



## Welcome to the Commissioner's weekly horizon scanning brief:

1. **Legislation** (Legislation, Home Office, APCC, press comments, reports and campaigns relating to strategy, policy and programmes)
2. **Policing and crime key developments** (relevant crime and criminal justice information and partners' policy/reports/campaigns)
3. **Reports** (covering research, reviews, inspections and audits across policing and crime)
4. **Consultations** (police and crime bulletins, research, consultations and press releases)

Contact Officer: [Karen.sleigh@nottinghamshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Karen.sleigh@nottinghamshire.pnn.police.uk)

## 1. Legislation

**Commons second reading of Children and Families Bill.** MPs debated the second reading of the Children and Families Bill in the House of Commons on Monday 25 February 2013. The Bill passed without a division and will now be considered by a Public Bill Committee. The Bill seeks to reform legislation relating to adoption and children in care; aspects of the family justice system; children and young people with special educational needs; the Office of the Children's Commissioner for England; statutory rights to leave and pay for parents and adopters; time off work for ante-natal care; and the right to request flexible working.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/news/2013/february/commons-second-reading-children-and-families-bill/>

**Draft Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012 (Consequential Provisions and Modifications) Order 2013:** <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ssi/2013/51/made>

**Succession to the Crown Bill 2012-13:** The Bill would change the rules governing succession to the Crown in two ways. First, there would be no gender discrimination in determining succession, in contrast to the present rules, under which brothers stand ahead of sisters in line to the throne even if they are younger. Secondly, a person marrying a Roman Catholic would no longer be barred from becoming or remaining monarch.

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2012-13/successiontothecrown.html>

## 2. Policing and crime key developments

**Home Affairs Select Committee: Report on undercover policing:** The Committee calls for a fundamental review of the law governing undercover police operations, including the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000. Interim report to cover concerns over public policy and the legal framework within which undercover police operations are authorised, which will require urgent action by the Government.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmselect/cmhaff/837/83702.htm>

**Criticism of Police and Crime Commissioner election is published: Electoral Reform Report: How not to run an election - The Police & Crime Commissioner Elections:** The Electoral Reform Society's recommendations mirror the warnings Labour gave the Home Secretary - on holding elections in November, lack of voter information and failings by the Home Office.

<http://www.electoral-reform.org.uk/images/dynamicImages/How%20not%20to%20run%20an%20election.pdf>

**Almost 90 per cent of people cannot name their Police and Crime Commissioner,** according to a poll by the Electoral Reform Society, citing delays to the vote and poor dissemination of information as contributing factors. ([Times](#)).

**Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabularies:** Map of police forces in England, Wales and Northern Ireland: <http://www.hmic.gov.uk/media/police-force-map.pdf>

**Her Majesty's Inspector of Probation:** *Offender Management Inspection 2009-2012*. This report presents the aggregate findings from a completed Offender Management Inspection programme which took place between 2009 and 2012. These findings are based on a close scrutiny of a representative sample of cases taken from each of the probation trusts across England and Wales. <http://www.justice.gov.uk/downloads/publications/inspectorate-reports/hmiprobation/adult-inspection-reports/omi2/omi2-aggregate-findings-feb-2013.pdf>

**MPs take evidence on child sexual exploitation in gangs and groups Education Select Committee – *Child Exploitation in Gangs and Groups*:** This was a one-off oral evidence session on the Interim Report of the Office of the Children's Commissioner's inquiry into child sexual exploitation in gangs and groups.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/education-committee/news/child-sexual-exploitation-oral-evidence/>

**Commons Select Committee takes evidence on e-crime, social networks and social media sites:** Social networking has become the most popular online activity, accounting for 19% of all time spent online. Over half of UK households now use social networking sites. As users flock to social networks criminals follow, Norton estimates that 4 / 10 users have been the victim of crime on a social network and 1/6 have had their account hijacked by someone who impersonated them. Chair Keith Vaz, has requested a 'Call for evidence' - to hear from anyone who has been targeted by scams or abuse on social networks. Particularly around what was done to resolve the issues once they have been reported, how long it took to resolve and whether or not the action taken was successful.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/home-affairs-committee/news/130222-ecrime-ev/>

**IPCC expresses concern over Chief Constable's Hillsborough email:** The IPCC has written to the Chief Constable of South Yorkshire Police, David Crompton, to express concerns about the content of an email he wrote in relation to plans for the force's handling of the publication of the Hillsborough Independent Panel report.

[http://www.ipcc.gov.uk/news/Pages/pr\\_260213\\_syorkshirecrompton.aspx](http://www.ipcc.gov.uk/news/Pages/pr_260213_syorkshirecrompton.aspx)

**Investigation into use of Taser in custody suite launched:** The Independent Police Complaints Commission is independently investigating a Lancashire police officer's use of a

Taser on a man being held at a custody suite in Burnley.

[http://www.ipcc.gov.uk/news/Pages/pr\\_260213\\_lancscelltaser.aspx](http://www.ipcc.gov.uk/news/Pages/pr_260213_lancscelltaser.aspx)

### **IPCC finds failings in the working practices of Southwark Sapphire Unit between July 2008 and September 2009:**

This investigation found that during this period the Southwark Sapphire unit was under-performing and over-stretched, and officers of all ranks, often unfamiliar with sexual offence work, felt under pressure to improve performance and meet targets. Victims were questioned closely by a Detective Constable before they met an officer trained in dealing with sex crimes to ensure crimes were classified correctly.

<http://www.ipcc.gov.uk/news/Pages/IPCC-finds-failings-in-the-working-practices-of-Southwark-Sapphire-Unit-between-July-2008-and-September-2009.aspx>

## 3. Reports

**Legalising and decriminalising cannabis:** A new Ipsos MORI poll shows 53% of GB public want cannabis legalised or decriminalised and 67% want a comprehensive review of our approach to drugs. <http://transform-drugs.blogspot.co.uk/2013/02/new-ipsos-mori-poll-shows-53-of-gb.html>

**'Snatched':** A film written and filmed by @Community Bucks has been produced to target robbery. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2a5l0u4JTDI>

**Council Tax - Local authorities split on taking freeze grant:** Results from the annual CIPFA Council Tax Demands and Precepts survey shows that currently 41% of councils in England plan to forego the 1% freeze grant offered by the Department of Communities and Local Government and raise council tax for 2013/14. This is significantly up from the 15% of authorities who did not take up the grant last year. Since 59% of councils across England will take the freeze grant, the overall average band D Council Tax bill looks set to rise by 0.8%, the equivalent of £11.74. This increase compares with last year's average rise of 0.3%. <http://www.cipfastats.net/news/newsstory.asp?content=16238>

**A new £59 million fund is to be set aside by the Government to boost areas of depressed economic growth and encourage the development of enterprise zones.** Eric Pickles, the Local Government and Communities Secretary, said: "Enterprise Zones have all the raw ingredients and growth incentives - simplified planning, low tax, super fast broadband and inward investment. They need to translate their potential into jobs and growth success" ([Telegraph](#)).

**LGA study finds majority of residents trust councils:** 72% of residents are satisfied with the way services are run by their local council, a new report indicates. The [research](#) was conducted as part of the LGA's appraisal on the sector-led approach for delivering improvement. Reduction in inspections and targets for local authorities has allowed councils to find new and better ways of measuring success, identifying areas for improvement and offering residents greater local accountability, the LGA highlighted. [http://www.publicsectorexecutive.com/Public-Sector-News/lga-study-finds-majority-of-residents-trust-councils?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=Public+Sector+Executive&utm\\_campaign=2194052\\_PSE+Weekly+February+2013+Wk+4&dm\\_i=IJU,1B0XW,8Z1BIT,4FALA,1](http://www.publicsectorexecutive.com/Public-Sector-News/lga-study-finds-majority-of-residents-trust-councils?utm_medium=email&utm_source=Public+Sector+Executive&utm_campaign=2194052_PSE+Weekly+February+2013+Wk+4&dm_i=IJU,1B0XW,8Z1BIT,4FALA,1)

**Council pay-offs should be more transparent:** New transparency rules have been published for councils paying senior staff large salaries, local government secretary Eric Pickles has [announced](#).

[http://www.publicsectorexecutive.com/Public-Sector-News/council-pay-offs-should-be-more-transparent--pickles?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=Public+Sector+Executive&utm\\_campaign=2194052\\_PSE+Weekly+February+2013+Wk+4&dm\\_i=IJU,1B0XW,8Z1BIT,4FALA,1](http://www.publicsectorexecutive.com/Public-Sector-News/council-pay-offs-should-be-more-transparent--pickles?utm_medium=email&utm_source=Public+Sector+Executive&utm_campaign=2194052_PSE+Weekly+February+2013+Wk+4&dm_i=IJU,1B0XW,8Z1BIT,4FALA,1)

**Alcohol Concern and Royal College of Psychiatrists.** A losing bet? Alcohol and gambling: investigating parallels and shared solutions. Problematic gambling and misuse of alcohol can both be regarded as significant health problems, and with adverse consequences to society.

<http://www.alcoholconcern.org.uk/assets/files/Publications/Wales%20publications/A%20losinq%20bet%20-%20final.pdf>

**Department for Communities and Local Government:** *Creating the conditions for integration.* This publication sets out our approach to creating an integrated society. Integration means creating the conditions for everyone to play a full part in national and local life.

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/7504/2092103.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/7504/2092103.pdf)

**Department for Communities and Local Government:** *Social Housing Choice Framework:* Social housing provides homes at below market rents for nearly four million (or one in five) households in England.

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/85870/130219\\_Social\\_Housing\\_Choice\\_Framework\\_final\\_.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/85870/130219_Social_Housing_Choice_Framework_final_.pdf)

**Institute of Public Policy Research:** *Returning irregular migrants: Is deportation the UK's only option?* Irregular migration presents a significant public and policy concern across the EU and in particularly in the UK, where the estimated number of irregular migrants is one of the highest in the EU. <http://www.ippr.org/publication/55/10372/returning-irregular-migrants-is-deportation-the-uks-only-option>

**Local Government Association:** *Evaluation of sector-led improvement.* The evaluation of sector-led improvement is running over a two year period until early 2014, with the aim of understanding whether, in the context of reduced resources within the sector. Further evaluation reports will be published in two phases – an interim report towards the end of spring 2013 and a final report late 2013/early 2014.

[http://www.local.gov.uk/web/guest/research-performance-and-improvement-/journal\\_content/56/10171/3771375/ARTICLE-TEMPLATE](http://www.local.gov.uk/web/guest/research-performance-and-improvement-/journal_content/56/10171/3771375/ARTICLE-TEMPLATE)

**Mental Health Foundation:** *Losing Track of Time: Report on dementia* presenting a looming problem for prisons responsible for a rapidly growing population of older people, yet to date it remains largely overlooked.

<http://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/content/assets/PDF/publications/losing-track-of-time-pdf?view=Standard>

**Office of Public Management:** *Money talks: understanding the value of talking therapies and other nursing services.* Article on mental health problems being related to poverty, deprivation, inequality and other socioeconomic determinants of health, it is logical to

suggest that the current and foreseeable economic conditions pose considerable risks to the mental wellbeing of populations. <http://www.opm.co.uk/news/money-talks-understanding-the-value-of-talking-therapies-and-other-nursing-services/>

**Reform:** *The case for private prisons.* The Government made two major announcements on prisons at the end of 2012: the effective abolition of whole prison contracting to private companies and the decision not to introduce local pay in the prison system.

[http://www.reform.co.uk/resources/0000/0635/Reform\\_Ideas\\_No\\_2\\_-\\_The\\_case\\_for\\_private\\_prisons.pdf](http://www.reform.co.uk/resources/0000/0635/Reform_Ideas_No_2_-_The_case_for_private_prisons.pdf)

**Revolving Doors:** *Little Miracles: Using Communities of Practice to improve front line collaborative responses to multiple needs and exclusions.* This report outlines the findings from the Communities of Practice Development Programme, which was ran jointly in 2012 with King's College, London. <http://www.revolving-doors.org.uk/documents/little-miracles/>

**The ageing population will have a huge impact on health and social services**, and there needs to be a robust plan to prepare for this, a new Lords committee will report. The committee on public service and demographic change has been taking evidence from a range of experts on the impact of the ageing population. It is due to report next month. Half of people born after 2007 can now expect to live to over 100, and between 2010 and 2030 the number of people aged over 65 will increase by 51%. Lord Filkin, chair of the committee, criticised the NHS for not making detailed forecasts for the increase in patients and stated the need for agreement on values and vision of the Government on this issue.

**There is a growing threat of a rise in old age poverty after living costs for the over 75s increased by 25 per cent in only five years, research by the insurance group AXA has shown.** Simon Smallcombe, Head of Guaranteed Distribution for AXA, said: "Even on basic living costs, if current trends continue, by 2016 the oldest people in the country will see their costs outstripping those of people approaching retirement age" ([Times](#)).

**30 million in employment – ONS:** Almost 30 million people were in employment at the end of 2012, new figures from the ONS show. This is an increase of 154,000 on the quarter to September and is the highest total since records began in 1971.

[http://www.publicsectorexecutive.com/Public-Sector-News/30-million-in-employment--ons?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=Public+Sector+Executive&utm\\_campaign=2194052\\_PSE+Weekly+February+2013+Wk+4&dm\\_i=IJU,1B0XW,8Z1BIT,4FALA,1](http://www.publicsectorexecutive.com/Public-Sector-News/30-million-in-employment--ons?utm_medium=email&utm_source=Public+Sector+Executive&utm_campaign=2194052_PSE+Weekly+February+2013+Wk+4&dm_i=IJU,1B0XW,8Z1BIT,4FALA,1)

**Department for Communities and Local Government:** English housing survey 2011-2012: Headline report:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/88370/EHS\\_Headline\\_Report\\_2011-2012.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/88370/EHS_Headline_Report_2011-2012.pdf)

**Department for Education:** Participation in education, training and employment by 16-18 year olds in England.

<http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/careers/payandpensions/a00210462/participation-in-education-training-employment-16-18>

**Ministry of Justice:** Quarterly Criminal Justice Statistics Update – September 2012.

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/downloads/statistics/criminal-justice-stats/criminal-justice-stats-sept-2012.pdf>

**Ministry of Justice:** Local Adult Re-offending 1st October 2011-30th September 2012. The quarterly release presents statistics on the reoffending of adults under supervision of the Probation Service in England and Wales. Data are available at the regional, probation area and local authority level. <http://www.justice.gov.uk/statistics/reoffending/local-adult-reoffending>

**DataShare Launched:** CIPFA and London Borough of Redbridge have launched a new platform to help public sector organisations make data available in a simple and effective way that meets the needs of both government demands and the public audience. <http://www.cipfastats.net/news/newsstory.asp?content=16235>

**Welfare reforms could spark a decade of destitution:** Universal credit could have helped reduce poverty, but its haphazard implementation alongside sweeping changes will put people and businesses at risk. <http://www.guardian.co.uk/housing-network/2013/feb/26/welfare-reforms-spark-decade-destitution>

**Councils are finding creative ways to manage the devolution of council tax benefit to local authorities.** [Council tax](#) support, the benefit that helps people on low wages or not in work pay their council tax, will be devolved to each local authority on 1 April. Decisions over exactly what form the benefit will take will be made by local councils, including how much residents will pay – despite the fact that the budget to manage this has been cut by 12%. Because pensioners are protected, working age households will bear the majority of the burden this creates.

## 4. Consultations

### **Businesses and families invited to shape process for shared parental leave:**

Businesses and working families are invited to submit their views on how the system for shared parental leave and pay will work. The consultation will look at how the new system will work and fit together with current arrangements for maternity and paternity leave and adopters, as part of the government's commitment to create a modern workplace. This will influence how the government legislates under the Children and Families Bill 2013, introduced early February which includes the proposals for shared parental leave and flexible working. More detail here <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/reform-of-flexible-parental-leave>

Acas is separately seeking views from employees and employers, particularly small businesses, who have difficulties managing requests for flexible working fairly. Their draft Code is designed to offer short, practical advice to make it easier for employers to handle requests which they can adapt to fit their own workplace procedures. Both consultations will run for 12 weeks. Responses to the Acas consultation can be submitted by email or letter, email address is: [rightrequest@acas.org.uk](mailto:rightrequest@acas.org.uk)

**CIPFA Corporate Services Benchmarking - Still time to sign up:** There is still time to sign up to our 2013 Corporate Services Benchmarking Clubs, which provide an excellent opportunity to measure the effectiveness of back-office services, with the first set of questionnaires being issued in March. The clubs continue to be the market leader and have been delivered to over 300 local authorities across the UK over the last three years. <http://www.cipfastats.net/news/newsstory.asp?content=16140>