

Children and Young People Board

Agenda

Friday 18 October 2013
9.15am

Harrogate International Centre,
Queens Suite 2,
King's Road,
Harrogate,
North Yorkshire,
HG1 5LA

To: Members of the Children and Young People Board
cc: Named officers for briefing purposes

www.local.gov.uk

This meeting is



LGA Children and Young People Board

18 October 2013

There will be a meeting of the LGA Children and Young People Board at:

9.15am on Friday 18 October in Queens Suite 2 of the Harrogate International Centre, King's Road, Harrogate, North Yorkshire, HG1 5LA.

Attendance Sheet

Please ensure that you sign the attendance register, which will be available in the meeting room. It is the only record of your presence at the meeting.

Apologies

Please notify your political group office (see contact telephone numbers below) if you are unable to attend this meeting, so that a substitute can be arranged and catering numbers adjusted, if necessary.

Political Group meetings

Please refer to your Political Group office (see contact details below) for group meeting timings and venues.

Labour:	Aicha Less: 020 7664 3263 email: aicha.less@local.gov.uk
Conservative:	Luke Taylor: 020 7664 3264 email: luke.taylor@local.gov.uk
Liberal Democrat:	Group Office: 020 7664 3235 email: libdem@local.gov.uk
Independent:	Group Office: 020 7664 3224 email: independent.group@local.gov.uk

Location

A map showing the location of the Harrogate International Centre is printed on the back cover.

LGA Contact

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Social Media

The LGA is committed to using social media in a co-ordinated and sensible way, as part of a strategic approach to communications, to help enhance the reputation of local government, improvement engagement with different elements of the community and drive efficiency. Please feel free to use social media during this meeting. **However, you are requested not to use social media during any confidential items.**

The twitter hashtag for this meeting is #lgacyp

Carers' Allowance

As part of the LGA Members' Allowances Scheme a Carer's Allowance of up to £6.31 per hour is available to cover the cost of dependants (i.e. children, elderly people or people with disabilities) incurred as a result of attending this meeting.

Children and Young People Board

Date: 08.08.13

Children and Young People Board - Membership 2013/2014

Councillor	Authority
Conservative (7)	
David Simmonds [Chairman]	Hillingdon LB
Paul Carter	Kent CC
Patricia Bradwell	Lincolnshire CC
Roy Perry	Hampshire CC
Paul McLain	Gloucestershire CC
Liz Hackett Pain	Monmouthshire CC
John Osman	Somerset CC
Substitutes:	
Tony Hall	North Yorkshire CC
Peter Evans	West Sussex CC
Tom Garrod	Norfolk CC
Ivan Ould	Leicestershire CC
Labour (7)	
Nick Forbes [Vice Chair]	Newcastle City
Rita Krishna	Hackney LB
John Merry CBE	Salford City
Paul Lakin	Rotherham MBC
Nicky Williams	Plymouth City
Anne Western	Derbyshire CC
Richard Watts	Islington LB
Substitutes:	
Dora Dixon Fyle	Southwark LB
Liberal Democrat (2)	
Liz Green [Deputy Chair]	Kingston upon Thames RB
David Bellotti	Bath & NE Somerset Council
Substitutes:	
Peter Downes OBE	Cambridgeshire CC
Independent (2)	
Apu Bagchi [Deputy Chair]	Bedford BC
Helen Powell	Lincolnshire CC/South Kesteven DC
Substitutes	
TBC	

Agenda

Children and Young People Board

18 October 2013

9.15am

Queens Suite 2, Harrogate International Centre

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4. Next Meeting: 9 January 2014, Local Government House, London	
Close	10.15am

Our ambition for children

Purpose of report

For discussion.

Summary

This report sets out possible elements of a vision for 'our ambition for children' for Lead Members for Children's Services and members of the Board to discuss and comment on.

Recommendation

That members provide their views on 'our ambition for children.'

Action

Officers to take action arising out any discussion, as directed by members.

Contact officers:

Helen Johnston/Ian Keating

Position:

Head of Programme/Senior Adviser CYP

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Our ambition for children

Background

1. In July the LGA launched our campaign to rewire public services. It is an ambitious programme that provides much-needed solutions to how we can deliver public services despite the pressures on public spending, which has seen councils facing the biggest cuts in the public sector. The aim is to influence debate now and the party manifestos being written for the next General Election in 2015. As part of the campaign, a specific set of proposals for children's services was published¹. The key principle underpinning these proposals was the need for decision-making for public services to be brought together in one place. We argued that what people want more than anything else is for services to be built around children and their families, not around buildings, institutions and wasteful bureaucracy.

Setting out our ambition for children

2. We now want to build on these proposals to set out a clear set of shared ambitions for children and how all parts of the public, private and voluntary sector can work together, and with children and young people, families and the wider community to achieve them. Following this discussion by the members of the CYP Board and Lead Members for Children's Services we will be looking to launch a national debate, culminating in the launch of a set of proposals at the LGA Annual Conference next summer.
3. The intention is not to try to 'codify' an agreed set of outcomes, in the way that 'Every Child Matters' sought to do. But members are invited to discuss and comment on whether the set of ambitions set out below, represent a fairly commonly agreed set of ambitions:
 - 3.1 That children and young people should feel that they are loved and that they are safe and secure;
 - 3.2 That they are healthy and happy;
 - 3.3 That they get a good education that allows them to fulfil their potential, and achieve their ambitions; and
 - 3.4 That they are well-prepared for adulthood, equipped to follow their chosen career path and in their turn make a positive contribution to society and to the life-chances of future generations.

The principles underlying our ambitions

4. The real challenge will be how to achieve these ambitions in practice. Members are invited to discuss and comment on whether the following principles capture what needs to be done:

¹ See http://www.local.gov.uk/publications/-/journal_content/56/10180/4048108/PUBLICATION

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- 4.1 The vision should be for all children and young people. It should focus on improving outcomes primarily through universal services such as health visitors and schools. It should talk about moral purpose and the need for greater local democratic accountability and local democratic engagement.
- 4.2 It should seek to avoid the current 'deficit' model whereby local providers such as schools and health services are encouraged to focus on 'what they are good at', with councils and other services such as the criminal justice system are seen as 'safety net' for the most vulnerable and for when things go wrong.
- 4.3 Local government's unique selling point is that it is the only part of the public sector that has a responsibility for children and young people from 0- 25 and the only one that can join up things locally on the ground, focused on the needs of the individual. It has a unique local leadership role, but this does not mean that it will be the provider of services. It will have an increasingly strategic role as commissioner of high quality local services and champion of children, young people and their families.
- 4.4 Another theme should be getting away from a 'deficit' and 'blame' model for inspection. The inspectorates should be part of the range of tools available to councils, councillors and local parents and young people to hold local providers to account. The aim should be to improve the local offer, not point the finger of blame. This model is deterring good people from coming forward and remaining in key frontline roles such as social workers and teachers.
- 4.5 A theme needs to be the contribution to deficit reduction and growth that reforming local public services can make. The focus needs to decisively switch to early help and intervention and on joining up services around individuals and families. One possibility would be to commission some research on the amount of money/plethora of different funding streams which support children and families, but currently operate in uncoordinated silos.
- 4.6 We need to incorporate the 'voice' of children and young people in the development of the vision, right from the start.

Focusing on the growth of children and young people

5. Comments are invited on the proposal that the focus should be on the 'growth' of a child, from birth to adulthood (0 – 25), rather than on 'service areas' like 'education' and 'health': for example:
 - 5.1 **0 – 5**: the council role in commissioning health visitors, children's centres and delivering improvements in early years in terms of 'universal' services. Adoption, permanence, early help, family intervention and improving early support for children identified as having SEN for more vulnerable groups.
 - 5.2 **5 – 11**: In terms of universal services: improving primary schools, ensuring fair access to schools, providing sufficient places and commissioning for improved health outcomes for children. In addition, improving support to children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and encouraging local businesses to

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work with primary schools to raise ambition and aspiration, particularly among the most disadvantaged groups.

5.3 **11-16**: Supporting improvement in secondary schools; commissioning support with particular health and family issues for adolescents; providing youth services and positive activities for young people; and making sure schools provide high quality and independent career advice. On the social care side, supporting families with teenagers; providing 'permanence' in case of family breakdown; and supporting young people with SEND.

5.4 **16 –25**: A focus on jobs for all, economic development and working with business to prepare young people for the world of work – i.e. the set of youth unemployment ('hidden talents') issues. This will include supporting the Raising of the Age of Participation; the need to complete the transfer to councils of funding and commissioning 16-19 education and training; and local support for transitions to adulthood and work, particularly for the most vulnerable young people and those with SEND.

Financial Implications

6. There are no financial implications for the LGA arising from this report.

Overview and progress of the LGA's Children and Young People Board's work programme

Purpose of report

For information and comment.

Summary

This report provides an overview of the LGA Children and Young People Board's priorities and work programme and an update on progress for the Board since the last meeting.

Recommendation

That members note the progress made on the Board's work programme and priorities for the year.

Action

To be taken forward by officers as directed by members of the Board.

Contact officer: Helen Johnston
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Overview and progress of the LGA's Children and Young People Board's work programme

Background

1. The LGA business plan 2013/14 centres on three priorities:
 - 1.1 Funding for local government;
 - 1.2 Economic growth, jobs and prosperity; and
 - 1.3 Public service reform.
2. The Board's work programme focuses on the impact of these priorities on services for children and young people and takes forward the debate on the LGA's rewiring public services campaign, which includes specific propositions for children's services. At its last meeting on 10 September 2013 the Board discussed the projects underway. A brief outline of those projects with progress since the last meeting is as follows:

2013/14 work plan progress

- 2.1 **Funding for local government:** We have commissioned CIPFA to undertake a project to improve children's services costs data in preparation for the 2015 Spending Review. This is a sector-led project, jointly commissioned with the Society of Local Authority Chief Executives (SOLACE), the Association of Directors of Children's Services (ADCS) and London Councils. We are working to prepare a response to the proposed national funding formula for schools; to highlight the challenges facing councils in responding to increasing demand for school places; and provide support for councils in implementing high needs place funding arrangements for 2014/15.
- 2.2 **Economic Growth, jobs and prosperity:** Since the start of this project we have been gathering evidence to demonstrate that councils are best placed to identify and support young people not in education, training or employment and supporting councils in their responsibilities relating to the raising of the age of participation in education and training. We are working to influence the shape of Government's reform agenda and the Cabinet Office Review into schemes for 16 – 24 year olds. This was prompted by the Youth Contract's poor performance combined with pressure from the LGA and others and focuses on rationalising the complexity of provision for young people. We have submitted evidence based on our Hidden Talents campaign work, published research exposing the pitfalls of centralised approaches, and held a number of meetings with Ministers, including the Deputy Prime Minister and with partner organisations.
- 2.3 **Public Service Reform - Children's social care:** Our lobbying against the provisions of the Children and Families Bill which could remove councils from adopter recruitment has led to amendments being tabled by Peers for the House of Lords Committee stage and an announcement by the Minister to introduce a

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government amendment to ensure that the power is exercised with caution. The online resources published by the LGA to help councils to raise awareness of child sexual exploitation were viewed by over 1,500 people in the first month and have been commended by the Deputy Children's Commissioner. We also launched our action research into more effective commissioning of children's homes at a fully booked event in September.

- 2.4 Public Service Reform - Education:** promoting a strong role for councils in education for children and young people from early years through to post-16 education. We are reviewing the impact of the new Ofsted inspection framework for councils' school improvement services and a report on the use of scrutiny in holding schools and Academies to account is being launched at the National Children's and Adults conference. We are also working to ensure that reforms to councils' statutory duties in the Children and Families Bill for children and young people with Special Educational Needs allow councils to retain the flexibility to respond to the needs of individual children and young people and local circumstances. As a result of our lobbying, amendments have been tabled by Peers for the House of Lords Committee stage to improve accountability for parents and young people. Work to prepare councils to prepare for the implementation of the reforms in 2014 is being undertaken with pathfinder councils
- 2.5 Public Service Reform - Children's health:** Working with partners we have helped to set up a Children's Health and Wellbeing Partnership (CHWP) to take a strategic lead on children's health issues. Its aims include: overseeing the safe transfer of 0-5 public health commissioning to local government in 2015; taking a cross departmental approach to early intervention, prevention and integrated care and support for children and young people; and helping local government to understand its new responsibilities. We are also holding public health events and publishing information for members and officers to help them tackle health inequalities and improve the long term health outcomes for children, young people and families.
- 2.6 Sector-led improvement and innovation:** Following the withdrawal of DfE funding in April 2013 (and subsequent consultation with local authorities), the LGA Children and Young People's Board agreed that the LGA would continue some key elements of the Children's Improvement Board led programme and continue to work in partnership with ADCS and SOLACE to support councils and to continue a high level dialogue on improvement and on the relationship with regulation by Ofsted.
- 2.7 The key elements of the sector-led offer are:** a leadership academy for lead members for children's services (with 13 attending the most recent one in September); joint work on leadership in partnership with SOLACE and the Virtual Staff College (who provide leadership support for DCSs); quicker and easier access to data reports on children's services; the safeguarding peer review and shorter "diagnostics" on safeguarding and care; and up to five days immediate specialist children's services support for councils receiving an inadequate Ofsted judgement. LGA's Principal Advisers are the first point of contact for advice for

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councils and each region has a lead member, a chief executive and a DCS who leads on sector-led improvement, as well as the regional networks of lead members for children who receive regular updates from the LGA.

Financial Implications

3. There are no additional financial implications arising from this report.

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Note of decisions taken and actions required

Title: Children and Young People
Date: Tuesday 10 September 2013
Venue: Westminster Room, Local Government House, Smith Square, London SW1P 3HZ

Attendance

Position	Councillor	Council / Representing
Chairman	David Simmonds	Hillingdon LB
Vice-Chair	Nick Forbes	Newcastle City
Deputy-Chair	Liz Green	Kingston upon Thames RB
Deputy-Chair	Apu Bagchi	Bedford BC
Members	Paul Carter	Kent CC
	Roy Perry	Hampshire CC
	Paul McLain	Gloucestershire CC
	Liz Hackett Pain	Monmouthshire CC
	John Osman	Somerset CC
	Rita Krishna	Hackney LB
	John Merry	Salford City
	Nicky Williams	Plymouth City
	David Bellotti	Bath & NE Somerset Council
	Helen Powell	Lincolnshire CC/South Kesteven DC
Substitutes	Ivan Ould	Leicestershire CC
	Tom Garrod – as an observer	Norfolk CC
Apologies	Patricia Bradwell	Lincolnshire CC
	Paul Lakin	Rotherham MBC

Officers: Helen Johnston, Cassi Harrison, Verity Sinclair

Guests: Sir Michael Wilshaw, Mike Cladingbow, Thomas Cattermole, David Clark, James Cathcart, Jan Fishwick, Mark Owers,

Item	Decisions and actions	Action by
	<p>Cllr David Simmonds welcomed everybody to the first meeting of the new Children and Young People Board and asked all councillors and officers to introduce themselves. As the guest speaker Sir Michael Wilshaw Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education and Children's Services was already in attendance it was agreed item 2 would be taken first.</p>	
1.	Recent Ofsted Developments	
	<p>Cllr Simmonds introduced guest speaker Sir Michael Wilshaw.</p>	
	<p>Sir Michael Wilshaw thanked the Board for inviting him and explained his desire for a successful dialogue between local government and Ofsted. He emphasised how the changes made by Ofsted, alongside better school leadership and teaching quality had led to a 9% increase in schools achieving either a good or outstanding rating. However, regional variations and the attainment gap between children from advantaged and disadvantaged backgrounds were still of concern. Ofsted had performed focused inspections on two local authorities, to assess how they were working to improve standards.</p>	
	<p>Sir Michael Wilshaw told the Board that he saw local government as the middle tier and while they were not expected to have big school improvement teams with the current budget restraints, they should be proactive in employing the resources and powers they currently have. He explained he saw the current situation as the last chance saloon for councils to demonstrate they could play an effective role in school improvement. With Ofsted's new improvement role he explained that whilst inspection would be their first priority they would also work with local authorities to improve standards.</p>	
	<p>A number of issues were raised during the subsequent discussion.</p>	
	<p>Members sought assurance that there would be some consistency of inspection frameworks in future given the many recent changes and that inspectors would be of a high quality. Sir Michael Wilshaw replied saying that inspections would be continuing under this framework for at least the next couple of years and he would be doing everything possible to make sure they were not in any way bureaucratic. If authorities had a problem with the way they had been inspected or the specific inspector they could make a complaint to Ofsted and it would be investigated.</p>	
	<p>Some members raised concerns over the perceived bias towards academic attainment over pupil progress. Sir Michael emphasised that progress of pupils was the benchmark of a good school rather than comparison with national attainment averages.</p>	
	<p>Problems with obtaining information on academy schools were raised with Sir Michael saying that alongside finding the information on the ground through local channels, they could access 'Raiseonline' which held data on school and pupil performance.</p>	

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The challenge of recruiting and retaining social workers and senior managers in light of increasingly tough inspections which do not seem to celebrate success was raised. It was agreed by Sir Michael Wilshaw that this was a concern and that he would raise the issue in his speech when the Ofsted annual report is published in October; however he felt that councils who nurtured a good relationship with their social work teams should be able to retain staff.

Concerns were raised about how multi-agency working fits alongside the single point of contact policy promoted by the Troubled Families Programme. Sir Michael Wilshaw assured members that the introduction of multi-agency inspections for child protection had been deferred in order to make sure it was implemented correctly and issues relating to how different agencies would be held accountable were resolved.

Councillor Simmonds thanked Sir Michael Wilshaw for attending the meeting.

Decision

Members noted the report

Action

Officers to take forward this work in light of Members' comments.

LGA Officers

2. Introduction and Overview of the LGA's Children and Young People Board

The Board had a short discussion on the priorities for the year ahead. Some members noted that troubled families could have a more prominent place in the report, but members broadly agreed with the proposals.

Decision

Members agreed the report

Action

Officers to take forward this work in light of Members' comments.

LGA Officers

3. British Youth Council

David Clark, Deputy CEO of the British Youth Council (BYC) gave a presentation which explained the role of the BYC, focusing on the good practice and successes as well as the challenges they were currently facing.

Members raised questions on the best avenues for youth engagement, budgetary constraints and the importance of educating people about democracy from a young age.

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Decision

Members noted the report

Action

Officers to take forward this work in light of Members' comments.

Nick Porter

4. Adopter Recruitment

Mark Owers and Jan Fishwick from the Consortium of Voluntary Adoption Agencies presented a report to the Board on the CVAA's role, explaining they were a registered charity with 31 voluntary adoption agencies as members, 23 of which were in England.

Both spoke of their willingness to work with partners including the LGA, as well as working with local authorities to expedite those children who had been waiting longest for adoption. However concerns about sequential decision making leading to delays were raised and they outlined the reasons why local authorities had been asked to equalise the fee to the level charged by voluntary agencies. They also gave an overview of proposals to work more closely with local government in order to sustain growth in adopter recruitment across the system. .

A question and answer session was held, with members discussing a range of issues including increasing access to training for adopters in order to reduce placement breakdown; the need to look at other permanency solutions such as fostering; the difficulties of finding adopters for harder to place children; and how to market adoption opportunities.

Decision

Members noted the report

Action

Officers to take forward this work in light of Members' comments

Cassi
Harrison

5. Other Business Report

Cllr Bellotti mentioned the Education Services Grant and discussed the possibility of setting up a DfE working group on finances.

Cllr Krishna raised concerns about the children's health update and sought assurance that the LGA would be more robust in representing local government's interests to NHS England. Other members mentioned issues with capacity of Health and Wellbeing Boards and it was decided that this

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would be discussed at a future meeting.

Decision

Members noted the report

Action

Officers to take forward this work in light of Members' comments

LGA Officers

6. Notes of the last meeting and actions arising

The Board **agreed** the note of the last meeting

Harrogate International Centre Location Map

By Car

- From London: M1 - A1(M) exit Wetherby (9 miles from Harrogate)
- From the North: A1 - exit Wetherby or Knaresborough (Knaresborough is 8 miles from Harrogate)
- From the East: M621 - A1(M) - exit Wetherby
- From the West: M56 - M62 - A1(M) - exit Wetherby

Car Parking at HIC

HIC has its own 210 space dedicated underground car park, further 1,200 at the nearby Jubilee and Victoria car parks, plus a 180-space car park specifically for contractors.

These costs are for the HIC underground car park.

Daytime £

Up to 3 hours 4.00, Up to 6 hours 7.50, Up to 12 hours 11.50
24 hours 13.00

By Train

They are linked to all major UK cities via Leeds or York including a direct connection to London daily.
See www.nationalrail.co.uk for timetables.

By Air

Leeds Bradford International Airport (LBA) is the closest airport to Harrogate. British Airways run daily flights between Harrogate and London Heathrow and there are regular flights from many connections in Europe and worldwide. For more information on flights:
www.leedsbradfordairport.co.uk

To get from the airport to Harrogate - Catch the Airport Direct 737 bus which runs hourly and will drop you off at the bus station, then it is just a short walk from the HIC, or alternatively there is a taxi service available and we are only 12 miles away.

