

14 – 19 Annual Forum Event

21st Century Schools and
Local Authority Commissioning





What is commissioning ?

- Commissioning is about ensuring that the right services and the right people are in the right place at the right time for all children, young people and families.
- The local authority is the strategic commissioner of schools and, with its Children's Trust Partners, of all children's services



What is commissioning of schools?

- Commissioning of schools is the way in which local authorities plan and deliver good quality schools and school places to better meet the needs of children, young people and families and contribute to the improvement of outcomes

What does it mean in practice?

Local Authorities should:

- plan for current & future population needs;
- understand what parents and the community want from schools and take action to meet their requirements;
- encourage a diverse marketplace of partners and providers;
- support the development of strong schools working collectively



What does it mean in practice?

Local Authorities should:

- deliver a broad offer to children and
- take responsibility, with other services, to improve outcomes in the local area
- support and facilitate partnerships of schools in commissioning a broad range of services;
- Have a strong challenge and intervention policy.



21st Century Schools

The new Schools White Paper - Your child, your schools, our future: building a 21st century schools system sets out a number of ways to improve support for commissioning.

The White Paper restates the role of the LA as strategic commissioner. Local authorities need to use their commissioning role to ensure parents have a genuine choice of good schools.



21st Century Schools



There will be a new requirement on local authorities to take action to improve the quality of school places on offer where provision fails to meet local demand.

Local authorities will be required to ask parents of children in Year 6 for their views on school provision in the area at the time they are applying for a place at secondary school. This will give parents greater say over the range and quality of secondary schools in their local area, and if a sufficient proportion of parents are dissatisfied local authorities will have to take action.

The commissioning role for schools

- The White Paper sets out an enhanced commissioning role for schools: of their own school improvement and, in partnership, of a wide range of other services.
- Strengthening LA strategic commissioning role – expectation to provide high-quality data and support to schools about forming effective partnerships and other multi-agency working



Why commission?



- Encourage long term, sustainable **improvement**
- Respond to **needs**
- Clarify **relationships**
- **Act on behalf of pupils**, parents and encourage **parental engagement**
- Add to **capacity** in schools
- Help **schools** to be **better commissioners**
- Help deliver the **pupil** and **parent** guarantees

The Pupil & Parent Guarantees

- The Pupil & Parent Guarantees will have a statutory basis in the Children, Schools and Families Bill
- The document has been published for consultation. It is written in plain English, and will be easily available



The Pupil & Parent Guarantees

The purpose:

- To bring together, and raise awareness about, what schools should be delivering, and what children and parents can expect to receive in a consistent entitlement
- To spread existing best practice



The Pupil & Parent Guarantees

Are these all new requirements?

- Around half of the individual guarantee elements are things which “schools are already expected to” do. A number of the others are also subject to legislation in the Children Schools and Families Bill
- However, a number of the individual guarantee elements will be pupil or parent entitlements for the first time

The Pupil & Parent Guarantees

How the Guarantees will work:

- The entitlements in the Guarantee (“must”) will have the force of law. A few elements will be aspirations only (“should”)
- Close connection between the Pupil and Parent Guarantees

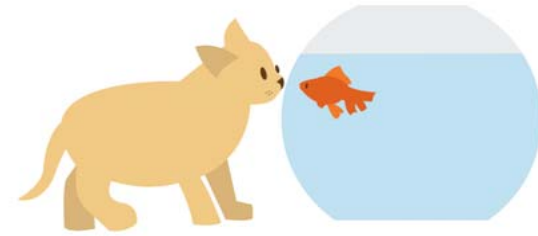
The Pupil Guarantee



A mixture of existing and new individual guarantees contribute to the 5 ambitions:

- Good behaviour, strong discipline, order and safety;
- Pupils taught a broad, balanced and flexible curriculum, including skills for learning and life;
- Pupils taught in a way that meets their needs, where their progress is regularly checked, and where additional needs are spotted early and quickly addressed;
- Take part in sport and cultural activities, and
- Health and wellbeing is promoted.

The Parent Guarantee



A mixture of existing and new individual guarantees contributing to the 4 ambitions:

- Every Parent will have opportunities, information and support to exercise choice with and on behalf of their child;
- Every Parent will have a Home School Agreement outlining their rights and responsibilities for their child's schooling;
- Every Parent will have the opportunity, information and support they need to be involved and engaged in their child's learning and development;
- Every Parent will have access to a variety of activities, facilities and services, including support and advice on parenting.

Redress



A new, streamlined system of redress:

- If elements of the Pupil or Parent Guarantee are not delivered, pupils or parents may seek redress from the school and its governing body.
- Failing this, the pupil/parent can have redress through the Local Government Ombudsman, who can recommend a course of action and has sanctions at his disposal if the school does not comply.
- Redress is likely to be sought from the LGO where the guarantee is a “must”.
- We expect the majority of complaints to be resolved at school level, without need for redress.

What will change?

Local authorities will have a core role in commissioning powers to ensure delivery of high-quality school places and children's services that deliver the pupil guarantee, effective early intervention and wider support for children, young people and their families

LAs will act as key commissioner of services through the transfer of responsibility for learning and skills provision and LAs' leadership of integrated youth support services

What will change?



Working with Children's Trust partners, LAs should analyse local challenges and priorities, and take action to ensure that every locality has the right mix of high-quality schools and other providers, and sufficient and effective childcare provision

Crucial aspects of role:

- foster effective partnership between schools, and between schools and other providers, to secure value for money, a broad range and mix of provision, effective early intervention and quality improvement
- intervene where provision is inadequate and drive improvement in all local services
- ensure local parents have a voice in their children's education, and that their views and concerns are acted upon