

Weekly Political Update

10 June 2019

For further information on any of the parliamentary terms used in this document, please click [here](#).

Accessible Information – Health and Social Care

Click on link for source

<p><u>CQC – Equality Objectives 2019-2021</u></p>	<p>The Care Quality Commission (CQC) has made accessible information and communication one of its key objectives within its Equality Objectives for 2019-2021.</p> <p>The objectives, as set out by the CQC are as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Confident with difference: person-centered care and equality2. Accessible Information and communication3. Equality and the well-led provider4. Equal access to care and equity in outcomes in local areas5. Continue to improve equality of opportunity for our staff and those seeking to join CQC <p>The CQC is the independent regulator for Health and Social Care, monitoring and inspecting services in England.</p> <p>To read more, please click on the link on the left.</p>
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Access to Mental Health Services

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<p><u>Written questions on specialist mental health services for deaf people and people with hearing loss</u></p>	<p>Steve McCabe MP (Labour has asked the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care the following questions:</p> <p><i>“What assessment he has made of the adequacy of mental health support for people who (a) are deaf and (b) have a hearing impairment; and if he will make a statement.”</i></p> <p><i>“What (a) guidance and (b) training is available to clinicians on assessing and referring deaf patients to specialist mental health support.”</i></p> <p>Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Mental Health, Inequalities and Suicide Prevention, Jackie Doyle Price MP (Conservatives, Thurrock) provided the same response to both questions:</p> <p><i>“The Government is committed to ensuring that all people who have a mental health need, including those who are deaf or have a hearing impairment, are able to access appropriate support when they need it regardless of other physical health conditions. Commissioners are responsible for commissioning</i></p>
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	<p><i>appropriate cultural and linguistic provisions when planning services for deaf people.</i></p> <p><i>Deaf patients are able to access mental health services based on a clinical assessment of need with the support and involvement of clinicians (including consultant psychiatrists and mental health nurses) with the skills and experience of working with deaf people with mental illness and who are able to communicate using British Sign Language (BSL) where needed.</i></p> <p><i>NHS England commissions specialised mental health services for children, young people and adults who are deaf or have a hearing impairment. These include inpatient and outreach services for children and young people and services for adults who require inpatient care, including care in secure mental health services.</i></p> <p><i>The Specialised Mental Health Clinical Reference Group provides advice and support to NHS England about improving commissioning, including through service specifications and quality schemes. NHS England has developed a specific Commissioning for Quality and Innovation (CQUIN) scheme in 2019-20 for specialised deaf services aimed at introducing a standardised approach to the assessment and understanding of a patient’s individual communication skills, which will improve the effectiveness of interactions with staff, care planning and delivery.</i></p> <p><i>The Joint Commissioning Panel for Mental Health has published guidance for commissioners of primary care mental health services for deaf people. This is for use by clinical commissioning groups, local authorities and service providers across primary and secondary care. The content is evidence based and includes what is deemed to be best practice when commissioning mental health services for deaf people. The guide is available at the following link:</i></p> <p><i>www.improvement.nhs.uk/resources/improving-mental-health-services-for-deaf-people/</i></p> <p><i>The guidance recommends the training of psychological wellbeing practitioners through an accredited standard Improving Access to Psychological Therapies low intensity training course adapted for delivery in BSL. It also sets out the benefit of providing the current specialist BSL workforce with access to continuing professional development training so that they are able to further develop their skills and expertise through programmes such as high intensity therapy, counselling for depression, supervision qualifications and other appropriate interventions.”</i></p>
<p><u>Written question on the provision of deaf-focused NHS counselling</u></p>	<p>Steve McCabe MP (Labour, Birmingham Selly Oak) has asked:</p> <p><i>“The Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what assessment he has made of the availability of deaf-focused NHS counselling using British sign language as the first language in England; and if he will make a statement.”</i></p> <p>Minister of State for Care, Caroline Dinenage MP (Conservatives, Gosport) responded:</p> <p><i>“The National Health Service Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT) programme is available to all adults. If an individual is deaf and requires British Sign Language (BSL) to be used, services can either use a BSL interpreter or refer them to Sign Health, an IAPT service which delivers therapy using BSL trained therapists. Sign Health is available nationally but is funded</i></p>

	<p><i>via individual funding requests, so clinical commissioning groups (CCGs) are responsible for funding decisions. In 2018/19 Sign Health received £1 million from 116 CCGs for the treatment of around 250 people. Other alternatives that may be suitable for deaf people include therapy delivered via a digital route, for example text messaging.</i></p> <p><i>The NHS England IAPT manual, published in June 2018, specifies that commissioners, managers, primary and secondary care clinicians should develop local IAPT care pathways in consultation with patient groups and community leaders, including under-represented groups. The IAPT manual recommends that commissioners and providers consider commissioning services that have bilingual clinicians who speak the language of local minority groups, including clinicians who are fluent in BSL for deaf people.</i></p> <p><i>Local commissioners have to pay due regard to the equality legislation when commissioning IAPT services. They are able to decide whether they meet their responsibilities through services who provide BSL trained therapists or through interpreters in their locality.”</i></p>
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Healthcare

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<p><u>NHS – Interim People Plan</u></p>	<p>The NHS has published its interim People Plan which follows on from the Long-Term NHS Plan published in January this year. The Plan sets out a vision for attracting and retaining a workforce that are fully equipped to support the NHS in meeting the ambitions set out in the Long Term Plan. It aims to do this in six key ways – by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Making the NHS the best place to work 2. Improving leadership culture 3. Prioritising urgent action on nursing shortages 4. Developing a workforce to meet 21st century care 5. Developing a new operating model for workforce 6. Taking immediate action in 2019/20 while we develop a full five-year plan <p>To read the interim report, please click on the link on the left.</p>
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Social Care

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<p><u>Health for Care Coalition – polling on social care</u></p>	<p>The NHS Confederation, as part of the Health for Care coalition, has commissioned the polling company ComRes, questioning MPs on their views of the social care system. The poll found that 76% of MPs agree there is a crisis in social care – with 35% of MPs strongly agreeing that this is the case. This also included 58% of Conservative MPs.</p> <p>To read more, please click on the link on the left.</p>
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Employment

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<p><u>Written question on the number of Disability Confident employers who have employed disabled people</u></p>	<p>Stephen Timms MP (Labour, East Ham) has asked:</p> <p><i>“The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many Disability Confident employers have employed a disabled person since achieving Disability Confident status.”</i></p> <p>Minister of State for Disable People, Health and Work Justin Tomlinson MP (Conservatives, North Swindon) responded:</p> <p><i>“DWP does not track individual Disability Confident employers’ workforces. However, last year we published the results of survey research, commissioned from Ipsos MORI, which explored the effect that signing up to the Disability Confident scheme has had on employers’ recruitment and retention attitudes and practices with regards to disabled people.</i></p> <p><i>The researchers interviewed employers of all sizes, ranging from very small organisations with low levels of staff turnover to large companies employing thousands. Across all employers interviewed, half said they had recruited at least one person with a disability, long-term health or mental health condition as a result of joining the scheme. Among larger employers, nearly two thirds reported the same.</i></p> <p><i>The full report may be viewed here:</i></p> <p><u>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/disability-confident-survey-of-participating-employers</u></p> <p><i>Last year we also published the ‘Voluntary reporting on disability, mental health and wellbeing: A framework to support employers to voluntarily report on disability, mental health and wellbeing in the workplace’. This framework was developed in partnership with large employers and expert partners (including leading charities) to support organisations to record and voluntarily report information on disability, mental health and wellbeing in the workplace.</i></p> <p><i>The government believes that transparency and reporting are effective levers in driving the culture change required to build a more inclusive society. The framework is a short guide to support employers to take a first step on the journey towards greater transparency.</i></p> <p><i>The framework can be viewed here:</i></p> <p><u>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/voluntary-reporting-on-disability-mental-health-and-wellbeing/voluntary-reporting-on-disability-mental-health-and-wellbeing-a-framework-to-support-employers-to-voluntarily-report-on-disability-mental-health-an</u>”</p>
<p><u>DWP – Work and Health Programme</u></p>	<p>The Department for Work and Pensions has published statistics on referrals to and job outcomes of people who are on the Work and Health programme. The statistics show that of those who entered the programme in August 2018 – 88% still had not reached the job outcomes earning threshold by February 2019.</p> <p>To read the statistics, please click on the link on the left.</p>

Equalities

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<p><u>Written question on the accessibility of Government market research for deaf people</u></p>	<p>Ronnie Cowan MP (Scottish National Party, Inverclyde) has asked:</p> <p><i>“The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what steps she takes to ensure market research conducted for her Department has provision for deaf people to respond.”</i></p> <p>Minister of State for Disabled People, Health and Work, Justin Tomlinson MP (Conservatives, North Swindon) responded:</p> <p><i>“The DWP uses the Research Marketplace Dynamic Purchasing System to contract its social research. All service providers registered on the System are obliged to operate within the stipulations of all prevailing disability legislation in operation within the UK.</i></p> <p><i>In addition, all social research the Department undertakes complies with the principles laid out in the Government Social Research ‘Ethical Assurance for Social Research in Government’ framework. This includes Principle 3 (Enabling participation), which states that:</i></p> <p><i>‘The potential impact of choices in research design (such as sample design, data collection method and so on) on participation should be considered. In particular, the effect of research design on such groups as ethnic minorities, those with caring responsibilities, and those with physical or mental impairment should be considered. Consideration should be given to issues likely to act as a barrier to participation, and reasonable steps taken to address these.’</i></p> <p><i>Accessibility requirements are therefore considered on a project by project basis in accordance with this Principle.”</i></p>
<p><u>Written question on the accessibility of Government market research conducted by the Department for disabled people</u></p>	<p>Ronnie Cowan MP (Scottish National Party, Inverclyde) has asked:</p> <p><i>“The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what discussions her Department had with charities and third sector organisations on ensuring market research on her Department’s polices was accessible for people with that disabilities.”</i></p> <p>Minister of State for Disabled People, Health and Work, Justin Tomlinson MP (Conservatives, North Swindon) responded:</p> <p><i>“All social research the Department undertakes complies with the principles laid out in the Government Social Research ‘Ethical Assurance for Social Research in Government’ framework. This includes Principle 3 (Enabling participation), which states that:</i></p> <p><i>‘The potential impact of choices in research design (such as sample design, data collection method and so on) on participation should be considered. In particular, the effect of research design on such groups as ethnic minorities, those with caring responsibilities, and those with physical or mental impairment should be considered. Consideration should be given to issues likely to act as a barrier to participation, and reasonable steps taken to address these.’</i></p>

	<p><i>Accessibility requirements are therefore considered on a project by project basis in accordance with this Principle.</i></p> <p><i>No record has been kept of any specific discussions with charities and third sector organisations on ensuring that research undertaken by the Department for Work and Pensions is accessible for people with disabilities.”</i></p>
<p><u>Oral question on disabled candidates standing for election</u></p>	<p>Alex Chalk MP (Conservatives, Cheltenham) has asked:</p> <p><i>“What plans the Government has to encourage more candidates with disabilities to stand for election?”</i></p> <p>Minister without Portfolio, Brandon Lewis MP (Conservatives, Great Yarmouth) responded:</p> <p><i>“The Government are working with disability organisations to help political parties better support disabled candidates. In December 2018, we launched the £250,000 EnAble fund, providing grants that cover disability-related expenses that people might face when seeking elected office.”</i></p> <p>Gregory Campbell MP (Democratic Unionist Party, East Londonderry) also asked:</p> <p><i>“In supporting candidates with disabilities to stand in elections, does the Minister not agree that there could be a further benefit? It could result in the voting population of those with disabilities coming to the voting booths in person to vote for disabled or able-bodied candidates.”</i></p> <p>The Minister replied:</p> <p><i>“The hon. Gentleman makes a very good point. It is good for us to ensure we have candidates from all backgrounds and all abilities, with candidates with disabilities having the opportunity to stand. There is a duty on all of us in political parties to do that. I am very proud that the Conservative party has a fund to support candidates who need extra help”</i></p> <p>To read in full, please click on the link on the left.</p>

Education

Click on link for source

<p><u>Written question on funding for services assisting deaf children</u></p>	<p>Tanmanjeet Singh Dhesi MP (Labour, Slough) has asked the following questions:</p> <p><i>“The Secretary of State for Education, what recent assessment he has made of the adequacy of funding for services to assist deaf children.”</i></p> <p><i>“The Secretary of State for Education, what recent assessment he has made of the adequacy of funding for children with special educational needs.”</i></p>
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Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Children and Families, Nadhim Zahawi MP (Conservatives, Stratford-on-Avon) provided the same response to both questions:

“We do not make a separate assessment of adequacy of funding for services to assist deaf children, instead considering funding for these services in the round alongside funding for children with other special education needs and disabilities (SEND). We keep under review the adequacy of funding for children and young people with all SEND, including for services to help deaf children, in making allocations to local authorities and schools.

Last December we announced additional high needs funding for those with more complex needs, amounting to £250 million, across last year and this year, bringing the total high needs funding to £6.3 billion in 2019-20. We understand that local authorities and schools are experiencing pressures on their budgets because of increasing costs and are looking carefully at how much funding will be needed in future years as we approach the next Spending Review.”

Parliamentary terms

Early Day Motion (EDM)

Early Day Motions are formal motions for debate submitted by MPs in the House of Commons. There is usually no time available to actually debate an EDM, but they are useful for drawing attention to specific events or campaigns and demonstrating the extent of parliamentary support for a particular cause or point of view. MPs register their support by signing individual motions.

Oral Parliamentary Question (OPQ) and Written Parliamentary Question (WPQ)

Parliamentary Questions are used by both MPs and Peers to question Ministers in the House of Commons and the House of Lords. They are used to seek information, and Ministers are obliged to explain and defend the work, policy, decisions and actions of their departments, oral questions can also be used to make political points. Parliamentary questions are a vital tool in holding the Government to account. The Prime Minister answers oral questions from the House of Commons every Wednesday at midday.

Debates

Both the House of Commons and the House of Lords hold debates in which Members discuss government policy, proposed new laws and current issues. All debates are recorded in a publication called 'Hansard' which is available online or in print.

All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG)

All-Party Parliamentary Groups (APPGs) are informal groups composed of politicians from all political parties. They provide an opportunity for cross-party discussion and co-operation on particular issues. All-party groups sometimes act as useful pressure groups for specific causes helping to keep the Government, the opposition and MPs informed of parliamentary and outside opinion.

Select Committees

House of Commons Select Committees exist to scrutinise the work of government departments. Most committees have about 11 members and reflect the relative size of each party in the Commons. They conduct enquiries on a specific issue, and gather evidence from expert witnesses. Findings are reported to the Commons, printed, and published on the Parliament website. The Government then usually has 60 days to reply to the committee's recommendations.

Written ministerial statements

Government ministers can make written statements to announce:

- The publication of reports by government agencies
- Findings of reviews and inquiries and the government's response
- Financial and statistical information
- Procedure and policy initiatives of government departments

Private Members' Bills

Private Members' Bills allow backbench MPs or Peers to introduce their own legislation. There are three types of Private Members' Bills introduced into the House of Commons:

- **Ballot Bills:** A ballot is held at the beginning of each parliamentary year the 20 MPs whose names come out top are allowed to introduce legislation on a subject of their choice.
- **Ten Minute Rule Bills:** The sponsoring MP is given a slot in which they may make a speech lasting up to 10 minutes in support of his or her bill
- **Presentation Bill:** a Member is not able to speak in support of it and it stands almost no chance of becoming law