

Policy Briefing January 2021

Issue	Updates
Covid Updates and Guidance	<p>Schools, alternative provision, special schools, and colleges will remain open to vulnerable pupils and those of critical workers only.</p> <p>All early years providers (including registered childminders but not including reception years in primary schools) can remain open.</p> <p>This Department of Education has published it's guide, What parents and carers need to know about early years providers, schools and colleges giving information for parents and carers about going back to schools, nurseries and colleges in January 2021.</p> <p>If a child continues to be clinically extremely vulnerable, they are advised not to attend school.</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19</p>
The Department for Education are consulting on how GCSE, AS and A level grades are going to be awarded this summer.	<p>https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/consultation-on-how-gcse-as-and-a-level-grades-should-be-awarded-in-summer-2021</p> <p>The NNPCF have responded to this consultation.</p> <p>https://nnpcf.org.uk/2021/01/20/nnpcf-input-into-assessments-consultation/</p>

<p>Independent review of children’s social care</p>	<p>The Government has announced a wholesale independent review of children’s social care.</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/groups/independent-review-of-childrens-social-care</p> <p>There will be many opportunities for the NNPCF to directly contribute to this important review. Details of these opportunities will be shared in the coming weeks.</p>
<p>National Strategy for Disabled People</p>	<p>The Disability Unit of the Cabinet Office has launched the UK Disability Survey to inform the development of a National Strategy for Disabled People.</p> <p>https://disabilityunit.citizenspace.com/cabinet-office/ukdisabilitysurvey/</p> <p>The survey will close on 23rd April 2021.</p>
<p>Post-16 study at level 2 and below: call for evidence</p>	<p>This call for evidence seeks views on study and qualifications at level 2 and below for students aged 16 and above including those with SEND.</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/post-16-study-at-level-2-and-below-call-for-evidence</p> <p>The consultation will close on 14th February 2021</p>
<p>Reforming the Mental Health Act</p>	<p>The DHSC have launched a consultation that will take place over the next three months to help shape future legislation, service approaches, and modernise the Mental Health Act's principles and values.</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/reforming-the-mental-health-act/reforming-the-mental-health-act</p>
<p>COVID-19 series: briefing on local areas’ SEND provision, October 2020</p>	<p>On 17 March 2020, all routine inspections were suspended due to the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic.</p>

	<p>As part of a phased return to routine inspection, Ofsted has been carrying out interim visits to local areas to hear about the experiences of children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), their families and the practitioners and leaders who are supporting them.</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-series-briefing-on-local-areas-send-provision-october-2020</p>
<p>Ofsted’s report into the impact of the pandemic</p>	<p>https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ofsted-children-hardest-hit-by-covid-19-pandemic-are-regressing-in-basic-skills-and-learning</p>
<p>Ofsted’s Briefing on local areas’ special educational needs and disabilities provision</p>	<p>Evidence from visits to six local areas between 5 and 14 October 2020</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-series-briefing-on-local-areas-send-provision-october-2020</p> <p>Ofsted briefing answers four broad questions based on evidence from the visits:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How have children and young people with SEND experienced the pandemic so far? 2. What has worked well in supporting children and young people with SEND? 3. What have the challenges been and what has not worked so well? 4. What are the plans for supporting these children and young people in the future?
<p>Disabled Children Partnership</p>	<p>DCP have published an open letter to families of disabled children who took part in their Left In Lockdown survey.https://disabledchildrenpartnership.org.uk/left-in-lockdown-amanda-blog/</p> <p>https://disabledchildrenpartnership.org.uk/left-in-lockdown/</p>