In the News 2 October 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Featured news: further information indicating that the 1% pay-cap is to be abandoned, the national picture of funding, Labour’s new plans for education</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>There are indications that teachers could have the 1% pay cap lifted.</strong> In a new letter to the pay review bodies, including the School Teachers’ Review Body, Treasury chief secretary Elizabeth Truss writes: “There will still be a need for pay discipline over the coming years ... however, the Government recognises that in some parts of the public sector, particularly in areas of skill shortage, more flexibility may be required.” However, trade unions condemned the intervention as an “empty gesture” that “does nothing for teaching assistants and other public-sector workers who are not covered by a pay review body.” (The Guardian, 29 September 2017)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>9,000 state schools in cash deficit</strong> – Government figures show that 9,400 state schools in England went into budget deficit last year, with schools’ minister Nick Gibb saying schools facing the same situation will have &quot;the resources they need&quot;. The data shows that almost 4,000 schools have been in deficit for two years, nearly 1,600 for three years, more than 400 for four years and 100 for five years. (BBC, 25 September 2017)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Labour to detail National Education Service plan</strong> – Shadow Education Secretary Angela Rayner is set to reveal a 10-point charter that makes up Labour’s proposed National Education Service. The charter promises to provide education that is &quot;free at the point of use, available universally and throughout life&quot;. The proposal calls for democratic oversight of schools and colleges, as well as supporting staff and learners emotionally as well as with their learning. (The Independent, 25 September 2017)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Leading Support Services**

National education policy (see Finance section for education funding policy news)

| Academy boss made education minister – Sir Theodore Agnew, chairman of the Inspiration Trust, has been made an unpaid parliamentary undersecretary of state for the DfE, replacing Lord Nash. (The Times, 28 September 2017) |
| Swinney U-turn over stripping councils of school powers – The Scottish Government has backed down over controversial proposals to reduce the influence of councils over the running of schools. Council umbrella body Cosla has reached an agreement with Education Secretary John Swinney, which will see each local authority be part of one of six collaboratives in partnership with Education Scotland. (The Scotsman, 29 September 2017) |

**Health and wellbeing**

| £1.4m mental health project to help school pupils – A new £1.4m, two-year Welsh Government pilot scheme is looking to help spot pupils who are showing early signs of anxiety, depression or self-harm, following large rises in referral numbers to Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services. (BBC, 25 September 2017) |
| Statistics from Public Health England show that 19.8% of children in their last year of primary school are obese - up from 17.5% in 2006/7. This rise comes as obesity rates in those starting primary school have fallen from 9.9% to 9.3% in the same period. The report found that by the time they leave primary school, 17.9% of girls and 21.7% of boys are now obese. (The Telegraph, 25 September 2017) |
Safeguarding

A 16-year-old girl has been arrested on suspicion of attempted murder after a welfare officer was stabbed at Winterton Community Academy in Scunthorpe. Headteacher Gareth Morris praised his “fantastic” staff who dealt with the “horrific” situation quickly and professionally. (The Times, 26 September 2017)

‘Shocking’ number of teens admit to online bullying – Research has found more than a quarter of 16-18 year olds admitted to bullying or insulting peers online. The think-tank Demos also found 15% had abused a public figure on the internet. Nearly a third of boys admitted to anti-social online behaviour compared with 22% of girls, and nine in 10 of those who said they had bullied someone else online, said they too had been targeted, suggesting a cycle of abuse. (The Telegraph, 2 October 2017)

Equality and social mobility

Half of LGBT youngsters in Scotland bullied – Research from Stonewall Scotland shows that 48% of LGBT students polled were bullied for their sexuality in 2017, a slight drop from 52% in 2012. Of 402 youngsters quizzed, 63% frequently or often heard homophobic language in school. (BBC, 26 September 2017)

Finance

Education funding and finance – national and international level reports

The Department of Education in Northern Ireland is facing £105m of cash pressures in 2017/18, the department’s permanent secretary Derek Baker has revealed. He said the department had £24m less in cash than last year, but rising costs has meant increasing stress on budgets. NAHT president Paul McClenaghan commented: “You can’t pay the teacher’s salary from the amount we get per pupil. We’re very concerned that many of our schools will go to the wall”. (BBC, 25 September 2017)

Headteachers issue funding warning – More than 4,000 headteachers from around England are sending letters to parents warning that there is “simply not enough money in the system” to fund schools properly, with heads urging parents to lobby MPs over funding. Around a million families across 17 counties will be informed that the Government’s new national funding formula still means their children face an unfair “postcode lottery”. (The Guardian, 27 September 2017)

Infrastructure

New schools, expansions, mergers and closures

£100m repair bill puts pupils at risk – Fears have been raised over pupil safety over reports that Highland Council is facing a £100m buildings repair and maintenance backlog. The internal auditors’ report said surveys of schools were "currently behind schedule". (The Press & Journal, 29 September 2017)
Teaching and learning

International

Unesco warns on worldwide quality of education –Six out of ten children and teenagers in the world are failing to reach basic levels of proficiency in learning, according to a report from the Unesco Institute for Statistics, which warns that more than 600m school-age children do not have basic skills in maths and reading. Institute director Silvia Montoya said the report was a "wake-up call for far greater investment in the quality of education". (BBC, 27 September 2017)

Government announcements, guidance, consultations and funding

New education and skills measures announced (DfE, 1 October 2017)

Find out if your organisation needs to report under the Gender Pay Gap regulations (Government Equalities Office, 28 September 2017)