



Weekly Policy Update

The section below outlines the latest policy updates. For a full policy briefing on any of these topics, including a look at the possible implications for Halton, please contact the Policy Team at the following:

Lisa Driscoll – lisa.driscoll@halton.gov.uk

Mark Grady – mark.grady@halton.gov.uk

Debbie Houghton – debbie.houghton@halton.gov.uk

Diane Lloyd – diane.lloyd@halton.gov.uk

Tel: 0151 471 7528

Title	Summary	Relevant to
Week Ending: 2/4/10		
Local Authority Child Poverty Innovation Pilot: First National Evaluation Report – Child Poverty	GHK Consulting was commissioned by CPU in April 2009 to provide the national evaluation of the Child Poverty Local Authority Innovation Pilot (LAIP). The LAIP is one of the pilots announced by Ending child poverty: everybody's business.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Children & Young People

Title	Summary	Relevant to
Week Ending: 26/3/10		
Budget 2010 Summary	Summary of the main points from the 2010 Budget speech.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Corporate & Policy

Title	Summary	Relevant to
Week Ending: 19/3/10		

Power of General Competence: local government proposals	This briefing outlines and discusses a draft Bill which would introduce a Power of General Competence.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate & Policy
Working together to safeguard children – revised guidance and associated documents	This briefing covers guidance for agencies and professionals on working together to promote children's welfare and protect them from abuse and neglect, now substantially revised in the light of the Laming report on the protection of children.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children & Young People

Title	Summary	Relevant to
Week Ending: 5/3/10		
Deprivation and risk – The case for early intervention	This is the latest in a series of publications from Action for Children addressing the need to break the cycle of deprivation and neglect affecting many children and young people, and considers the wide range of factors involved.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children & Young People
Under Pressure: financial challenge of an ageing population	Under Pressure, from the Audit Commission, criticises councils for not being adequately prepared for the challenges of an ageing population. This briefing sums up their conclusions and questions whether the report is a fair assessment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health

Title	Summary	Relevant to
Week Ending: 26/2/10		
Marmot Review of Health Inequalities: final report	Despite years of investment in health, health inequalities are not diminishing. The Marmot Review follows similar comprehensive reviews - this briefing summarises key recommendations and asks whether this time progress will be made.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health
Active Travel Strategy	The strategy sets out the government's existing programme on active travel and challenges local government to lead action.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employment, Learning &

		Skills
Strengthening Local Democracy: government findings	The government has published its response to the Strengthening Local Democracy consultation, which looked at scrutiny and powers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Corporate & Policy
Giving children a healthy start – the health of the under-fives (Audit Commission report)	This report concludes that the heavy investment in services over the past 10 years has not produced widespread improvements in health outcomes for under-fives, and makes recommendations for the government, LAs and PCTs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health

Title	Summary	Relevant to
Week Ending: 19/2/10		
Sex and relationships education guidance	The Department for Children, Schools and Families is consulting on draft guidance on sex and relationships education (SRE) to replace that issued ten years ago. The consultation closes on 19 April 2010.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children & Young People

Title	Summary	Relevant to
Week Ending: 12/2/10		
Local Authorities (Overview and Scrutiny) Bill	A new bill could allow councils the ability to scrutinise all local public services, whether they are provided by other public bodies or private companies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Corporate & Policy
Planning transition to adulthood for looked after children	Revised draft guidance and regulations on provisions for leaving care have been published for consultation. They aim to ensure that young people are properly prepared in the transition to adulthood.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children & Young People
Children Schools and Families Bill	The Children, Schools and Families Bill was published on 19 November 2009 and sets out to change the law on a large number of school and children's issues.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children & Young People

Title	Summary	Relevant to
Week Ending: 22/1/10		
Promoting the emotional health of CYP - guidance	The DCSF has produced guidance on promoting the emotional health of children and young people. It is designed to assist children's trust partnerships in developing a strategic approach, especially to support delivery of NI 50.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children & Young People

Title	Summary	Relevant to
Week Ending: 15/1/10		
Benefits Service – Effects of Recession	The Audit Commission have released the results of an online survey of Heads of benefit services in English local authorities conducted in June 2009. The survey looked at whether there had been an increase in demand for benefits and how councils responded.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employment, Learning & Skills

Title	Summary	Relevant to
Week Ending: 8/1/10		
Information, Advice & Guidance Strategy for Young People	The strategy builds on the Government's White Paper Your child, your schools, our future. It sets out measures that aim to ensure that all young people receive high quality information, advice and guidance (IAG) on careers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children & Young People
Local Economic Assessments	This document contains the formal consultation on the statutory guidance that will accompany the economic assessment duty.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employment, Learning & Skills

Title	Summary	Relevant to
Week Ending: 25/12/09		
Smarter Government	Gordon Brown launched Putting the frontline first on 7 December - the latest strategy on public service reform. This paper repeats previous themes but it does seem to strengthen the need to push	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate & Policy

	back the centralised state.	
Recession Britain	This report describes and analyses the impact of the current recession on jobs, businesses, and people's lives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employment, Learning & Skills

Title	Summary	Relevant to
Week Ending: 18/12/09		
Consultation on guidance on Children's Trusts and Children and Young People's Plans	This briefing summarises draft guidance on Children's Trusts and Children and Young People's Plans. It includes consultation on the CYPP regulations and changes to the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act. The consultation ends 29/01/10.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate & Policy

Title	Summary	Relevant to
Week Ending: 11/12/09		
Byelaws 2009	The government has stated its intention to bring forward proposals to repeal or streamline more than half of the consent regimes for which DCLG is responsible.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate & Policy
Pre-Budget Report Summary 2009	The Chancellor of the Exchequer, Alistair Darling has given his Pre-Budget Report (PBR) speech to the House of Commons. This revealed that there would be no public spending review before the next general election.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate & Policy
CAA & Oneplace launch	The Audit Commission, together with Ofsted, Her Majesty's Inspectorates of Constabulary, Prisons and Probation and the Care Quality Commission, have launched the Oneplace website with the results of Comprehensive Area Assessment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate & Policy

Protecting the Public: policing white paper	The Home Office has published a new white paper on policing. The paper includes some measures which relate to crime and disorder reduction partnerships, such as joint commissioning pilots.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safer Halton
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Title	Summary	Relevant to
Week Ending: 4/12/09		
Statutory Guidance on promoting the Health and Well-being of Looked after Children	This guidance supersedes the guidance issued in 2002 and applies to England only. It is of immediate importance to strategic managers policy makers and commissioners.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health

Title	Summary	Relevant to
Week Ending: 27/11/09		
Care Matters: Ministerial Stocktake Report 2009	The Stocktake Report was launched by the Children's Secretary Ed Balls at a conference on 16 November 2009 and provides the government's account of what has been achieved under the Care Matters programme initiated in 2007.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children & Young People

Title	Summary	Relevant to
Week Ending: 20/11/09		
Queen's Speech 2009	On 18th November the Queen's speech was announced to the Houses of Parliament. This briefing covers the point most relevant to local government.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate & Policy
Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009	The Local Democracy Act received Royal Assent on 12 November 2009. This briefing outlines its main provisions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate & Policy

Title	Summary	Relevant to
Week Ending: 13/11/09		
Single Group Funding: Equality & Human Rights Commission Guidance	New guidance for funders from the Equality and Human Rights Commission covers the implications of cohesion and equality obligations for the provision of funding for single-issue groups.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate & Policy
Building Cohesive Communities: what frontline staff and community activists need to know	The guidance is intended for people who already have a responsibility for community cohesion and encouraging and could be a useful tool for introducing others to working on this agenda. It will also be of interest to elected members.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate & Policy

Title	Summary	Relevant to
Week Ending: 30/10/09		
Delivering the Prevent Strategy: stopping terrorism and violent extremism	Published by the Home Office, this document updates the earlier June 2008 document, taking into account lessons learnt and emerging best practice and highlights issues which are important to the continued success of the Prevent programme.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate & Policy
The role of councils in reducing CO2 emissions	This research from the Audit Commission looks at the progress of councils to meet targets that help residents reduce their carbon emissions and recommends ways councils could do more.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate & Policy
Personal budgets for health care	The Department of Health has issued a consultation on proposals for regulations and guidance to allow PCTs to pilot direct payments in health.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health
Behaviour Strategy	This briefing describes the Government's behaviour strategy and what it expects local authorities and schools to do to improve pupil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children & Young People

	behaviour in schools and how this work will be supported.	
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Title	Summary	Relevant to
Week Ending: 23/10/09		
Alcohol, smoking and drug use by young people	This briefing covers the prevalence of and trends in smoking, drinking and drug use among young people in England, and the other examining the attitudes of young people in deprived areas to alcohol consumption.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children & Young People

Title	Summary	Relevant to
Week Ending: 16/10/09		
Consultation on the Draft Order to Implement the Carbon Reduction Commitment – Government Response and Policy Decisions	This briefing outlines major changes and clarifications to the Government's Carbon Reduction Commitment Energy Efficiency Scheme and identifies the most relevant issues for the public sector.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate & Policy
Duty to promote democracy and its potential impact on equalities	Summarises the latest implications for councillors, officers and communities of the proposed Duty to promote democracy. Also analyses the recent CLG equality impact statement on the proposed duty.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate & Policy

Title	Summary	Relevant to
Week Ending: 2/10/09		
Attitudinal barriers to engaging young	The DCSF has published three research reports on the attitudinal barriers to engaging 13 -19 year olds in organised leisure time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children & Young People

people in positive activities	activities. The research makes recommendations about increasing the participation rates.	
Mainstreaming community cohesion	This briefing reports on recent guidance which pulls together a range of relevant materials and draws conclusions about how cohesion policies can be built into mainstream services and activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate & Policy
Team Around the Child (TAC) and Common Assessment Framework (CAF) guidance	These three guidance documents originally published by the DfES in 2006 have been updated to reflect policy developments and include revisions identified in consultation with practitioners and managers across the children and young people's workforce.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children & Young People
School Report Card: Prospectus	A School Report Card: Prospectus is the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) response to the consultation on the School Report Card that ran from December 2008 to March 2009.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children & Young People
Let's Get Moving Commissioning Guidance: A New Physical Activity Pathway for the NHS	The Department of Health has published guidance to promote physical activity through its Let's Get Moving programme. While it is aimed primarily at NHS, it is set in the context of local area agreements and partnership approaches to reducing obesity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health

Title	Summary	Relevant to
Week Ending: 25/9/09		
Scrutiny and party politics	A thinkpiece by Professor Steve Leach reflects on the progress and development of scrutiny. An examination of case studies and current practice has led the author to make a series of recommendations which could enhance its effectiveness.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate & Policy

Title	Summary	Relevant to
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Week Ending: 18/9/09		
Safeguarding disabled children – Practice guidance	This non-statutory practice guidance on safeguarding disabled children is supplementary to Working together to safeguard children published in 2006. It contains advice for both Local Safeguarding Children Boards and children's services professionals.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children & Young People

Title	Summary	Relevant to
Week Ending: 21/8/09		
Effectiveness of LSCBs in England – Interim report	A large scale research study has been exploring the effectiveness of Local Safeguarding Children Boards in England, and has produced an interim report.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children & Young People
Fair and Flexible: social housing allocations	CLG have published for consultation draft guidance for social housing allocations. This briefing summarises this and comments that the guidance does not go far enough in maximising local flexibility.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health
Local Economic Assessments – Draft Statutory Guidance	Communities and Local Government have released the much awaited statutory guidance on local economic assessments.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate & Policy

Title	Summary	Relevant to
Week Ending: 14/8/09		
Policy Statement on Regional Strategies and Guidance on the Establishment of Leaders' Boards	This draft policy statement, published for consultation, sets out guidance on producing integrated regional strategies and on the establishment of regional Leaders' Boards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate & Policy
Citizenship: new points-based test	A Home Office consultation on a points-based test for British citizenship envisages an important role for local authorities. This briefing outlines the main elements of the scheme.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate & Policy

Title	Summary	Relevant to
Week Ending: 7/8/09		
Youth Crime Action Plan	This briefing summarises the responses to the Government's consultation on its Youth Crime Action Plan (2008). It also covers the Government's 'One year On' report summarising their proposed actions on youth crime for the next 12 months.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safer Halton • Children & Young People
Looked after children – Government response to report of the Children, Schools and Families Committee	This briefing covers key points from the government's published response to a report by the House of Commons Children, Schools and Families Committee on children in care in the context of the Care Matters programme.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children & Young People

Title	Summary	Relevant to
Week Ending: 31/7/09		
Child Poverty Bill Briefing	The Child Poverty Bill establishes targets for the reduction of child poverty. It will require action from local authorities if enacted.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children & Young People
Strengthening Local Democracy	This consultation sets out a range of proposals to promote democratic renewal and strengthen the power and responsibility of local government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate & Policy
Building Britain's Future	This document summarises the Labour Party strategy developed in response to the global economic recession and sets out a 'radical vision for a fairer, stronger and more prosperous society'.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate & Policy
New Horizons: Towards a shared vision for mental health	The Department of Health has produced a consultation document setting out a vision for the future of mental health and wellbeing in England.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health

Social Work Task Force – Interim report	This briefing covers the interim report of the Social Work Task Force, set up to undertake a comprehensive review of frontline social work practice and to make recommendations for improvement and reform.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children & Young People • Health
Understanding Serious Case Reviews and their impact - A biennial analysis of 2005-2007	This review is the 4th biennial analysis of Serious Case Reviews (SCR) which Local Safeguarding Children Boards arrange into the death or serious injury of a child where abuse or neglect is known or suspected.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children & Young People

Title	Summary	Relevant to
Week Ending: 17/7/09		
Shaping the Future of Care Together	The long awaited Green Paper on the future of funding for adult social care has been published. This briefing summarises and comments on the Green Paper which will be subject to four months consultation as part of the Big Care Debate.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health
Exclusion from school of children aged four to seven	This briefing summarises an Ofsted report on why some young children get excluded from infant and primary schools and how some schools manage to avoid this.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children & Young People
Building a Society for All Ages: strategy	The government has published 'Building a society for all ages', its new strategy for older people. This briefing summarises the key points relevant to local government and comments on key themes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employment, Learning & Skills
Human Rights and Public Services	An EHRC Inquiry has examined the extent to which human rights principles influence the provision of public services. This briefing outlines the findings and draws attention to practical illustrations provided by local authorities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate & Policy

Title	Summary	Relevant to
Week Ending: 10/7/09		

Schools White Paper	Sets out the proposals in the Government White Paper Your child, your schools, our future: building a 21st century schools system published on 30 June 2009.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children & Young People
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Title	Summary	Relevant to
Week Ending: 3/7/09		
Labour Government Policy Agenda 09/10	The Prime Minister has set out the government's new policy agenda and announced a number of new Bills which are outlined in this briefing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate & Policy

Title	Summary	Relevant to
Week Ending: 26/6/09		
Public Service Productivity	The Office for National Statistics has released a report on public sector productivity over the past ten years.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate & Policy

Title	Summary	Relevant to
Week Ending: 12/6/09		
Balance of Power between Central and Local Government	This briefing outlines Select Committee findings on the Balance of Power between Central and Local Government making a significant contribution to the forthcoming debate on constitutional renewal.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate & Policy
Using the Sustainable Communities Act	A step by step advice on the process for the submission of proposals under the Sustainable Communities Act. The note also contains information on the approach that the Selector will take when short-listing proposals.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate & Policy

Title	Summary	Relevant to
Week Ending: 5/6/09		
Councillors Allowances and	The furore over MPs expenses has led to a great deal of public interest in allowances and expenses. This briefing analyses the	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate & Policy

Expenses	issues for councillors allowances.	
Houghton Review – Government Response	This report sets out the Government's response to the Houghton Review on local government and worklessness. It confirms that tackling worklessness is now a key priority for local government.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employment, Learning & Skills

Title	Summary	Relevant to
Week Ending: 29/5/09		
Engaging Communities in Criminal Justice	The Ministry of Justice and the Home Office have initiated a public consultation by launching a green paper on Engaging Communities in Criminal Justice. The Green Paper builds on Louise Casey's earlier review and seeks to restore confidence in the justice system. This new consultation closes on Friday 31 July.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safer Halton

Title	Summary	Relevant to
Week Ending: 22/5/09		
Jobs Fund	This briefing outlines the £1 billion Future Jobs Fund, for which all local authorities in Britain can apply to help support young people in training and employment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employment, Learning & Skills
Improving the educational attainment of children in care	The Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) has published a document on the role that schools and local authorities can play in improving the attainment of children in care. It focuses in particular on the role of virtual school heads and designated teachers, and on personalised tuition for looked after children.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children & Young People

Title	Summary	Relevant to
Week Ending: 15/5/09		
Equality Bill Introduced	This briefing provides a short introduction to key issues for local authorities and links to the main resources accompanying the	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate & Policy

	Equality Bill, which received its 2nd Reading in the Commons on 11 May.	
Looked-after children - Report from Children, Schools and Families Committee	A report by the House of Commons Children, Schools and Families Committee examines provision for looked-after children in the context of the Care Matters programme. It seeks to encourage greater efforts by both central government and local authorities in improving outcomes for looked after children.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children & Young People
Working Better Together? Managing Local Strategic Partnerships	Published by the Audit Commission; this reviews arrangements for performance, resource management and governance in Local Strategic Partnerships.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate & Policy • All SSPs
Understanding NEET – DCSF Research	This briefing reports on recent DCSF research on the characteristics of young people not in education and training. The research finds that this is not a homogenous group and identifies six distinct sub-groups. Strategies are proposed to re-engage each sub-group in education and training.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children & Young People • Employment, Learning & Skills
Healthy weight, healthy lives - One year on	This document reviews the progress made a year after the publication of a cross- government strategy designed to reverse the rising tide of obesity and overweight in the population, in which the initial focus was on children and young people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children & Young People • Health

Title	Summary	Relevant to
Week Ending: 8/5/09		
Safe from bullying - Guidance on reducing bullying outside school settings and on cyberbullying	This briefing covers eight documents published by the DCSF on reducing bullying outside school settings - in further education, journeys, play and leisure provision, extended services, youth activities and children's homes. It emphasises the key roles of local authorities, children's trusts and local safeguarding boards. The briefing also summarises separate guidance for school staff on	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children & Young People

	tackling cyberbullying.	
The protection of children in England: action plan	On 6 May 2009 the Government announced a package of measures setting out how it will deliver the step-change in child protection called for by Lord Laming in his recent progress report. This briefing outlines the key aspects of the Protection of Children in England: action plan for local authorities and their partners.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children & Young People

Title	Summary	Relevant to
Week Ending: 1/5/09		
Violence Against Women and Girls Consultation	The Home Office has initiated a consultation on services for women at risk of domestic violence. This will visit forty towns across the country over the next three months. The results will influence the Government's strategy on tackling violence against women and girls.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate & Policy
Operational Efficiency Programme: Final report	This report outlines the findings of the Operational Efficiency Programme launched in 2008 by the Chief Secretary to the Treasury. It identifies £15 billion of efficiency savings across the public sector and illustrates how investment in frontline services can be sustained into the next decade.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate & Policy
Adult Social Care Workforce Strategy	The Department of Health has published a workforce strategy for adult social care to equip the workforce to deliver the vision of choice, control and personalised services set out in Putting People First.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health

Title	Summary	Relevant to
Week Ending: 24/4/09		
Budget 2009 Highlights	This policy briefing provides brief factual details of the Chancellor's budget speech	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate & Policy

Spatial planning for health: local authorities and primary care trusts	The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence has published a draft scoping document for developing public health guidance on spatial planning.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health
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Title	Summary	Relevant to
Week Ending: 17/4/09		
LinkAge Plus - evaluation of capacity building	The DWP have published the latest in a series of evaluation reports of the LinkAge Plus pilots. This report focuses on capacity building. The briefing summarises and comments on the key findings.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health
A Sustainable New Deal	This report by the Sustainable Development Commission sets out the case for a large stimulus to create jobs and a low carbon economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employment, Learning & Skills

Title	Summary	Relevant to
Week Ending: 3/4/09		
Volunteering Across the Criminal Justice System	The Government's Independent Volunteering Champion, Baroness Julia Neuberger has called for offender volunteering schemes to be expanded and a new independent volunteering champion for the Criminal Justice System to be appointed. This will interest local authorities that have or are planning projects to tackle offending and re-offending.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safer Halton
Falls and Older People: National Audit of Local Services	This briefing summarises the results of a national audit into services for falls and bone health in older people which found major variations in the quality of services between NHS trusts. The briefing discusses these findings in relation to their impact on multi-agency falls prevention strategies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health
Election Time 2009: Issues for Local	Election time can present challenges for local authorities: this briefing explains the relevant law and suggests safeguards that	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate & Policy

Authorities	councils might introduce.	
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Title	Summary	Relevant to
Week Ending: 27/3/09		
Review of Pupil Behaviour, Fourth Interim Steer Report	This is the fourth interim report by Sir Alan Steer and it focuses on Behaviour and Attendance Partnerships; the connections between quality learning, teaching and improved behaviour; and special educational needs, disabilities and behaviour.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children & Young People
Healthy lives, brighter futures - The strategy for children and young people's health	Healthy lives, brighter futures, produced jointly by the Department of Health and the Department for Children, Schools and Families, sets out the Government's vision for an integrated approach to improving the physical, mental and emotional health of children and young people from pre-birth to 19. It builds on the existing framework for child health, with an emphasis on achieving world-class health outcomes, offering services of the highest quality, an excellent experience of services for the young people and their families who use them, and reducing health inequalities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health • Children & Young People
Tackling Worklessness: A Review of the Contribution and Role of Local Authorities and Partnerships: Final Report	This is the final report of a review led by Stephen Houghton, Leader of Barnsley Council, on what more local authorities could be doing to tackle worklessness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employment, Learning & Skills

Title	Summary	Relevant to
Week Ending: 20/3/09		

Children, young people and alcohol - consultation	The Department for Children, Schools and Families is consulting widely on the Chief Medical Officers' draft guidance on the consumption of alcohol by children and young people, and on proposed supporting advice and information for parents and young people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children & Young People
Carbon Reduction Commitment - consultation on the draft order	Public sector organisations account for 10-12% of the emissions covered by the Carbon Reduction Commitment. This consultation provides important details about the government's mandatory carbon emissions trading scheme, which local authorities may be required to take part in from April 2010.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate & Policy
Protection of children in England: Progress report by Lord Laming	In November 2008, following the legal verdict on the death of Baby P, Lord Laming was asked by the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families to report on "the progress being made across the country to implement effective arrangements for safeguarding children".	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children & Young People

Title	Summary	Relevant to
Week Ending: 13/3/09		
Low Carbon Industrial Strategy: A Vision	The document sets out the Government's vision for a low carbon industrial strategy. The Government is inviting views on how to achieve this vision.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate & Policy
Surface Water Management Plan Guidance - consultation	The government is seeking consultation on its draft guidance that provides information to local authorities and their partners on how to produce a surface water management plan to manage flood risks.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate & Policy
Local Democracy Bill Committee Stage	This summary gives a short outline of the debate at committee stage of the Local Democracy Economic Development and Construction Bill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate & Policy

Title	Summary	Relevant to
Week Ending: 6/3/09		
Well Being Power - guidance to local councils	Local authorities have been able to use the well-being power since 2000. New CLG guidance explains its use by parish and town councils.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate & Policy
Heat and Energy Saving Strategy - consultation	This consultation sets out government plans to deliver a target approaching zero emissions from existing buildings by 2050. The local authority will have a central role in helping individuals and communities deliver heat and energy savings.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate & Policy

Title	Summary	Relevant to
Week Ending: 27/2/09		
Supporting Local Information and Research	Commissioned jointly by Communities and Local Government, the Audit Commission and the Local Government Association, this external review makes a number of recommendations designed to strengthen support for local partners in using local information and research in decision making.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate & Policy • All SSPs
Be Active Be Healthy: A Plan for Getting the Nation Moving	The Department of Health has produced a cross-government framework for physical activity, setting out national developments and the responsibilities of PCTs, local authorities and their partners.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health SSP
Sustainable Communities Act 2007: Local Spending Reports (Consultation)	The Government is seeking views on the first arrangements for the production of Local Spending Reports as well as views on how to develop the Reports over time.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate & Policy

Title	Summary	Relevant to
Week Ending: 20/2/09		

Tired of hanging around- Using sports and leisure activities to prevent anti-social behaviour by young people.	This study focuses on the role of sport and leisure activities in preventing anti-social behaviour in young people aged 8 to 19 years. It assesses the impact and efficiency of current funding arrangements of these activities and includes young people's perspectives on what they want and value from projects. Recommendations are made to help councils and their partners get the best outcomes for young people at risk of anti-social behaviour.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children & Young People
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Title	Summary	Relevant to
Week Ending: 13/2/09		
CAA Final Framework	The Audit Commission has published the final framework for Comprehensive Area Assessment, which replaces CPA from 1 April 2009.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate & Policy • All SSPs
Revised School Admission Code	A revised School Admissions Code and School Admission Appeals Code came into force on Tuesday 10 February. They will apply to admission arrangements for the school year 2010-11. They are substantially the same as the draft versions which was subject to consultation between June and October last year. This briefing draws attention to the main points of difference between the new Codes and their predecessors, and to changes made following the consultation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children & Young People
Comprehensive Area Assessment: Supplementary Documents	In preparation for the launch of Comprehensive Area Assessment in April 2009, the Audit Commission has released a framework for implementation and four supplementary documents. This briefing deals with the supplementary documents.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate & Policy • All SSPs

Title	Summary	Relevant to
Week Ending: 6/2/09		

Children missing from home or care - consultation on revised statutory guidance	Following a commitment made in last year's Young Runaways Action Plan, the Department for Children, Schools and Families has published draft statutory guidance for local authorities on children missing from home and care. It updates guidance produced by the Department of Health in 2002 and is the subject of consultation until 8 April 2009.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children & Young People
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Title	Summary	Relevant to
Week Ending: 30/1/09		
The Play Strategy	Following on from the April 2008 consultation Fair Play, the DCSF have delivered their vision for the future of children's play in The Play Strategy. The strategy outlines how capital investment in play will be delivered through local authorities in England. The strategy promises a £235 million investment for play facilities, to support local partners to "make a reality of children's right to play, as stated in Article 31 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child".	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children & Young People
Alcohol Related Disorder: guidance and updates	The Government has announced it will introduce a new power for councils to deal with alcohol induced disorder. From summer 2009 councils and police forces will be able to apply for Drinking Banning Orders to restrict the movement of offenders who engage in crimes under the influence of alcohol. In addition, the Guidance on Designated Public Place Orders and Alcohol Disorder Zones has been updated.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safer Halton
Publicity Code Consultation	A consultation on the Publicity Code was issued in December. It is an important consultation and colleagues are urged to consider a response by the deadline of 12 March.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate & Policy

Title	Summary	Relevant to
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Week Ending: 23/1/09		
Councillor and candidate diversity	Two recent surveys published by the IDeA provide useful data on the diversity of councillors and candidates in 2008.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate & Policy
Local Transport Plan 3 Guidance - consultation	Since the Transport Act 2000 there have been a number of changes that need to be considered as part of Local Transport Plans. This consultation sets out guidance for the next phase of Local Transport Plans due to start later in 2009.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Urban Renewal
Children's Plan One Year On: A progress report from the DCSF	The Children's Plan set out the Government's ambitions for improving children and young people's lives, and how it intends to achieve them. This progress report offers an overview of the present situation and a guide to the next steps in implementation, particularly for 2009. This briefing focuses on the next steps in implementation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children & Young People
2020 Children and Young People's Workforce Strategy	The Department for Children, Schools and Families has published a long-term strategy for the children's workforce, the result of deliberations by an Expert Group set up in April 2008. It sets out the vision for 2020, identifies current challenges, and sets out reforms and priorities both for the workforce as a whole and for specific sections within it. The document is subject to consultation until 10 March 2009.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children & Young People

Title	Summary	Relevant to
Week Ending: 16/1/09		
Clarifying Joint Financing Arrangements	Joint working between health and local authorities is a key policy objective of the government, the NHS and local government. This new paper from the Audit Commission is the first in a series leading up to a national study of joint working to be published in the summer.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health

Title	Summary	Relevant to
Week Ending: 26/12/08		

What Works in Grow Your Own Initiatives for Social Work	Recruitment and retention of social workers are major problems for councils. The General Social Care Council has published a research report, What works in Grow Your Own initiatives for social work, which addresses issues involved in training new social workers using particular schemes. This briefing summarises the key messages and the recommendations for local authorities for improving how they use Grow Your Own schemes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Care
Policing and Crime Bill	This bill was expected to contain measures relating to the controversial proposals for directly elected Crime and Policing Representatives - now dropped in a last minute climb down. The Bill still contains measures on lap-dancing clubs and alcohol misuse which will have local impact.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safer Halton Partnership
21st Century Schools: A World-Class Education for Every Child	The 21st century school should be a 'resource for the whole community', building on the extended schools programme and developing wider opportunities for children, young people and families. Schools are now under a formal duty to promote pupil wellbeing as defined by the five Every Child Matters outcomes. This new vision, as set out in two new DCSF consultation documents, will aim to expand and develop the role of schools to meet this duty.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children & Young People
Commissioning and Behaviour Change: Kicking Bad Habits Final Report	The Kings Fund has produced a report on how local commissioners can most effectively encourage people to change their behaviour and adopt healthier lifestyles.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health
Local Democracy Bill Second Reading	The Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Bill received its second reading in the Lords on 17 December. The Bill introduces new duties to address local democracy and economic development.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate & Policy

Title	Summary	Relevant to
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Week Ending: 19/12/08		
Learning together to safeguard children: developing a multi-agency systems approach for case reviews	The report Learning together to safeguard children: developing a multi-agency systems approach for case reviews (SCIE, October 2008) suggests using a systems approach, already used extensively in engineering, health and other high risk industries, to improve the quality of serious case reviews (SCRs) and at times of major changes to service delivery in safeguarding and child protection work.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children & Young People

Title	Summary	Relevant to
Week Ending: 12/12/08		
Information Sharing: Guidance for practitioners and managers	This guidance provides an update to the previously issued HM Government information sharing guidance (2006), and seeks to provide clarity on the legal framework for practitioners sharing information about children, young people and families.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children & Young People
Roles and Responsibilities of the Lead Member for Children's Services and the Director of Children's Services	This draft guidance, out for consultation until February 2009, updates the previous DCSF guidance issued in 2005. It takes account of the progress made since the introduction of the Every Child Matters Change for Children programme and highlights the importance of the Lead Member and Director of Children's Services as leaders and champions for children, young people and their families. It explains how these two roles are distinct and complementary and how working as a team they can drive clear improvements in outcomes for children and young people and their families.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children & Young People

Title	Summary	Relevant to
Week Ending: 5/12/08		
Delivering 14-19 Reform: The Next	This sets out the next stages in the 14-19 reform programme and a timetable to 2015. The programme has profound implications for	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children & Young People • Employment, Learning &

Steps	local partnerships.	Skills
Queen's Speech 2008 Highlights	On 3rd December, the Queen's Speech was announced to Parliament. This briefing contains brief factual highlights of the bills most relevant to local government.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate & Policy
The Queen's Speech 2008	This briefing provides summary and analysis of the Bills most relevant to Local Government.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate & Policy
No One Left Out: Communities ending rough sleeping	The Government has published a major strategy to end rough sleeping. The 15 point action plan links across government but with a focus on the leadership role for local areas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate & Policy
Children's Trusts: Statutory guidance on inter-agency cooperation to improve well-being of children, young people and their families	The guidance document on Children's Trusts: Statutory guidance on inter-agency cooperation to improve well-being of children, young people and their families, follows consultation on inter-agency co-operation within Trusts and aims to further strengthen Children's Trusts arrangements in order to improve outcomes for children and young people. The guidance builds on the lessons learnt since the publication of ECM and the Children's Plan, and reflects progress made in implementing the ECM vision.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children & Young People
Elbourne Review: older people's engagement with government	John Elbourne has published his independent review of the engagement of older people with government, commissioned by the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP). It encourages councils to respond to the DWP by the end of December 2008.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health
Rates of Post-16 Non-Participation in England	This briefing provides an analysis of young people not in education, training, or employment (known as the NEET group) conducted by the Nuffield Foundation and others. The 'NEET indicator' is the most popular of those selected by local authorities for their LAAs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children & Young People

Title	Summary	Relevant to
Week Ending: 28/11/08		

Pre-Budget Report: Details and analysis	This briefing provides a detailed summary of the most relevant aspects of the pre-budget report for councils and their communities. It comments particularly on longer term financial prospects, the implications for housing, the local economy and children and families.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate & Policy
Pre-Budget Report 2008 highlights	The Chancellor of the Exchequer, Alistair Darling has given his Pre-Budget Report speech to the House of Commons which saw details of tax cuts to stimulate the economy. The Chancellor announced a temporary suspension of fiscal rules and announced a £20bn stimulus between now and April 2010 (1 per cent of GDP).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate & Policy
Are we there yet? Improving governance and resource management in children's trusts	The report, Are we there yet? - Improving governance and resource management in children's trusts presents the findings from research undertaken by the Audit Commission between November 2007 and February 2008, into the progress local councils and their partners are making in developing children's trusts. Five years after the Laming Inquiry and according to the Audit Commission, there is little evidence that children's trusts have improved outcomes for children. The report found that almost all areas had revised the way children's services were coordinated and in most areas collaborative working has improved, but the new arrangements have yet to settle down. The report provides a useful view of the confusion still surrounding children's trusts and the technical difficulties in operating effective and inclusive children's trusts and offers their recommendations for future practice.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children & Young People
Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) review - final report	The final report of an independent review into Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) has been published. The potential audience is all those working to support children, young people and their families. The report notes that "mental health is as important as physical health" and stresses the need for a "truly joint approach"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children & Young People

	across professions and across government to improve the mental health and psychological well-being of children and young people.	
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Title	Summary	Relevant to
Week Ending: 21/11/08		
Lowering the voting age	<p>The Youth Citizenship Commission, an independent commission set up by the government, has published a consultation paper seeking views on lowering the voting age in the UK.</p> <p>Responses to the consultation should be sent to the Youth Citizenship Commission by 20 January 2009.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate & Policy • Children & Young People
Planning Policy Statement: Eco-towns (draft consultation)	This Planning Policy Statement sets out the standards for considering an eco-town as part of the local and regional planning process.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate & Policy • Urban Renewal
Well Being Power Practice Materials Launched	This briefing focuses on a call by John Healey for councils to consider using the well-being power. The power could be a key tool for councils to ride out the economic downturn, using it, for example, as a legal cornerstone to invest in improvements to the local area, attracting new businesses and creating new jobs for residents. But councils do need to do more to make sure that officers and members know more about the potential of the well-being power, according to research. A combination of limited circulation of knowledge within councils, and lack of communication at government level about the significance of the power for key policy initiatives has contributed to the power having less impact than expected. A number of factors are in play however, and recent policy changes that promote a wider place-shaping role and the need to respond to local economic pressures may provide new impetus for councils to innovate and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate & Policy

	make use of the power. This call should provide the basis for promoting knowledge and confidence in use of the power.	
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Title	Summary	Relevant to
Week Ending: 7/11/08		
Evaluation of the Individual Budgets Pilot Programme	A consortium of academics, IBSEN, was commissioned by the Department of Health to evaluate the 13 individual budget pilots. The research is the most extensive evaluation of self-directed support in England to date. This briefing summarises the headline messages, and comments on them in the context of the recent LGiU and APPG report, 'Never too Late for Living'.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health SSP
Safeguarding children - Third joint chief inspectors' report	This report is written on behalf of eight inspectorates covering service providers in England and follows reports published in 2002 and 2005. It assesses the current safeguarding framework and partnerships, taking account of the wider role of public services to help children and young people feel safe, and identifies improvements still needed, particularly in relation to groups such as looked after children and young people, children and young people in secure settings and those who are asylum seekers. The report makes recommendations to the relevant government departments about what is required to deliver those improvements, as well as identifying improvements which the Local Safeguarding Children Board and its partners should be implementing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children & Young People SSP

Title	Summary	Relevant to
Week Ending: 31/10/08		
Equity in Education - responding to context	This briefing summarises a report on equity and education published by the University of Manchester in the summer. The report offers an analysis of ways to close the achievement gap between more and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children & Young People SSP

	less disadvantaged students and argues for two important shifts of balance. It argues that schools and others should be more outward looking and work closely with partners to identify local priorities and levers for change; and that to facilitate this central government should loosen its target driven approach and encourage a more holistic approach to local partnership. It identifies an important leadership role for local government on promoting partnership and it is essential reading for all those with strategic responsibility for closing the achievement gap and reducing social disadvantage.	
Ten year strategy for positive activities - implementation plan update	In 2007 the Government published Aiming high for young people: A ten-year strategy for positive activities which aims to transform leisure-time opportunities, activities and support services for young people in England. An implementation plan for the ten-year strategy was published in March 2008 but was recently updated. This briefing highlights the main changes which reflect subsequent progress and activity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children & Young People SSP

Title	Summary	Relevant to
Week Ending: 24/10/08		
Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA): proposals for assessing local authority services for children and young people	This 33-page consultation seeks views on proposals for assessing children's services and Ofsted's inspection of services for children in care and safeguarding as part of the new Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children & Young People SSP
Blue Badge Reform Strategy	The Blue Badge Scheme was introduced in 1971 and is a lifeline for many disabled people. The government has made changes to the scheme in the last few years, and has now published on 20 th October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate & Policy • Health SSP

	a Blue Badge Reform Strategy that will introduce significant changes to improve and extend the scheme. This briefing summarises the key reforms and comments on the positive steps being taken.	
Sustainable Communities Act - Invite for proposals	On the 14 October the Secretary of State sent a formal invitation to local authorities to submit their proposals for improving the environmental, economic or social sustainability of their area. This briefing outlines the requirements for the proposals.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate & Policy • All SSPs

Title	Summary	Relevant to
Week Ending: 17/10/08		
Participatory Budgeting: A National Strategy	This briefing covers the national strategy for participatory budgeting, Giving more people a say in local spending, recently published by the Department for Communities and Local Government. This briefing also includes a list of the twelve newly announced participatory budgeting pilots.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate & Policy

Title	Summary	Relevant to
Week Ending: 10/10/08		
Government Ministers and Shadow Spokespeople: October 2008	This briefing provides the full and final list of Ministerial and Shadow spokespeople resulting from the recent Government and shadow reshuffles.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate & Policy

Title	Summary	Relevant to
Week Ending: 3/10/08		
Early years settings - Ofsted report, registration	Briefings covering a number of documents published recently about early years and childcare: an Ofsted report on the organisation, leadership and management of settings; the results of consultation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children & Young People SSP

consultation, and Early Years Foundation Stage guides	on the publication of the Early Years and Childcare registers; and brief guides to the Early Years Foundation Stage. The Ofsted report relates to local authorities' role in securing sufficient childcare and managing the childcare market in their area.	
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Title	Summary	Relevant to
Week Ending: 26/09/08		
Commission on English Prisons Today: Localism	The Commission on English Prisons Today, led by Cherie Booth QC, has published a consultation paper that outlines ideas for a radical restructuring of the criminal justice system which would shift a degree of responsibility and funding to local government. This briefing summarises the key points in the paper and links them to the LGiU's ongoing work on police accountability.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safer Halton SSP
LAA Review & Lessons from Negotiations	Communities and Local Government has published two short papers, one a short guidance note on LAA Annual Review, the other summarising lessons learnt from the negotiation process. This briefing provides an overview of both.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate & Policy • All SSPs
Leadership and gender	A new report highlights that women are notably absent from the highest levels of decision-making in local government.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate & Policy
Time off for public duties	Government proposals could allow more people to seek the right to time off work in order to take on public duties. This legal right which currently applies to councillors and others could be extended to members of probation trusts and boards; court boards; youth offender panels; lay advisers assisting Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements; and co-opted members of overview and scrutiny. The consultation closes on 19 December 2008.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate & Policy

Title	Summary	Relevant to
Week Ending: 12/09/08		

Good Childhood Inquiry – Evidence Summaries	The Good Childhood Inquiry was set up by the Children's Society in late 2006 and has produced short interim reports in relation to the final three of its six themes: lifestyle, health and values. These summarise opinions, experiences and research evidence and, as such, provide a useful comparison of the views of both children and young people, and professionals.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children & Young People SSP
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Title	Summary	Relevant to
Week Ending: 05/09/08		
Safeguarding children and young people from sexual exploitation	The Department for Children, Schools and Families is consulting on draft guidance on safeguarding children and young people from sexual exploitation. It covers roles and responsibilities; preventative measures that can be taken; the management of individual cases; and identifying and prosecuting perpetrators. The guidance is aimed particularly at Local Safeguarding Children Boards but is relevant to a wide range of other professionals and practitioners working with children and young people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children & Young People SSP
Physical activity and children - consultation on draft guidance	The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) has produced draft public health guidance on physical activity, play and sport for pre-school and school-age children in family, pre-school, school and community settings. It includes recommendations for action by those working in local authorities (children's services; planning and regeneration; leisure and cultural services; travel and transport) and by school staff and governors and early years providers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children & Young People SSP • Health SSP

Title	Summary	Relevant to
Week Ending: 22/08/08		

Parenting - recent surveys and research	This briefing summarises four related research publications from the Department for Children Schools, and Families covering various aspects of parenting: a general survey of parents in England carried out earlier this year, with a particular focus on school choice and admissions, and evaluations of parent support adviser pilot schemes, a project to support parents in promoting early learning, and media-based delivery of parenting advice.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children & Young People SSP
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Title	Summary	Relevant to
Week Ending: 15/08/08		
Transforming Places, Changing Lives. A Framework for Regeneration	This sets out a package of proposals for consultation on a renewed framework for regeneration in England.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate & Policy • Urban Renewal SSP
Comprehensive Area Assessment - consultation summer 2008	The Audit Commission has published its latest consultation on CAA - the inspection regime that will replace Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate & Policy • All SSPs

Title	Summary	Relevant to
Week Ending: 08/08/08		
Local Petitions and Calls for Action - the government response	The government has published its response to the consultation on local petitions. It proposes a system that is more flexible than originally envisaged, but that does include some potentially controversial elements. Information is also provided on the implementation of the councillor call for action by the end of 2008. This briefing outlines and comments on the issues.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate & Policy
Roles and responsibilities in the	CLG has published an overview paper - Roles and responsibilities in the local performance framework. This briefing summarises and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate & Policy

local performance framework	comments on the key points. The paper is useful as a short guide to how the new arrangements will work.	
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Title	Summary	Relevant to
Week Ending: 01/08/08		
Schools' role in promoting pupil well-being - draft guidance for consultation	Section 38 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 requires school governing bodies to promote pupils' well-being. The Department for Children, Schools and Families has published, for consultation which ends on 25 September, draft non-statutory guidance on this role. The guidance also covers the support which schools should expect from their local authority and other partners in the local Children's Trust, and will therefore be of relevance to these bodies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children & Young People SSP
No One Written Off: Reforming Welfare to Reward Responsibility	This Green Paper sets out the next stages in the Government's programme for welfare reform. It has profound implications for local government and its partners.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employment, Learning & Skills SSP
Child deaths	This briefing summarises new requirements for coroners to notify Local Safeguarding Children's Boards (LSCBs) about the death of a child or young person. It also covers two related documents: a study of 'early starter' Child Death Overview Panels (CDOPs) and a pilot study of confidential enquiry methods to consider the deaths of children. It will be of particular interest to members of LSCBs, CDOPs and senior managers in agencies responsible for children's well-being and public health.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children & Young People SSP • HSCB
Equality Bill - a new public duty	Following A Framework for a Fairer Future, the Equality Office has now published the government's response to the consultation on the single equality bill, and set out some markers for the new single duty. This briefing concentrates on the single equality duty, and suggests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children & Young People SSP • Corporate & Policy

	that some further dialogue is needed, particularly on the need to extend protection against discrimination on grounds of age to children.	
Eco-towns - living a greener future (progress report)	This progress report from the Department for Communities and Local Government sets out the environmental standards and the delivery process for the government's controversial plans for 10 new eco-towns by 2020.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environment • Planning • Corporate & Policy

Title	Summary	Relevant to
Week Ending: 25/07/08		
Youth Cohort Study and Longitudinal Survey - Statistical Bulletin 2007	This briefing summarises a bulletin from the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) on the the combined responses of young people in two surveys: the Youth Cohort Study (YCS) and the Longitudinal Study of Young People in England (LSYPE). It presents information about the family environment, attitudes to school, risky behaviours, engagement, attainment, and post-16 participation across the five Every Child Matters outcomes: Be Healthy, Stay Safe, Enjoy and Achieve, Make a Positive Contribution, and Achieve Economic Well-Being.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children & Young People SSP
Never Too Late For Living: APPG/LGiU report on services for older people	Hazel Blears MP launched the The All Party Parliamentary Local Government Group's report Never Too Late for Living: inquiry into services for older people, written by the LGiU, on 22 July 2008. The report is based on evidence from local authorities and other stakeholders and makes far-reaching recommendations to reform the system nationally and locally.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adult social care • Housing • Health SSP
Framework for a Fairer Future: The Equality Bill	The Equalities Office has published proposals for a Single Equality Bill to be introduced in parliament later this year. The package of proposals will have a major impact on the policies and priorities of councils both directly and in local partnerships. A programme of	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children & Young People SSP • Corporate & Policy

	consultation is expected in coming months.	
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Title	Summary	Relevant to
Week Ending: 18/07/08		
Government Response to the Councillors Commission	The Government has issued its response to the Councillors Commission report and recommendations. Many of the suggestions arose as a result of local government good practice and initiative and have also been taken up by the Government in the recently published Communities in Control White Paper.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate & Policy
Brown's Public Service Vision: excellence and fairness	Excellence and Fairness: achieving world class public services, was published by the Cabinet Office on 26 June 2008, with a foreword by the Prime Minister. The vision includes consideration of the role of both central and local government in delivering excellent public services.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate & Policy
Creating Strong, Safe and Prosperous Communities - the statutory guidance	Final statutory guidance on LSPs, LAAs, the duty to involve, sustainable community strategies, and best value and commissioning has now been issued. This briefing picks out the main changes from the first draft and puts the guidance in the context of the broader government timetable.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate & Policy
Don't Stop Me Now: Preparing for an ageing population	Don't Stop Me Now: Preparing for an ageing population, is a new national study from the Audit Commission. The report assesses how well councils are preparing for a rapidly ageing population and how effective government strategy has been. This briefing summarises the key points and considers it in the context of the LGiU's report of the APPG inquiry into services for older people, to be launched on 22 July.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adult social care • Housing • Health SSP • Community involvement, • Voluntary sector
Balance of Power - a select committee	A new inquiry into the balance of power between central and local government has been set in motion by the Communities and Local	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate & Policy

inquiry	Government Select Committee. This should fill the yawning gap in the current government-generated discussion about constitutional relationships. It is an opportunity for local government to show how its roles and responsibilities are integral to the relationship between citizens and the state. This briefing gives information on the inquiry and invites comments.	
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Title	Summary	Relevant to
Week Ending: 11/07/08		
How To Become a Councillor	<p>The IDeA has published two leaflets aimed at promoting greater awareness of how to become a councillor. The two leaflets are based around:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do you want to make a difference? • How you can make a difference 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate & Policy
HRF study into public transport initiatives in deprived areas	Joseph Rowntree Foundation study of four local transport initiatives in deprived communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transport • Corporate & Policy
Community Sentencing - Reducing reoffending, changing lives	This report argues that while prison works for those who commit serious crimes, community sentences are a more effective alternative for those who would otherwise be sentenced to a short prison term. This is an important area for councils to work with the criminal justice system.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safer Halton SSP
Migration - a government policy review	This review of government policy on migration focuses on measures intended to maximise the benefits of migration while managing transitional pressures on communities and local services. This briefing outlines the approach nationally and highlights funding commitments for England.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate & Policy • All SSPs

Communities in Control: An Overview of the Empowerment White Paper	This initial briefing summaries the Department for Communities and Local Government's newly published White Paper, Communities in Control: real people, real power. The White Paper proposes measures which Government believes would pass more influence, power and control to local people. It includes measures to strengthen the role of local authorities and councillors to revitalise local democracy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate & Policy • All SSPs
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Title	Summary	Relevant to
Week Ending: 04/07/08		
Planning a sustainable school - driving school improvement	The new DCSF guidance sets out how sustainable schools fit with other key government strategies. The guidance does not prescribe what schools should do on sustainability; instead it provides general guidance and states that their plans should emerge out of local circumstances. It emphasises the need for self-evaluation by schools and provides advice on this. It offers a range of activities to use with schools and partners to raise awareness about sustainability issues and how to progress them. It is mainly directed at headteachers and governors but local authority officers should also find it useful when working on school improvement and on sustainability issues.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children & Young People SSP
Renewable Energy Strategy - consultation	The government promises a green revolution from the proposals in this renewable strategy consultation, with particular implications for local authorities on planning and climate change. The deadline for consultation responses is September 26 th 2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate & Policy • Environment
Engaging Communities in Fighting Crime	Louise Casey, former head of the government's respect taskforce, has published a major review of crime and communities, making recommendation across police, local government and the criminal justice system, based on the views and concerns of the public.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safer Halton SSP
Adult Social Care	There are significant changes taking place in the adult social care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adult Services

Workforce Strategy: interim statement	workforce, in the context of the personalisation agenda. The government has published an interim workforce strategy statement for consultation. This briefing summarises the statement and comments on it. Members are encouraged to respond to this short consultation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employment, Learning & Skills SSP • Members
Evaluating the early impact of integrated children's services: Round 1 final report	The Local Authorities Research Consortium (LARC) has published a report of a survey designed to "identify the early impact of integrated children's services, and features that promote or hinder success in improving outcomes for children and young people". It focuses on three groups: looked-after children (LAC), children and young people with autistic spectrum disorder (ASD), and young people with over 20 per cent absence from school at key stage 3. This briefing will be of interest to many in the children's workforce, particularly those working at a strategic level.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children & Young People SSP

Title	Summary	Relevant to
Week Ending: 27/06/08		
Getting to the Heart of Local Accountability	The LGiU has drafted a discussion paper on increasing accountability at the local level, particularly of policing and health. We will continue to develop ideas on this important topic, but would welcome contributions from local government on our ideas to date.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health SSP • Safer Halton SSP
Young Runaways Action Plan	Following a commitment made in the Children's Plan, the Government has published a Young Runaways Action Plan. It outlines measures already being taken, and proposed additional action, to minimise the risk of children and young people running away; and describes the services which need to be in place to respond to those who do run. This area of work falls within local authorities' responsibilities to safeguard vulnerable young people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children & Young People SSP • HSCB
Waste Incentive	The government has issued guidance on their controversial plans to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate & Policy

Pilot Schemes - draft guidance	<p> pilot waste incentive schemes. It provides more details on the requirements and parameters for local authorities interested in bidding to be a pilot. </p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environment
Annual Performance Assessment (APA) 2007 Ofsted Report	<p> The Ofsted report presents evidence from the third year of APA assessments of local authority children and young people's service. The results show that progress in improving outcomes is slow. Released in June the report has already sparked off a debate in the children's workforce with the Association of Directors Children's Services (ADCS) taking the view that changes in the way that Ofsted have measured the outcomes over the past three years have led to a drop in results. The National Children's Bureau are concerned that "some councils are dragging their feet when it comes to integration". This report is a must for anyone interested in what underpins the 2007 annual performance assessment. </p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children & Young People SSP
National Challenge	<p> The National Challenge, launched on 10 June, is the latest phase of the Government's school improvement strategy. It aims to ensure that by 2011 at least 30 per cent of pupils in every secondary school will achieve at least five A*-C GCSEs, including English and maths. In 1997 there were 1,610 schools below this level; now there are 638, and the National Challenge aims to reduce this to zero through a number of mechanisms described in two documents which are summarised in this briefing: Promoting excellence for all and National Challenge - A toolkit for schools and local authorities. </p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children & Young People SSP

Title	Summary	Relevant to
Week Ending: 20/06/08		
Guidance on community cohesion contingency	<p> This new guidance on contingency planning and tension monitoring focuses on what councils could do both to prevent conflicts that may arise and to respond to local issues. </p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children & Young People SSP

planning and tension monitoring.		
Planning Policy Statement 12: Local Spatial Planning	This revision of Planning Policy Statement 12 aims to streamline local spatial planning, the process of producing Local Development Plans - and place spatial planning at the centre of creating strong, safe and prosperous communities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Urban Renewal SSP • Planning
Tackling Gangs	The Home Office has published a practical guide on tackling gangs for local authorities, Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships and other local partners. This briefing summarises information on understanding gangs and highlights the key steps for partnerships to tackle a gang problem.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safer Halton SSP • Children & Young People SSP
The Extra Mile - How schools succeed in raising aspirations in deprived communities	This document highlights examples of schools with an excellent track record in raising the aspirations of children in deprived communities and engaging them in education. It also gives details of a pilot study to trial these 'extra mile' practices in 20 schools, chosen from proposals local authorities are invited to submit by 25 June to overcome barriers to the education of such children, some of whose families have been poor for generations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children & Young People SSP
Restorative Justice and Reconviction	The Ministry of Justice has published new research on restorative justice: whether it reduces reconviction and whether it offers value for money. Many councils are involved in using restorative approaches and will want to note these findings.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safer Halton SSP

Title	Summary	Relevant to
Week Ending: 13/06/08		
Carers at the Heart of 21st Century Families	'Carers at the Heart of 21 Century Families and Communities' is the government's new national strategy for carers. The Government is currently leading a debate on the future of care, and carers play a significant role in our care system. This briefing summarises the	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health SSP • Children & Young People SSP

	paper and comments on its strengths and omissions - including the lack of financial measures.	
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Title	Summary	Relevant to
Week Ending: 06/06/08		
Comprehensive Area Assessment - update May 2008	The consultation on Comprehensive Area Assessment is due in July. In the meantime, the Audit Commission have published the outcomes of their action learning and public consultation to date. This briefing summarises these reports and comments on the direction CAA is taking.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate & Policy
Contingency planning in community cohesion	New guidance on contingency planning and tension monitoring focuses on what councils could do both to prevent and to respond to local issues.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate & Policy • Neighbourhood Management
Fuel poverty action programme	With rising fuel prices and a target to eliminate fuel poverty by 2010 there is mounting pressure on government to act. The Fuel Poverty Action Programme commits government, energy suppliers and consumer organisations to initiatives that aims to better target the current programme of support for vulnerable households.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate & Policy
Youth Alcohol Action Plan	As promised in the Children's Plan, the Government has published a Youth Alcohol Action Plan which sets out proposals to stop 'unacceptable' drinking by young people under the age of 18. The Plan is also part of a consultation process, a 'call for views' from parents and young people themselves as well as professionals, including those working within local authorities and other organisations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children & Young People SSP
Ten years of Labour's youth justice reforms: An independent audit	The Centre for Crime and Justice Studies conducted this independent audit of Labour's reforms of the youth justice system in England and Wales. The report looks at whether the youth justice system has met its targets as well as attempting an analysis of	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children & Young People SSP

	whether significant additional resources have resulted in better outcomes for the relevant children and young people. The report concludes that results of youth justice reform are at best "mixed".	
Gangs and group offending guidance for schools	The Department for Children, Schools and Families has produced guidance to help schools in areas where 'gangs' or offending by groups of young people may be of particular concern, in order to promote pupil well-being and community cohesion, and to build school and community networks of support and action. It includes partnership work with local authorities and other organisations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children & Young People SSP

Title	Summary	Relevant to
Week Ending: 30/05/08		
Moving on well	This is a good practice guide on transition planning for young people with complex health needs or a disability as they prepare for greater independence when they leave children's services. It is aimed at health professionals in both children's and adult health services, working with local authorities and other partner agencies within children's trust arrangements. It supports guidance produced in 2006 and 2007, and the initiative for a Transition Support Programme in the Aiming high for disabled children report.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children & Young People SSP • Health SSP
Joint working between housing and children's services - preventing homelessness and tackling its effects on children	This joint, non-statutory guidance has been produced by the Department for Communities and Local Government, and the Department for Children, Schools and Families. It is designed to help strategic managers in the exercise of their powers and duties in respect of joint working to meet the needs of children and young people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children & Young People SSP • Housing
Building a Low Carbon Economy	This report sets out the Government's response to recommendations made by the Commission for Environmental Markets and Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate & Policy

	Performance (CEMEP). It sets out a strategy for realising the economic benefits of a sustainable economy.	
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Title	Summary	Relevant to
Week Ending: 23/05/08		
Parental Involvement in Children's Education 2007	This briefing highlights the main findings of a survey of over 5,000 parents and carers of children in maintained schools in England. The survey, completed by BRMB Social Research in 2007, investigated parental involvement in children's education, and was commissioned by the Department for Children, Schools, and Families.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children & Young People SSP
Tackling Obesities: The Foresight Report and Implications for Local Government	Sheffield Hallam University was commissioned by the Improvement and Development Agency for local government (IDeA) to analyse the Foresight report on tackling obesity and to identify the key areas of influence and responsibility for local authorities. This policy briefing summarises and comments on this document.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health SSP • Children & Young People SSP
Inclusion of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Children and Young People	This briefing summarises the aims and actions recommended in the guidance issued by Department for Children, Schools and Families on how Local authorities, schools and partners can support the achievement of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller children and young people. In particular, it focuses on increasing the accuracy of data collected on these groups via the school census. The briefing will be useful for local authority officers, school leaders/governors and councillors with responsibility for raising achievement and promoting community cohesion. It draws attention to the need to support the first Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month in June 2008.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children & Young People SSP
Draft Legislative Programme 2008-09	The Government has published its draft legislative programme for 2008-09. This briefing covers these proposals and the likely impact for local government.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate & Policy

User Involvement in Public Services	This is the second of a series of reports produced by the Public Administration Select Committee as part of its inquiry into 'Public Services: Putting People First'. This report explores the scope for public services to engage people directly in service design and service provision.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate & Policy
Housing & the Draft Legislative Programme	<p>The government used the draft legislative programme to announce measures to increase access to affordable housing and to state their intention to publish a Housing Reform Green Paper later in the year. They will also legislate to extend the new housing regulator for housing associations to cover local authority housing and ALMOs.</p> <p>This briefing summarises the announcements and comments on their likely impact in the context of the economic situation and the predictions on the growing demands on housing waiting lists.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing • Social Inclusion • Community cohesion & planning • Urban Renewal SSP
Taskforce to encourage more BME women councillors	A taskforce has been set up to encourage more women from black and ethnic minorities to become councillors. It is chaired by Baroness Uddin, will last for twelve months and will report to the Minister for Women and Equality.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate & Policy

Title	Summary	Relevant to
Week Ending: 16/05/08		
Building Brighter Futures: Next Steps for the Children's Workforce	This guidance details Government's plans for developing the children's workforce. Actions for the next three years and longer-term goals for increasing workforce quality are outlined, emphasising the role of an Expert Group which will be made up of champions from different parts of the children's workforce in evaluating the areas for improvement and providing advice and recommendations on how to proceed. Lastly, the relationships that characterise an 'integrated workforce' are set out in detail.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children & Young People SSP

