Framework and the NHS Outcomes Framework.</p>	Priority 1
<p><b>CCG funding allocations</b></p> <p>NHS England has published the funding allocations that clinical commissioning groups will receive over the next two years (2014/15 and 2015/16). The funding allocations will be aligned with new NHS planning guidance that will be published shortly.</p>	Priority 3
<p><b>Socio-economic determinants of health during the economic downturn</b></p> <p>Profiles published by London Health Observatory provide an overview of the socio-economic determinants of health in each London borough during the economic downturn. Southwark performed worse than average for unemployed and working age benefit claimants, but better than average for the use of temporary accommodation and the number of households living in fuel poverty.</p>	Priority 2
<p><b>Mental Health Strategy progress update</b></p> <p>The DoH has published the first annual mental health dashboard report to show progress against the objectives in the 'No Health Without mental health' strategy.</p>	Priority 2
<p><b>Crisis Care Concordat for those working with people experiencing mental health crisis</b></p> <p>The Crisis Care Concordat sets out the principles and good practice that should be followed by health staff, police officers and approved mental health professionals when working together to help people in a mental health crisis. It follows the refreshed Mandate for NHS England, which includes a new requirement for the NHS that "every community has plans to ensure no one in mental health crisis will be turned away from health services". More than 20 organisations, including NHS England, the Association of Chief Police Officers and the Royal College of Psychiatrists, have signed up to the agreement.</p>	Priority 3
<p><b>NICE care quality standard for anxiety disorders</b></p> <p>This quality standard covers the identification and management of anxiety disorders in primary, secondary and community care for children, young people and adults.</p>	Priority 1
<p><b>NICE care standard: Mental wellbeing for older people in care homes</b></p> <p>The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence has published new standards to help care homes tackle loneliness, depression and low self-esteem in older people.</p>	Priority 3

<p><b>New funding to link up police and mental health services</b></p> <p>The Home Office and Department of Health have announced that an extra £25 million will be invested in liaison and diversion trial schemes to join up police and courts across England with mental health support and other services. These trials will be evaluated and, if successful, extended to the rest of the country by 2017.</p>	Priority 3
<p><b>£10 million to support drug and alcohol recovery</b></p> <p>The government has announced it will invest £10 million capital funding into recovery-orientated drug and alcohol treatment centres across England. All recovery-focused adult drug and alcohol treatment services across England are entitled to bid for a share of the funding, provided that funding proposals are recovery-orientated and are committed towards improving recovery outcomes.</p>	Priority 2
<p><b>Improving Dental Care and Oral Health – A Call to Action</b></p> <p>NHS England wants to explore the potential wider role that dental professionals can play in promoting a healthy lifestyle and in identifying people at higher risk of other diseases, such as diabetes or hypertension.</p>	Priority 2
<p><b>NHS England action plan for diabetes</b></p> <p>NHS England's new plan, Action for Diabetes, outlines how it would like to see better prevention of type 2 diabetes, earlier diagnosis of all diabetes, and support for people to manage their diabetes better and improve their quality of life.</p>	Priority 2
<p><b>Plans to speed up the diagnosis of dementia</b></p> <p>The Health Secretary, Jeremy Hunt, has announced that by March next year those with suspected dementia should receive a diagnosis within six weeks. Hunt announced a number of pledges to reduce waiting times for diagnosis, and plans to work with businesses to train staff to spot signs of the disease, reduce stigma and help the most vulnerable.</p>	Priority 3
<p><b>Practical guidance on care for frail older people</b></p> <p>NHS England has published the commissioning guidance for implementing a care pathway for frail older people. The document summarises the evidence of the effects of an integrated pathway of care. It suggests how a pathway can be commissioned effectively using levers and incentives across providers.</p>	Priority 3
<b>Public health</b>	
<p><b>Conceptions in young adults in England</b></p> <p>Southwark's under-18 conception rate for 2012 is 31.8 per 1,000 girls aged between 15 and 17, representing an overall decline of 63.4% since the 1998 baseline (2<sup>nd</sup> best performance nationally). This represents a 25.5% reduction since the final 2011 rate. Southwark is now the fourth highest under-18 conception rate out of 13 Inner London authorities, and sixth highest out of 33 Greater London authorities. The borough has dropped from the top three for the first time.</p>	Priority 1
<p><b>Child measurement programme figures</b></p> <p>Statistics published from the National Child Measurement Programme show 14.2% of reception year children in Southwark are obese compared to a London average of 10.8%. In addition 26.7% of year 6 children are obese compared to a London average of 22.4%.</p>	Priority 1
<p><b>Children's diets contain excessive levels of salt</b></p> <p>A study has found that many children exceed the recommended intake of salt on a daily basis. Those aged five and six are eating 0.75g more than the recommended daily amount and teenagers are exceeding the limit by about 1.5g, the research suggests. The research found 36% of this salt</p>	Priority 1

comes from cereal and bread-based products.	
<p><b>Local authority adult excess weight data</b></p> <p>Local authority excess weight data has been published by Public Health England. In Southwark 41.1% of the adult population are of a healthy weight, 35.8% are overweight and 20.6% are obese. This means that overall 56.3% of Southwark's adult population has excess weight, which is lower than the England average of 64% of adults.</p>	Priority 2
<p><b>Public Health Grant funding allocation</b></p> <p>The PH budget allocation 2014/15 of £23m represents a 5.2% uplift on the 2013/14 allocation. Southwark's grant allocation is £22,946 (£74 per head).</p>	Priority 3
<p><b>Public Health England publishes the NHS Atlas of Variation in Diagnostic Services</b></p> <p>The NHS Atlas of Diagnostics identifies local variations for a wide range of diagnostic services covering imaging, endoscopy, physiological diagnostics, pathology, and genetics. The data shows that Southwark has among the highest rate for eligible premature babies tested for retinopathy or prematurity, high rates of emergency admission for children with epilepsy, and low rates of emergency admission for children with sickle cell.</p>	Priority 2
<p><b>Policy paper: Preparing for the health and wellbeing framework</b></p> <p>The Health and Wellbeing Framework, launching in summer 2014, aims to use Public Health England's (PHE) role as a national body for public health to get people talking about health and wellbeing, rather than illness.</p> <p>PHE is also launching a national conversation about health inequalities to better understand the English public's perception and experience. The project will involve speaking with public health professionals and community leaders and holding a series of workshops with members of the public. A toolkit for councils will be created based on research carried out.</p>	Priority 2
<b>Social care</b>	
<p><b>Southwark Council takes up challenge to become 'age friendly' borough</b></p> <p>The council has agreed to make the commitment and develop an age friendly strategy that ensures older people are a priority in all areas of council work and planning after accepting a challenge issued by a consortium made up of six voluntary organisations, including Age UK, that deliver older people's services.</p>	Priority 3
<p><b>Statutory Guidance on Children who Run Away or Go Missing from Home or Care 2014</b></p> <p>As part of their framework to safeguard children, individual local authorities and police forces should have an agreed Run away or Missing From Home or Care (RMFHC) protocol. The protocols should be agreed and reviewed regularly with all agencies and be scrutinised by the LSCB. Police force operational areas often cover more than a single local authority area. RMFHC protocols should therefore be agreed by agencies on a regional or sub-regional basis to ensure a consistent approach.</p>	Priority 3
<p><b>Ofsted inspection framework: children's homes</b></p> <p>Ofsted's has revised the inspection framework for children's homes, short-break services, secure children's homes and refuges under section 51 of the Children Act 1989. The new inspection framework will be introduced from 1 April 2014 and will focus on the overall experience and progress of children, rather than the overall effectiveness of the home.</p>	Priority 3
<p><b>Directors of children's services will not have to personally approve care placements outside of their authority</b></p> <p>The government announced it is to amend draft regulations that would have required DCSs to sign off individual decisions to place a child in care that</p>	Priority 3

<p>was outside the home authority or a neighbouring authority. The amended regulations state that rather than having to approve individual cases each DCS must ensure “robust processes” are in place for challenge and scrutiny of decisions.</p> <p>The government has also said it will amend the duty requiring the DCS to ensure that robust processes are in place to scrutinise and challenge leaving care decisions for 16- and 17-year-olds, rather than requiring the DCS to make every decision on a personal basis.</p>	
<p><b>Failures to safeguard personal data</b></p> <p>An investigation by the Information Commissioners Office found “highly sensitive” information about children and adults is routinely emailed between independent agencies and local authorities for the purposes of arranging care placements without encryption safeguards being put in place.</p>	Priority 3
<p><b>Review of education for children’s social workers</b></p> <p>Sir Martin Narey’s review of children’s social work education, which has been endorsed by the education secretary and the prime minister, makes 18 recommendations, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ the Chief Social Worker, Isabelle Trowler, should produce a single definition of what a newly qualified children’s social worker needs to understand and be able to do, and universities should base their curricula on that, not ideological and theoretic concepts</li> <li>▪ undergraduate trainees should be allowed to specialise in children’s social work within their degree, and be given the option to complete all placements in children’s social care</li> </ul>	Priority 3
<p><b>Re-visioning social work education: an independent review</b></p> <p>While Martin Narey’s review of children’s social work education strongly backed the introduction of specialised qualifications for students intending to work in children’s services, based on a generic first year, Croisdale-Appleby strongly backs the retention of a single, generic initial social work qualification so that newly qualified social workers are qualified to practise with children and families, as well as with adults.</p>	Priority 3
<p><b>Consultation on court orders and pre-proceedings</b></p> <p>The Department for Education has published its revised statutory guidance on court orders and pre-proceedings for public consultation. It outlines the key principles of the Children Act and explains the changes in practice following provisions in the Children and Families Bill and reforms since the Family Justice Review.</p>	Priority 3
<p><b>Consultation on the care of unaccompanied asylum seeking and trafficked children</b></p> <p>This consultation seeks views on new proposed regulations and statutory guidance to improve the planning and provision of care for unaccompanied and trafficked children who are looked after by a local authority in England.</p>	Priority 3
<p><b>Adoption scorecards and thresholds published</b></p> <p>The Department for Education has published the adoption scorecards for 2010 to 2013 and the annual uprating of the thresholds to 2016. The scorecards and performance tables show that overall there has been no improvement in timeliness since 2009 to 2012. Against the uprated thresholds only 36 local authorities met both thresholds and 65 authorities failed to meet both thresholds.</p>	Priority 3
<p><b>Funding for adoption recruitment</b></p> <p>Local authorities will receive £50m in 2014/15 to continue with efforts to recruit more adopters. Alongside this funding, there will be the creation of a new Adoption Leadership Board that will support local authorities to reform the system and help adoption agencies to recruit more adoptive parents.</p>	Priority 3

<p><b>Consultation: Adoption: getting it right, making it work</b></p> <p>The planned guidance is published for consultation alongside a series of draft regulation changes. The package marks the next step towards implementation of comprehensive reforms to the adoption system and includes requiring councils to consider fostering for adoption wherever appropriate, removing prioritisation of ethnicity over other factors when matching children, making it mandatory for councils to tell prospective adopters about their support entitlements, and removing restrictions on the adoption register to allow adopters to identify children they might be suitable to adopt.</p>	Priority 3
<p><b>Consultation: Ill-treatment or wilful neglect in health and social care</b></p> <p>The government accepted the recommendation of the National Advisory Group on the Safety of Patients in England to develop a new criminal offence of ill-treatment or wilful neglect. This consultation outlines the recommendation and the government's current position, and sets out our proposals for the details of the offence.</p>	Priority 3
<b>Children, Young People, Families and Education</b>	
<p><b>Changes to secondary school league tables</b></p> <p>England's secondary school league tables are to be split and schools or colleges will be given three separate grades for their pupils' average performance in A-levels, academic qualifications, which includes A-levels and others such as the International Baccalaureate and vocational qualifications.</p>	Priority 1
<p><b>Government announces changes to school careers service</b></p> <p>Under new plans announced by government local authorities will be responsible for providing new vocational qualification websites holding the latest information from schools, colleges and employers. There will also be a requirement for schools to develop closer relationships with local employers. Selected Jobcentres will also give 16- and 17-year-olds access to personalised advice and support.</p>	Priority 1
<p><b>Guidance for schools on female genital mutilation</b></p> <p>The Education Secretary has confirmed all schools will receive guidance on safeguarding that will specifically tackle the issues of female genital mutilation (FGM). That material will cover issues including the statutory safeguarding duties of teachers and other school staff in relation to FGM.</p>	Priority 1
<p><b>Funding for additional school places</b></p> <p>The government will be providing £2.35 billion to create more school places up to 2017. This is in addition to the £5 billion that will have been spent on new school places by 2015. It is the first time councils have had 3-year allocations of funding to spend on school places.</p>	Priority 1
<p><b>Consultation: School food standards</b></p> <p>The Department for Education has published a consultation on revised school food standards regulations which will create a clearer, simpler set of food-based standards for school food.</p> <p><a href="https://www.education.gov.uk/consultations/index.cfm?action=consultationDetails&amp;consultationId=1901&amp;external=no&amp;menu=1">https://www.education.gov.uk/consultations/index.cfm?action=consultationDetails&amp;consultationId=1901&amp;external=no&amp;menu=1</a></p>	Priority 1

<p><b>Government funds SEN independent advocate role</b></p> <p>Advocates will provide one-to-one support and advice to families of children and young people with SEN to ensure they understand the new needs assessment process, which is being introduced through the Children and Families Bill. The government will provide £30m to train approximately 1,800 advocates.</p>	Priority 3
<p><b>NICE quality care standard for autism</b></p> <p>The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) has issued standards to improve the quality of care and support for children, young people and adults with autism.</p> <p>The provision of services for people with autism is varied across England and the NICE quality standard is designed to standardise and improve the care and management of autism.</p> <p><a href="http://publications.nice.org.uk/autism-qs51">http://publications.nice.org.uk/autism-qs51</a></p>	Priority 3
<p><b>Pupil premium allocations for the 2014 to 2015 financial year</b></p> <p>The pupil premium paid to primary schools for eligible children will increase to £1,300 from £953 in 2013/14. The premium paid to secondary schools will increase to £935 from £900 in 2013/14. The premium for children looked after will increase from £900 in 2013/14 to £1,900.</p>	Priority 1
<p><b>Consultation: Child poverty: a draft strategy</b></p> <p>The government is seeking views on the draft child poverty strategy, which sets out what action the government plans to take from 2014 to 2017 to reduce child poverty.</p>	Priority 1
<b>Crime and justice</b>	
<p><b>Domestic violence and abuse: how services can respond effectively</b></p> <p>National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) has published guidance which recommends that health care professionals should receive training so that they can recognise the signs of domestic violence and abuse and ensure that those affected are aware of the help and support available to them.</p>	Priority 3
<p><b>New restorative justice standards launched</b></p> <p>The UK's first national standards and quality mark for restorative services has been launched by the Restorative Justice Council (RJC).</p> <p>The new standards and Restorative Service Quality Mark (RSQM) have been designed to give those involved in the restorative justice process confidence that effective practice is taking place. The RSQM, which is backed by the Ministry of Justice, requires organisations to show that they are consistently meeting six service standards.</p>	Priority 3
<p><b>Ending Gang and Youth Violence Annual Report 2013 and Review of Year One published</b></p> <p>The Ending Gang and Youth Violence Annual Report 2013, and a review of the programme's achievements during 2012 – 13 have been published. The documents show the contribution that work by the government, policy, health professionals and community projects is making to reducing in gang violence.</p>	Priority 3

**Modern Slavery Bill**

The draft legislation enhance the law enforcement response, bring more perpetrators to justice, and protect and support more victims. It forms part of a government white paper setting out action needed to eradicate slavery from the UK. The draft Bill will be subject to pre-legislative scrutiny, with the aim of publishing a full Bill in the spring that could be passed and on the statute books by the end of the parliament.

Priority 3

**New government measures to end FGM**

It will now be mandatory for all NHS acute hospitals to provide information on patients who have undergone female genital mutilation (FGM) which will be recorded centrally. In addition, the Home Office has launched a new £100,000 FGM Community Engagement Initiative. Charities can bid for up to £10,000 to carry out community engagement work aimed at raising awareness of FGM. The government has also appointed a consortium of leading anti-FGM campaigners to deliver a global campaign to end FGM.

Priority 3