Nida Trust autumn 2018 policy bulletin

Updates on recent education and community related reports, government legislation and policy

1. Department for Education, Supporting excellent school resource management, August 2018

- The DfE have recently published as toolkit to support schools in reducing costs. Toolkit headings include: managing the school workforce, better value procurement and financial skills.
- The full guidance can be found here: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/supporting-excellent-school-resource-management

2. Department for Education, School cultures and practices: supporting the attainment of disadvantaged pupils, May 2018

- The DfE have commissioned a report that offers a qualitative comparison of London and non London schools with regard to school cultures and practices in supporting

the attainment of disadvantaged pupils. The research compares 'high-performing' schools in which disadvantaged pupils attain well in absolute terms, and which have consistently maintained a small attainment gap between disadvantaged pupils and their peers, with 'lower-performing' schools in which the attainment of disadvantaged pupils has not been consistently strong in absolute or relative terms.

- Findings include:
  - School cultures and practices varied more by a school's performance than by location
  - Lower-performing primary schools outside London were most different from other schools in terms of their culture and practice
  - High-performing schools, regardless of location, adopted a wide range of approaches to supporting disadvantaged pupils
  - High-performing schools, regardless of location, were positive and solutions focused
  - There is a subtle but discernible 'London culture' whereby:
    - High-performing primary schools in London went further than other primary schools in developing partnerships between staff and parents and to build parental expectations of their children's future academic and career pathways.
    - High-performing primary schools in London were more likely to report intervening when staff did not share their high expectations than other schools.
    - High-performing primary schools in London seemed to involve pupils in behaviour management to a greater degree than other schools.
    - High-performing schools in London, both primary and secondary, reported a number of ways in which their location in the capital helped build a sense of purpose, for example through a shared vision with other schools and drawing their teachers from the local community.
    - High-performing primary and secondary schools in London appeared to go further than other schools in their attempts to engage parents with their ethos and vision

The full report can be read here:
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/730628/London_Effect_Qual_Research_-_Research_Report_FINAL_v2.pdf

3. **Department for Education, Keeping Children Safe in Education, September 2018**

- An updated version of 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' has been effective since 1 September 2018.
  Annex H summarises the differences from the previous version.

- The guidance can be found here:
  https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/737289/Keepin g_Children_Safe_in_Education_Sept_2018.pdf

4. Department for Education, Workload Reduction Toolkit, August 2018

- The DfE have published a toolkit to support workload reduction in schools including exemplar policies from a number of schools.
- Headings include: communications; curriculum planning, data management, feedback and marking, managing change and supporting teachers in early career. Sections are split into three sections: identifying the workload issues in your school, guidance, training material and practical tools to address specific areas and evaluating the impact.
- The full toolkit with resources can be found here:
  https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/workload-reduction-toolkit?utm_source=83156181-a218-46a6-9c68-3f71940a799e&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=immediate

5. Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, Civil Society Strategy, August 2018

- The government have recently launched their civil society strategy, setting out wide-ranging proposals aimed at building stronger communities and a fairer society by bringing together the public sector, private businesses, charities and volunteers to tackle social problems and deliver services – collaborative services models for social care, youth services, and public libraries are among those to feature in the strategy.
- In terms of youth services, the strategy commits:
  - a position statement on youth services, which had originally intended to take the form of a dedicated youth strategy, before being incorporated as part of this wider civil society strategy.
  - the Government to reviewing the statutory duty on local authorities to provide appropriate local youth services, in light of new and emergent models of youth work delivery and a much-changed youth landscape since the revised 2012 guidance with many local youth services reduced or delivered differently.
  - existing spending pledges on opportunities for young people, alongside the headline £90 million from dormant bank accounts to support disadvantaged young people into employment. Existing commitments include:

    - £500 million of funding between 2016 and 2020 for music and arts education programmes;

- £194 million between 2016 and 2021 from Sport England on sports projects focussing on children and young people;
- Youth Investment Fund and #iwill collectively investing £80 million until 2020 to support voluntary and community organisations that work with young people; and
- continued development of The National Citizen Service.

- The full strategy can be read here: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/civil-society-strategy-building-a-future-that-works-for-everyone

6. House of Commons, Sexual Harassment in education (August 2018)

- The House of Commons Library has published a briefing paper on sexual harassment in education. The briefing gives an overview of the relevant policies that schools are expected to have in place and recent policy developments in England.
- The briefing covers: Keeping children safe in education guidance; advice for schools on sexual violence and harassment; behaviour and bullying policies and relationships and sex education and PHSE.
- The full briefing can be read here: http://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CBP-8117/CBP-8117.pdf

7. House of Commons, Children and young people's mental health: policy, services, funding and education (August 2018)

- The House of Commons Library has recently published a briefing on children and young people's mental health policy in England. The briefing covers: Government child and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS) policy since 2010; Select Committee enquiries into children and young people's mental health; and mental health in schools, including the impact of the Children and young people's mental health green paper on schools and forthcoming reforms to mental health education in the curriculum.
- The full briefing can be read here: http://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CBP-7196/CBP-7196.pdf

8. National Education Union, Survey findings, August 2018

- The National Education Union (NEU) has released findings from a survey of 657 secondary school teachers looking at "holiday hunger", where families are unable to afford enough food during the school summer break. Findings show that 59% of members polled said that children and young people in their school experienced holiday hunger.
- An article on the survey can be found here: https://www.cypnow.co.uk/cyp/news/2005619/more-children-going-hungry-in-school-holidays-survey-finds

9. **Department for Education, Approaches to preventing and tackling bulling: case studies (June 2018)**

- The DfE commissioned CooperGibson Research (CGR) to conduct in-depth qualitative interviews with senior leaders in schools which already carry out promising practice to combat bullying. The research report found that there is key importance for each school to develop anti-bullying strategies that is localised and specific to their school's needs. Schools are advised to use the report as a resource to inform their thinking about what works best in their own setting.

- The report can be read here: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/approaches-to-preventing-and-tackling-bullying

10. **Equality and Human Rights Commission, Using data to inform and evaluate anti-bullying strategies (June 2018)**

- The Equality and Human Rights Commission has published advice and guidance for schools and education authorities on how to address bullying in schools with a focus on using data to improve anti-bullying strategies.

- The guide covers: creating an anti-bullying culture in schools; finding ways for students and staff to report bullying incidents; finding ways to record and review the data on bullying; and communicating the anti-bullying messages.

- The guidance can be found here: https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/sites/default/files/using-data-to-inform-and-evaluate-anti-bullying-strategies.pdf

11. **Department for Education, Gender separation in mixed schools: non-statutory guidance (June 2018)**

- The DfE has published non-statutory guidance on what mixed schools must consider when separating classes by gender. The guidance is for school leaders, school staff and governing bodies in all mixed maintained and independent schools, academies and free schools.
- The guidance can be found here: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/719398/Gender-separation-guidance.pdf

12. **Association of London Directors of Children's Services, The response of London Children's Services to serious youth violence and knife crime (May 2018)**

- This report follows a seminar held in March 2018, where practice leaders – predominantly in social work, youth work, and youth offending – had an opportunity to share their current practice approaches and to consider how London borough children's services can work more effectively with one another and with partners across the capital to tackle this issue.
- The report identifies common themes within current approaches:

- o Use of multi-agency panels to identify and address risk.
- o Linking activity related to youth violence and activity relating to gangs.
- o Use of schools for both universal and targeted prevention activity.
- o Weapons awareness sessions are widely used by boroughs.
- o Use of ex-gang members to support prevention programmes.
- o Support to access education, training and employment as a key element of prevention activity.
- o Awareness of the need to develop nuanced strategies to work with ethnic minorities.
- o Use of detached outreach workers, or commissioned street outreach services, to engage young people in their own environments.
- o Approaches to targeted intervention place considerable emphasis on understanding and harnessing the strengths of young people and their families.
- o Restorative justice was widely viewed by respondents to be an effective approach.
- o Boroughs emphasised the need to work with the whole family, rather than just the young person

- The report identifies the following as emerging work within approaches:
  - o Implementing contextual safeguarding approaches.
  - o Specific programmes for minimising risk of permanent exclusion.
  - o Work with women and girls as a priority for the future.
  - o Addressing the impact of experiencing domestic violence.
  - o The use of trauma informed approaches.
  - o Raising awareness in the community and amongst local businesses of safeguarding and local risks.
  - o Improving messaging and communications with young people and communities regarding serious youth violence and knife crime.
  - o Use of predictive data analysis.

- The report highlights increased focus is required on:
  - o Involvement of education and health professionals in multi-agency panels.
  - o Clear approach to social media and its interaction with youth violence.
  - o Taking a public-health approach to youth offending and youth violence.
  - o Approaches to looked after children who are placed out of borough.

- The full report can be found here:
  https://www.londoncouncils.gov.uk/node/34040

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