

Ward Hadaway – Lawyers for Education

Insight: Education

Your monthly education sector news roundup

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Welcome

Welcome to the August edition of our monthly newsletter for those working in the education sector. We hope you will find this a useful summary of latest developments in schools, further and higher education and the training and apprenticeships arena. If you have any comments on the format or want more detail about a particular subject, please do not hesitate to contact any of us.

Government pledges an additional £1.3 billion in funding for schools

In an [oral statement](#) to Parliament on 17 July 2017, Education Secretary Justine Greening announced an additional £1.3 billion in funding for schools. The Government has pledged that the extra funding will increase the basic amount that every pupil will attract in 2018-19 and 2019-20, providing a 0.5% a year per pupil cash increase for every school and up to 3% for underfunded schools. Although labelled as "additional investment", the funding will come from "efficiencies and savings" in the Department for Education's (DfE) existing budget, namely:

- » £420 million from the main capital budget, the majority of which (£315 million) will come from the "healthy pupils" funding for sports facilities and healthy eating;
- » £280 million from the free schools budget;
- » £200 million from the DfE's central school improvement programme; and
- » £400 million from across the rest of the DfE resource budget.

While welcoming the news of increased funding for schools, the Labour Party has raised questions as to whether the funding will protect budgets in real terms or just the overall budget.

Other critics have stressed the importance of examining the precise details of the announcement, raising concerns that the funding is "recycled" money rather than "new money" from the Treasury. Concerns have also been raised that the money will simply provide an uplift of basic per-pupil funding and not address historic inequalities that have built up in the system.

The Government, however, has insisted that it will take action to provide "targeted support" to schools with financial health risks. It views the extra investment and reform to the funding system as underpinning its ambition to create a world-class education system, stating that:

"Together, they will give schools a firm foundation that will enable them to continue to raise standards, promote social mobility, and give every child the best possible education and the best opportunities for the future."

Views and opinions overleaf

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"Only when any additional funding is set against rising pupil numbers and inflationary costs will we know how our school budgets are being really affected by this announcement."

WORTHLESS? WEST SUSSEX SCHOOLS CAMPAIGN

"What the Secretary of State has announced...is nothing more than a sticking plaster. Per pupil funding will still fall over this Parliament unless further action is taken urgently."

ANGELA RAYNER
LABOUR PARTY

"This appears to be a recycled announcement of recycled money, reflecting previous ministerial concerns."

CHRIS KEATES
NASUWT, THE TEACHERS' UNION

"What the Secretary of State has announced...is nothing more than a sticking plaster. Per pupil funding will still fall over this Parliament unless further action is taken urgently."

IAN HUDSPETH
COUNTY COUNCILS NETWORK

Social mobility in education

Introduction

Social mobility has featured prominently in Government pronouncements since the beginning of the year. On 18 January 2017, Justine Greening delivered a speech, "[Education at the core of social mobility](#)", in which she stated her three priorities for driving social mobility through education:

- » tackling geographic disadvantage;
- » investing in long-term capacity in the system; and
- » making sure the education system as a whole prepares young people and adults for career success.

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Achieving the aims?

Five months on from these assertions, the Social Mobility Commission published its report "[Time For Change: An Assessment of Government Policies on Social Mobility 1997 - 2017](#)". The report analyses two decades of efforts by successive governments to put social mobility on the public policy agenda.

Progress made by individuals in four key life stages was analysed: early years, schools, training and further education. A traffic light scale was used to rate each area, with none scoring green. Both early years and schools were rated as amber and young people and working lives received a red rating.

Recommendations made by the Commission for each area have been summarised below:

Early years

- » Establish a new national ambition to ensure that within a decade every child, regardless of background, is school-ready by the age of 5 and that the attainment gap between poorer 5-year-olds and their peers has been halved.
- » Focus childcare policy on improving teaching for the poorest children by doubling the Early Years Pupil Premium to enable childcare providers to offer extra support for disadvantaged children.
- » Support early years teachers by shifting regulatory emphasis and funding from teacher qualifications to continuing professional development.
- » Restore funding for parenting programmes and experiment with online classes to achieve scale without undermining quality – using funding from both health and education budgets and shared objectives across both departments.

Schools

- » Introduce a new ambition that, within a decade, the attainment gap between poorer children and their better off classmates should be closed at GCSE level.
- » Align inspection regimes and redistribute resources behind the new drive to close the attainment gap.
- » Abandon plans to extend grammar schools and instead focus on developing new collaborative approaches to turning around failing schools.
- » Introduce effective incentives to attract and retain good quality teachers in the schools that need them most, including a new emphasis on continuing professional development.
- » Develop a more balanced curriculum incorporating social and emotional learning, alongside careers advice, within the formal school timetable.

More overleaf

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Young people

- » Set a new aim to halve the attainment gap in Level 3 qualifications within the next decade through new policies including T levels, apprenticeships, and extra support and accountability reforms for further education colleges.
- » Refocus apprenticeship policy on young people and on higher-quality apprenticeships.
- » Ensure careers advice and support is available in all schools via greater emphasis on destinations measures plus increased training and time in the curriculum.
- » Ensure that higher education is available via further education colleges in social mobility 'cold spots'.
- » Encourage universities to focus on helping students succeed in the labour market by measuring graduate outcomes and offering better careers advice and work experience opportunities.

Working lives

- » Introduce a new ambition to make the UK the country with the lowest level of low pay in the OECD by 2030.
- » Increase the number of high-skilled jobs in the regions and particularly in social mobility cold spots, by encouraging and incentivising public sector bodies and private companies to base themselves in those areas.
- » Devolve accountability and resources to enable the development of local skills strategies that bring employers to those areas.
- » Forge a new concordant with employers behind a national drive to improve career progression underpinned by increased investment in skills policies - including high quality apprenticeships.
- » Make socio-economic diversity in professional employment a priority by encouraging all large employers to make access and progression fairer, with the Civil Service leading the way as an exemplar employer.

Heeding the calls for action?

The Commission's report resulted in increased calls for reform to drive social progress. A speech delivered by Justine Greening on 12 July 2017, "[We should not accept Britain as it has been](#)", was perhaps an indication that the Government has heeded this call to action. Delivered at the Sutton Trust Social Mobility Summit, Greening's speech outlined a number of new government initiatives to tackle social mobility:

Careers advice

The provision of 12 "Opportunity Areas" where careers advice will be issued to young people by local businesses was confirmed, along with a £2 million government-backed fund to support the project.

Research schools

Eleven schools within the Opportunity Areas have been designated as "Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) Research Schools". Each will receive a share of £3.5 million to gather evidence of best practice on social mobility to help teachers tackle the issue in their schools.

Evidence Champion

Sir Kevin Collins has been appointed as the "Evidence Champion" for the Opportunity Areas. This role will involve ensuring intelligence is shared effectively across the Opportunity Areas.

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Supporting the teaching profession

£10 million will be set aside from the Teaching and Leadership Innovation Fund for teachers and leaders in challenging schools. This funding will enable their participation in the newly reformed, gold standard National Professional Qualifications to ensure that these schools have great leaders.

Why is this important?

The socio-political background to the referendum on Brexit and the uncertain economic outlook for the UK following its departure from the EU have sharpened the UK's focus on social mobility. The notion of the UK as a "divided nation has been brought to the fore.

Against this backdrop, social mobility is likely to continue to play a role in shaping the education policy agenda for some time. Indeed, Justine Greening also announced at the Sutton Trust Social Mobility Summit that the Government will be launching a Careers Strategy in the autumn, which will have "a clear focus on driving social mobility".

It is important that all organisations within the education sector embrace any opportunities to lobby the Government to ensure that meaningful progress is made in addressing the deep-rooted social mobility challenge.

Upcoming events

General Data Protection Regulation update

[Tuesday 12th September 2017, 8.00am – 10.00am, Ward Hadaway's Leeds office](#)

Data protection expert Gareth Yates will take you through the key issues regarding GDPR that you need to be prepared for when it comes into force on in May 2018. We will also be joined by accountancy firm Mazars who will discuss the subject of Cyber Security – providing you with vital information about ransomware, hacking, security and encryption.

What is happening in employment law?

[Wednesday 27th September 2017, 8.30am – 12.00pm, Ward Hadaway's Leeds office](#)

Our topical review of developments will examine recent and forthcoming changes in employment law. The year has seen a number of high profile court decisions which will almost certainly lead to your organisation having to modify its approach to HR-related matters.

Education law update

[Wednesday 11th October 2017, 8.00am – 10.30am, Ward Hadaway's Newcastle office](#)

[Wednesday 18th October 2017, 8.00am – 10.30am, Ward Hadaway's Leeds office](#)

Our next education breakfast seminar 'Education Law Update' takes place in October and will be a general update on topical subjects such as safeguarding, HR issues and procurement. Further details to be announced, however, if you would like to reserve an early place at the session please click on the links above to attend the Newcastle or Leeds seminars.

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Quick read

Procurement Law update

[Thursday 2nd November 2017, 8.30am – 12.30pm, Ward Hadaway's Newcastle office](#)

[Thursday 9th November 2017, 1.00pm – 4.30pm, Ward Hadaway's Newcastle office](#)

[Thursday 16th November 2017, 1.00pm – 4.30pm, Ward Hadaway's Leeds office](#)

[Thursday 23rd November 2017, 1.00pm – 4.30pm, Ward Hadaway's Manchester office](#)

This session will provide you with a unique opportunity to hear first-hand from leading procurement experts who will share their thoughts on the most topical issues of the moment, as well as reviewing the new regulations one year on from introduction.

Need to know – your policy and guidance quick read

Statutory guidance: School teachers' pay and conditions

The DfE has published statutory guidance for local authorities, school leaders, school teachers and governing bodies and their representatives on pay and conditions for teachers in England and Wales for 2017 and 2016.

For more information please [click here](#).

Guidance: Dedicated schools grant (DSG): 2017 to 2018

The Education and Skills Funding Agency has updated the pupil number tool in the guidance for the Dedicated Schools Grant with January 2017 schools census data.

For more information please [click here](#).

Consultation outcome: Expanding undergraduate medical education

The Department of Health has set out its response on expanding undergraduate medical education. The response sets out next steps in implementing the expansion of undergraduate medical places in England.

For more information please [click here](#).

Research and analysis: Developing character skills in schools

The DfE has reported on the number of schools that offer specific activities to support development of desirable character traits and skills.

For more information please [click here](#).

Research and analysis: Extending activity provision in secondary schools

This research produced by the DfE looks at: the views of school leaders, school staff, parents and pupils on current out-of-normal timetable activities; the perceived benefits and disadvantages of increasing out-of-normal timetable provision and what resources or interest there would be from organisations and schools to support it.

For more information please [click here](#).

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Meet the team

Meet the Education Team

As the evolving educational landscape continues to open up new opportunities and present challenges, you need to be confident that you are getting the right legal advice, at the right time and, of course, at the right price. Ward Hadaway's

Education Team is recognised as a leading national player. Our friendly, commercial and pragmatic approach allows you to be reassured that you are in safe hands.

Whether you are a maintained school, academy, multi academy trust, free school, studio school or UTC, our team have an in-depth, up-to-date knowledge of the sector, making us ideally placed to offer the best possible advice to all those involved in the delivery of educational excellence for pupils, students and their communities. [Click here](#) to read about how we can work with you.

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