



Lords Public Services Committee Monthly newsletter

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Hello and welcome to the first monthly newsletter from the Public Services Committee, produced by the committee secretariat.

You're receiving it because you've shown interest in the work of the committee. Do please publicise it and our work on your social media channels – and let us know what you think.

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We hope you find it useful.

What we've been up to recently

The Committee has been very busy in recent weeks. Here are some highlights.

- In May, we sent our short report on [‘Levelling up’ and public services](#) to the Prime Minister. The forthcoming White Paper on ‘Levelling up’ is an opportunity for the Government to refocus its strategy to include **investment in social infrastructure and public services**, to make clear its **plans for devolution** and to set itself clear targets on areas such as **healthy life expectancy** and the **literacy and numeracy** level of children starting school in deprived communities.
- We've been hearing fascinating evidence from witnesses for our current inquiry on [the role of public services in addressing child vulnerability](#). On **Wednesday 23 June** we heard from **Sir Alan Wood**, who led the review on safeguarding and **Josh MacAlister**, chair of the on children's social care. They [warned us](#) that the **“reduction in early support for families”** was **“pushing children into crisis”** and placing **“financial pressures”** on statutory services.
- We were very pleased to appoint **Anne Longfield, the former Children's Commissioner for England**, as a [specialist adviser](#) to assist with our child vulnerability inquiry. Anne has just been awarded a **CBE for services to children**.
- We are continuing to scrutinise Government policy on commissioning. On **Wednesday 9 June**, we heard from [procurement legal experts and local commissioners](#) about how the Procurement Green Paper could be strengthened to reflect the valuable contribution of local charities in delivering public services.

This is a monthly letter from the UK House of Lords Public Services Committee. Please contact us at hlpublishservices@parliament.uk or via our twitter: [@LordsPublicSCom](https://twitter.com/LordsPublicSCom)

What to look out for in the month ahead

Each month we'll bring you news of our upcoming work to mark in your diary and to share with your networks.

- **Tomorrow**, we'll hear from Rt Hon **Dame Andrea Leadsom** MP, who's coming to an evidence session to tell us about her early years review and what the Government needs to do next to ensure that **family hubs** – multi-agency support centres for children and families – are available in every community in the country.
- On **14 July** we'll be asking **Sir Kevan Collins** why he **resigned as the Government's Education Recovery Commissioner** and how public services can support vulnerable families to ensure that **disadvantaged children don't fall behind as result of the pandemic**.

The committee in the media

The Committee has been covered extensively in recent weeks. Here is some of the most interesting pieces.

- The Committee's short report on **'Levelling up' and public services** received widespread coverage, including in the [BBC – that focused on the need for Government investment to be better targeted](#). Politics Home published an [opinion piece](#) by our chair, Baroness Armstrong on what she wants to see in the promised Levelling up White Paper. Baroness Armstrong was also interviewed about the report by [Times Radio](#) (it starts 18 mins in).
- Our current inquiry on vulnerable children has featured in the media as well. Anne Longfield, specialist adviser to the committee, introduced the inquiry on [Times Radio](#) (interview starts 52 mins in).
- Our **ongoing work on data-sharing in public services** continues to attract attention. For example, it was covered in a [Local Government Chronicle piece on 'Changing the narrative about risk in health and social care.'](#)