

# More support for local areas to drive up school standards

The government has today (Wednesday 19 May) reinforced its commitment to levelling up education across the country with new, locally targeted initiatives to make sure as many pupils as possible can benefit from being in a great school.

The funding and support for academy trusts is central to a transformative reform package set out by the Education Secretary Gavin Williamson during a [recent speech](#) to the Confederation of School Trusts.

The announcement is one of a range of new policies set out by the Prime Minister today which focus on better access to high-quality education, improved infrastructure in our town centres, and more public sector jobs outside of London – all of which are at the heart of levelling up.

Ten million pounds will be invested to support four areas – Plymouth, Ashfield & Mansfield, South Sefton & North Liverpool, and North Durham & City – where a low proportion of pupils go to Good or Outstanding schools and there is high potential for rapid improvement.

The investment will help local schools join strong trusts and drive up standards with the support of experienced school and trust leaders.

Up to half of the £10 million funding for the four areas receiving intensive support will be channelled through the Trust Capacity Fund, which opens for applications today from trusts looking to support more schools in those areas and across the country.

The Department is also providing £800,000 in setup funding towards a pilot of five new Catholic multi-academy trusts and two new Church of England trusts to provide more church schools the opportunity to join strong trusts across the country.

Education Secretary, Gavin Williamson, said:

I am determined to focus this government's resources on the areas of the country where the number of pupils in Good or Outstanding schools is lower than average, as we build back better and recover from the impact of the pandemic.

An education at a great school is the best way to make sure pupils are supported to catch up on any academic learning or development they may have missed, and fulfil their potential. The best way to create more great schools is to give all schools the support of a strong multi-academy trust to help them improve.

I am encouraging all school trusts today to consider applying for

funding to expand and support more schools, particularly in those areas of the country where there are still too few opportunities for children to attend a great school.

Chief Executive of Plymouth City Council, Tracey Lee, said:

I am delighted that Plymouth is one of the first few areas to have been selected to take part in this significant national initiative.

I am sure all education providers in the city share the excitement that Plymouth is recognised by the Government as an area that has good foundations with a place-based collaboration and is most likely to achieve success as a trailblazer of this national initiative.

There are many challenges in improving the educational achievements for all children and young people in Plymouth, and we do not underestimate these. This initiative will support us in facing these head on and achieving our vision that all children and young people in the city are able to aspire and achieve and have a bright future.

An additional Catholic 'turnaround trust' is also being set up as a joint pilot with the Catholic Education Service and Catholic Dioceses in the North West. It will work with Catholic schools within the Dioceses of Liverpool and Shrewsbury that require swift support from a strong trust – providing an additional boost to efforts to secure rapid improvement in the South Sefton & North Liverpool area.

Director of the Catholic Education Service, Paul Barber, said:

As the second largest provider of schools in the country and one of the government's longstanding partners in the delivery of education, we warmly welcome this announcement.

Catholic academies and multi-academy trusts play an important part in our education landscape and it is essential that they are allowed to flourish in a manner that respects their Catholic ethos. We strongly believe these pilot programmes will give Catholic schools the confidence to join a suitable Catholic Academy Trust and witness the benefits of working within a family of schools.

Chief Education Officer at the Church of England, Nigel Genders, said:

This pilot together with the Government's financial commitment will enable Church of England dioceses to use their broad experience to further enrich the academy sector by growing distinctive diocesan

MATs that will sustain and improve the experience of hundreds of thousands of children in Church of England schools, supporting our aim of serving the whole community, and allowing young people to flourish and live well in an ever changing educational landscape.

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## **Environment Agency crushes 8 wheel truck linked to Kent waste crime**

A tipper truck linked to illegal waste activity across Kent has been seized and crushed by the Environment Agency.

The 8 wheeler truck is believed to belong to an organised group operating in south east England, and was discovered in February near Iwade, outside Sittingbourne in Kent, during an ongoing Environment Agency waste crime investigation.

The truck was seen at a number of waste sites across Kent and is linked to illegal dumping of waste at commercial properties.

The vehicle in question was crushed, under Environment Agency supervision, by a licensed scrap yard as part of an operation into large scale illegal dumping of commercial waste.

The Environment Agency is urging everyone, whether a resident or a business, to take responsibility for their own waste. It advises people not to give waste to someone who can't prove they are a legitimate waste carrier, because they are likely to dump the rubbish, to avoid paying waste disposal costs. A waste transfer note should always be obtained from waste collectors as proof. Anyone in doubt should call either the Environment Agency's incident hotline on 0800 80 70 60, use the [Crimestoppers online form](#), or call anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Alan Cansdale, Environment Manager, said:

In cases like this, where the actions of individuals threaten to undermine legitimate businesses, we have no hesitation in using all powers open to us, including crushing their vehicles. We continually use reports from the public to build intelligence and target our work at those involved in organised environmental crime and where their activities pose the greatest risk to the environment.

The power to seize vehicles is an important weapon in our armoury for disrupting this type of criminal activity. Our new waste powers

mean that tougher action can be taken to reduce illegal waste activity – making a real difference to local communities.

Using illegal waste dealers may seem tempting in terms of cost, but it can help fund organised crime. Everyone has a responsibility for their own waste and if your waste is found at an illegal site you could be facing fines of up to £5,000.

To avoid this, we encourage members of the public and local businesses to ask their waste carrier for proof of their waste carrier's registration and to ask to see a 'waste transfer note' and take a photo of it on their phone.

No one came forward to claim the truck after its seizure was advertised. Under the powers granted by 'The Control of Waste (Dealing with Seized Property) Regulations 2015' the Environment Agency can destroy seized vehicles.

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## **VMD online services will be unavailable Friday 28 May 6pm to Wednesday 2 June 6am**

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## Government Chemist team publish a tutorial review of cannabinoids

### News story

This tutorial paper offers a review of the common names, abbreviations, regulation, psychoactivity and analytical methodology for the principle cannabinoids



CBD edible products are now regulated as novel foods. They must also be compositionally safe and correctly labelled. Wide variation in compliance with CBD label claims has been recorded and the presence of controlled cannabinoids is a known risk.

To assist regulation and trade the Government Chemist has published a tutorial review of the common names, abbreviations, regulation, psychoactivity and analytical methodology for the principle cannabinoids. Their chemical structures and IUPAC nomenclature have also been included.

The abbreviations, common names and chemical structures for 16 cannabinoids are listed along with their International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) names, the unique scientific reference.

The paper is available at the [Journal of the Association of Public Analysts \(JAPA\)](#) and, as with all JAPA papers, the full text is open access through the support of the Association of Public Analysts.

[Dr Michael Walker](#) said:

There is confusion about cannabinoid names, CBD, THC, CBG and so on, what do the abbreviations mean, are they related, which of

these are psychoactive, and what levels of controlled cannabinoids might be tolerable in regulated CBD-products sold as foods or supplements? This paper reviews and explains these and many other aspects. We hope it will be of help to food businesses, those who regulate them and anyone with an interest in this fascinating topic.

For enquiries related to food and feed regulatory testing or information about the work of the Government Chemist contact:

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