

POLICY BULLETIN – 18 August 2009

FEATURE TOPIC: Facing up to the Task – The Interim Report of the Social Work Task Force

The Social Work Task Force has now published its [interim report](#) 'Facing up to the Task'. The Task Force was set up by Government to undertake a comprehensive review of frontline social work practice and make recommendations for improvement and reform of the social work profession, across adult and children's services. It [first reported](#) to Government in May 2009 and will be making final recommendations in the autumn.

The interim report sets out the current state of social work in England, and the Task Force's vision for the future, including a new description of social work and set of principles for a programme of reform. Initial ideas for recommendations are:

- Creation of a national college for social work;
- Improved partnership working between employers and educators to ensure high quality entrants and continuous professional development;
- A clear and common career structure that rewards expertise in frontline practice and is linked to training and development;
- A much better understanding of supply and demand for the profession, linking with workforce planning, national recruitment campaigns and training provision;
- Ensuring social workers have the resources they need to perform their job effectively i.e. manageable workloads, access to learning and development opportunities, improvements to the Integrated Children's System.

THEMATIC UPDATE:

Children and Young People

14-19 Reform

DCSF publishes ['Diploma Gateway 4: Guidance on strategic local planning for the Diploma entitlement'](#)

Backing Young Britain

Government launches [Backing Young Britain](#) campaign.

Carbon management and schools

DCSF consults on ['A Carbon Management Strategy for Schools'](#). The closing date for responses is 20 November 2009. SDC has published a [supporting document](#) on evidence base and assumptions.

Participation in positive activities

Research [report](#) examines children and young people's participation in organised sport.

[Desk based research](#) and research with [young people](#) and [parents](#) considers motivators and barriers to young people participating in positive activities.

Safeguarding

Government published [annual update](#) on progress against Joint Chief Inspectors' recommendations.

Serious Case Reviews

Government publishes [consultation](#) on revised guidance for SCRs. The closing date for responses is 23 October 2009.

Sustainability and schools

DCSF issue local authority [guidance](#) on 'Delivering sustainable communities through sustainable schools'.

Young people and alcohol

DCSF [study](#) the role of alcohol in young people's lives.

Youth engagement

NALC/CRC publish [case studies](#) of local councils engaging with young people.

Communities, Neighbourhoods and Social Inclusion

Equalities

[Equality Measurement Framework](#) produced by EHRC.

Community cohesion

CLG publish guidance on [mainstreaming community cohesion](#) in services and the [economic case for cohesion](#).

Intergenerational work

12 areas to receive Government funding as part of the '[Generations Together](#)' campaign to support intergenerational volunteering (Wakefield are one of the successful projects).

New citizenship test

UK Border Agency consults on [proposals](#) for a new points test for citizenship. The closing date for responses is 26 October 2009.

Preventing violent extremism

Guidance documents published on: '[Learning Together to be Safe](#) – A toolkit to help colleges contribute to the prevention of violent extremism'; '[Safeguarding Online](#) – Explaining the risk posed by violent extremism'; and '[Evaluating local PREVENT projects and programmes](#)'

Race inequalities

[TSOs](#) to receive share of £8.8m Tackling Race Inequalities Fund.

Re-migration

Ippr [report](#) examines re-migration trends among British immigrants.

Social exclusion

Cabinet Office Social Exclusion Taskforce publishes [four studies](#) of social exclusion at different life stages.

Youth engagement

NALC/CRC publish [case studies](#) of local councils engaging with young people.

Culture, Sport and the Olympics

2012 Olympics

[Quarterly Economic Report](#) (July 2009).

Participation in sport

Research [report](#) looks at children and young people's participation in organised sport.

Democracy and Public Affairs

Public perceptions of ethics

Standards for England publish [findings](#) of biennial survey into public perceptions of ethics in local government.

Strengthening local democracy

LGA have produced a [briefing](#) on the government's 'Strengthening local democracy' consultation.

Voting age

Government [responds](#) to consultation on whether the voting age should be lowered to 16.

The Economy and SNR

Advanced manufacturing

Government sets out its [strategy](#) on advanced manufacturing.

Digital Britain

Government publishes [Digital Britain Implementation Plan](#).

Economic downturn

LGA publish collection of case studies in [Global slowdown: local solutions II](#).

Audit Commission publishes second [report](#) on how councils are responding to the recession.

Empty shops revival

Eight Y&H councils to benefit from share of [£3m fund](#) to help transform empty shops in hardest hit areas.

Future Jobs Fund

[Successful bids](#) from the first round of the FJF announced.

Integrated Regional Strategy

Government issues [consultation](#) on proposals for Regional Strategies and Leaders' Boards guidance. The closing date for responses is 30 October 2009.

Local Authority Business Growth Incentives Scheme

Government publishes its [response](#) to the 'Reforming the Local Authority Business Growth Incentives Scheme' and awards for 2009-10.

Regional Development Agencies

2008-2009 annual performance [reports](#) for the RDAs are published.

Volunteering

Government launches '[National Talent Bank](#)' scheme to encourage more people to volunteer during the recession.

Employment and Welfare

Future Jobs Fund

[Successful bids](#) from the first round of the FJF announced.

Pathways to work

Research reports published by DWP on: '[People with mental health conditions and Pathways to Work](#)' and '[The experiences of longer-term existing customers](#)'.

Workers Memorial Day

Government launches public [consultation](#) on proposals for a Workers Memorial Day. The closing date for responses is 19 October 2009.

The Environment

Carbon management and schools

DCSF consults on '[A Carbon Management Strategy for Schools](#)'. The closing date for responses is 20 November 2009. SDC has published a [supporting document](#) on evidence base and assumptions.

Climate change

EC report considers [European's attitudes towards climate change](#).

Hazardous waste

Defra seeks views on the proposed '[Strategy for Hazardous Waste Management in England](#)'. The closing date for responses is 13 October 2009.

Low carbon electricity

Government seeks views on delivering [secure low carbon electricity](#). The closing date for responses is 28 October 2009.

Regional carbon emissions

[Report](#) commissioned by Yorkshire Futures identifies top interventions to cut regional carbon emissions.

Sustainability and schools

DCSF issue local authority [guidance](#) on 'Delivering sustainable communities through sustainable schools'.

Europe and International

Climate change

EC [report](#) considers 'European's attitudes towards climate change'.

Sustainable development

European Commission [reviews](#) EU strategy for sustainable development.

Fire

National Procurement Strategy for FRS

CLG publishes summary of [responses](#) to consultation and the new [National Procurement Strategy](#) for the Fire and Rescue Service 2009-12.

Health and Social Care

Dementia strategy

National Dementia Strategy [Implementation Plan](#) is published.

Mental health and well-being

Government publishes '[New Horizons](#)' consultation outlining a new vision for mental health and well-being. The consultation closes on 15 October 2009.

Older people

DoH launches [Prevention Package for Older People](#).

Swine Flu

IDeA publish swine flu [guide](#) for councillors.

Housing and Regeneration

Affordable rural housing

Government announces new [provisions](#) to protect affordable homes in rural areas.

Community Land Trusts

Government publishes its [response](#) to the Community Land Trusts consultation.

Council housing finance review

Government consults on [plans](#) to reform the council housing finance system. The consultation ends on 27 October 2009. CLG has also published [findings](#) of a tenants survey on attitudes towards council housing finance and rents policy, which informed the review.

Economic Appraisal Tool

HCA launches [online tool](#) to help local authorities set affordable housing targets.

Homelessness

Government [guidance](#) issued on intentional homelessness.

Housing KLOE

Audit Commission [consults](#) on strategic approach to housing key line of enquiry. The closing date for responses is 18 September 2009.

Kickstart programme

Government announces [shortlisted projects](#) to receive share of £925m funding.

Protection of tenants

[Proposals](#) published to protect tenants whose landlords are repossessed. The consultation ends on 14 October 2009.

Social housing allocations

Government publishes [consultation](#) on new draft statutory guidance on social housing allocations. The closing date for responses is 23 October 2009.

Research [report](#) commissioned by CLG examines policy and practice on housing allocations (Y&H local authorities took part in the study work).

Social Housing Energy Saving Programme

HCA announces [successful bidders](#) to receive share of £84m to insulate social homes.

Legislation

Housing and Regeneration Act 2008 (Registration of Local Authorities) Order 2009

Government [consults](#) on proposals to allow the TSA to regulate local authority providers of social housing.

Performance, Partnerships and Assessment

Evaluation of LAAs and LSPs

CLG reports [findings](#) from LSPs and LAAs survey.

Housing KLOE

Audit Commission [consults](#) on strategic approach to housing key line of enquiry. The closing date for responses is 18 September 2009.

National Indicators

CRC produces [report](#) on disaggregating national indicators at different spatial levels.

NI 6 - [Results](#) of the 2008/09 Taking Part survey are published.

NI 51 – Baseline self-assessment [data](#) on effectiveness of child and adolescent mental health services is released.

Partnership working

[‘New routes to better outcomes’](#) publications produced by IDeA, including examples of different approaches to achieving LAA targets and developing LSP capacity.

Regional Development Agencies

2008-2009 annual performance [reports](#) for the RDAs are published.

Planning

Community Infrastructure Levy

Government consults on [proposals](#) for the introduction of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). The closing date for responses is 23 October 2009.

Killian Pretty Review

Government issues [progress report](#) on taking forward the Killian Pretty Review recommendations.

Permitted development

Government issues [consultation](#) on proposals to improve permitted development. The closing date for responses is 23 October 2009.

Planning applications

Government issues consultations on [Streamlining information requirements](#) and [Publicity](#) for planning applications. Both consultations end on 23 October 2009.

Planning Policy Statements

Government consults on PPS15: [Planning for the historic environment](#) (responses by 30 October 2009) and PPS25: [Development and Flood Risk](#) (responses by 3 November 2009).

Police and Criminal Justice

Crime and immigration

[Results](#) of the HO Crime and Immigration tracker opinion poll for Q1 2009 are published.

Response to major crime

HMIC [reviews](#) police force response to major crime incidents.

Serious youth violence

HO publishes [findings](#) from Phase I of the 'Tackling Knives Action Programme', and announces [details](#) of Phase II.

Tackling violence

HO publishes progress [report](#) and updated [action plan](#) on tackling violence.

Value for money consultation

HMIC consult on proposals for the [Value for Money profiles](#) part of the Rounded Assessment.

Procurement

National Procurement Strategy for FRS

CLG publishes summary of [responses](#) to consultation and the new [National Procurement Strategy](#) for the Fire and Rescue Service 2009-12.

Rural and Coastal Issues

Coastal paths

Natural England publishes findings of [audit](#) of coastal paths (includes regional breakdowns).

Uplands Communities

CRC publishes findings of [research](#) into the views of Upland Communities.

Third Sector

Compact refresh

[Consultation](#) issued on the revised version of the Compact – the framework for relations between Government and the Third Sector. The consultation closes on 12 October 2009.

Hardship Fund

Government launches £16.7m [Hardship Fund](#) for TSOs.

Third sector and policymaking

Ippr publish [report](#) on the role of the third sector in regional and sub-regional policymaking.

Transformational Government and Efficiencies

Efficiency programme

House of Commons Treasury Committee publishes [evaluation](#) of the Government's efficiency programme.

Transport

Rail electrification

Government publishes rail electrification [strategy](#).

Sustainable transport system

Dft issues [guidance](#) to regions on delivering a sustainable transport system.

STATISTICAL UPDATE:

Council tax

Revised details of [council tax levels](#) for 2009-10.

Drugs misuse

[Findings](#) from the British Crime Survey on drugs misuse.

Housing and planning key facts

Snapshot of key housing and planning [data](#).

Land Use Change Statistics

[Provisional 2008 estimates](#) of changes on previously developed land and average density of new dwellings.

Local authority budget estimates

Updated [budget estimates](#) of local authority revenue expenditure and financing for 2009-10.

National Indicators

NI 6 - [Results](#) of the 2008/09 Taking Part survey.

NI 51 – Baseline self-assessment [data](#) on effectiveness of child and adolescent mental health services.

Planning statistics

Statistical [report](#) by the Planning Inspectorate for 2008-09.

Police service strength

Home Office statistical [bulletin](#) on police service strength at 31 March 2009.

Schools statistics

[Data](#) from the 2009 Schools Census on schools, pupils and their characteristics.

Transport

Latest Dft [statistics](#) on road casualties and road traffic and congestion.

This policy bulletin provides a round-up of key policy documents, announcements, publications and research relevant to the work of Local Government Yorkshire and Humber. It provides links to the source information for further consideration. We hope you find the information useful.

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Local Government Yorkshire and Humber (LGYH) is the regional partnership of local authorities, including fire and police authorities across the region. It brings local authorities together on key issues, supports the improvement of service delivery, lobbies Government on the future of local government, promotes good employment practices, and works with local authorities to improve the public perception of local government.

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