

Children and Young People Board

Agenda

Thursday, 3 November 2016
4.30 pm

Manchester Central Convention Complex,
Windmill St, Manchester M2 3GX

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

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This meeting is



Children & Young People Board
3 November 2016

There will be a meeting of the Children & Young People Board at **4.30 pm on Thursday, 3 November 2016** Manchester Central Convention Complex, Windmill St, Manchester M2 3GX.

A sandwich lunch will be available directly after the meeting.

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.

Political Group meetings:

The group meetings will take place prior to the meeting. Please contact your political group as outlined below for further details.

Apologies:

Please notify your political group office (see contact telephone numbers below) if you are unable to attend this meeting.

Conservative:	Group Office: 020 7664 3223	email: lgaconservatives@local.gov.uk
Labour:	Group Office: 020 7664 3334	email: Labour.GroupLGA@local.gov.uk
Independent:	Group Office: 020 7664 3224	email: independent.grouplga@local.gov.uk
Liberal Democrat:	Group Office: 020 7664 3235	email: libdem@local.gov.uk

Location:

A map showing the location of the Manchester Central Convention Complex is printed on the back cover.

LGA Contact:

Joseph Ling
07464652858 / 0207 664 3166 / joseph.ling@local.gov.uk

Carers' Allowance

As part of the LGA Members' Allowances Scheme a Carer's Allowance of up to £6.70 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.

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

Children & Young People Board – Membership 2016/2017

Councillor	Authority
Conservative (7)	
Cllr Roy Perry (Vice-Chair)	Hampshire County Council
Cllr Gareth Barnard	Bracknell Forest Borough Council
Cllr Liz Hackett Pain	Monmouthshire County Council
Cllr Ian Hudspeth	Oxfordshire County Council
Cllr Dick Madden	Essex County Council
Cllr Ian Parry	Staffordshire County Council
Cllr Janet Walton	Borough of Poole
Substitutes	
Cllr Matt Bennett	Birmingham City Council
Cllr Ryan Brent	Portsmouth City Council
Cllr Peter Oakford	Kent County Council
Labour (7)	
Cllr Richard Watts (Chairman)	Islington Council
Cllr John Kent	Thurrock Council
Cllr Bob Cook	Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council
Cllr Anne Burns	Cumbria County Council
Cllr Anntoinette Bramble	Hackney London Borough Council
Cllr David Mellen	Nottingham City Council
Cllr Roz Gladden	Liverpool City Council
Substitutes	
Cllr Megan Swift	Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council
Cllr Dora Dixon-Fyle MBE	Southwark Council
Independent (2)	
Cllr Gillian Ford (Deputy Chair)	Havering London Borough Council
Cllr Paul Cullen	Richmondshire District Council
Substitutes	
Cllr Rebecca Novell	Lancaster City Council
Liberal Democrat (2)	
Cllr Liz Green (Deputy Chair)	Kingston upon Thames Royal Borough Council
Cllr Christopher Coleman	Cheltenham Borough Council
Substitutes	
Cllr Jon Hubbard	Wiltshire Council

Agenda

Children & Young People Board

Thursday 3 November 2016

4.30 pm

Manchester Central Convention Complex, Windmill St, Manchester M2 3GX

Item	Page	Time
1. Declarations of Interest		
2. A discussion with the Rt Hon Edward Timpson MP (Minister of State for Vulnerable Children and Families, Department of Education)		
3. The future of children's services improvement	1 - 4	
a) Appendix A - Isos Partnership Report: Seven universal enablers of improvement in children's services	5 - 6	
4. Note of the Previous Meeting	7 - 13	

MAP OF MANCHESTER CENTRAL CONVENTION COMPLEX

Date of Next Meeting: Friday, 13 January 2017, 11.00 am, Room D&E, Ground Floor, Layden House, 76-86 Turnmill Street, London, EC1M 5LG

The future of children's services improvement

Purpose of report

For discussion and direction.

Summary

This report begins the consultation on the creation of a task and finish Group on the future of children's services improvement, following the direction of the board on 29th September.

Members are asked to consider their responses to the following questions, in order to help guide the remit of the group:

1. Do we recognise the content of the National Audit Office 'Children in need of help or protection' report and agree with Ofsted that 75% of councils are less than *good*?
2. What are the key problems and pressures facing all children's services departments?
3. Is there a shared understanding of what drives improvement and where expertise lies?
4. Are the seven enablers identified in the Isos research accurate and if not, which others have been missed?
5. Are there gaps in the existing children's sector-led support offer and if so, what should be done to fill them?
6. Should the LGA lobby for the DfE to consult with the sector on how funding is spent to support children's services improvement beyond those councils judged to be *inadequate*?
7. What support should be made available to those councils judged to be *inadequate* and what are realistic expectations for their improvement?

Recommendations

Members are asked to:

1. Note the current context in which children's services are delivered.
2. Consider and respond to the questions posed in the report.

Action

Officers to use member's comments to inform the work of the task and finish group.

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The future of children's services improvement

Introduction

1. Evidence indicates that, over the past five years in England, overall demand for children's social care services has increased significantly (for example there has been a 60% rise in child protection plans since 2008, which equates to about 20,000 additional plans) while English local authorities' spending power has decreased.
2. The nature and understanding of children's needs has also change, with greater concerns, for example, about radicalisation and child sexual exploitation. In addition, children's social care services are implementing a range of reforms following recent changes to the legislative framework, such as those relating to special education needs and disability and adoption. These are taking place at the same time as the implementation of reforms to social work practice led by the Chief Social Worker for children and families, and forthcoming changes to multi-agency safeguarding arrangements following the Wood Review of LSCBs
3. Since Ofsted introduced the Single Inspection Framework in 2013 the number of councils judged to be *good* or better has dropped to 25%, compared to 78% in 2008. Ofsted were clear that with the introduction of the SIF they were raising the bar and that only *good* was good enough, but there appears to be no clear narrative on the extent to which these inspection results actually reflect a decline in performance.
4. What is clear is that receiving an *inadequate* judgement from Ofsted often leads to a further downturn in performance. One of Ofsted's central roles is to "help providers that are not yet of a good standard to improve", but analysis undertaken by iMPOWER consulting for the LGA¹ shows that the regulator is falling significantly short of achieving its stated purpose and is, inadvertently, creating an environment in which it is becoming increasingly difficult for authorities to make the necessary improvements to deliver better services.
5. The research shows that an *inadequate* rating appears to be a catalyst for driving even poorer performance and in effect creates a barrier to the improvement required. For many, the rating '*requires improvement*' is also considered to be an obstruction which prevents further improvement, rather than being a catalyst for delivering change. Given that three quarters of councils that have been inspected so far are either *requires improvement* (50%) or *inadequate* (25%), this is a significant concern for the sector.

¹ <http://www.local.gov.uk/documents/10180/11431/impower+LGA+report+v5+%282%29.pdf/029591f4-3ea6-4feb-9cfb-b0a6c72fc2f0>

The children's services context

6. The Department for Education (DfE) published its 'Vision for change' in January 2016, setting out a programme of children's social care reform, which will be structured around the following areas:
 - 6.1. People and leadership
 - 6.2. Practise and systems
 - 6.3. Governance and accountability
7. The 'Vision' sets out the DfE's ambition to see a more diverse range of children's social care organisations (including the creation of Trusts and Commissioning models that remove social care from direct council control) in a third of local authority areas by 2020.
8. The LGA is concerned that a focus on structures alone risks missing the innovative work that councils are already undertaking and, further to this, there are other, more effective, ways of driving improvement in children's services.
9. The National Audit Office's 'Children in need of help or protection' report, published in October, highlighted that the DfE's social care reform programme had yet to result in good outcomes and questioned the Department's capacity and capability to implement the reforms set out in the 'Vision' by 2020.
10. The LGA has developed a strong sector-led improvement offer for children's services that includes a variety of peer reviews and diagnostics, leadership courses for children's lead members, individual mentoring support and a suite of 'must know' guides. These products and services are complimented by a variety of sector-led improvement work that is undertaken at a regional level by ADCS, but there is insufficient capacity and funding to ensure all support needs are met.
11. To gain a better understanding of what works in driving improvement in children's services, the LGA commissioned the Isos Partnership to undertake action research which attempted to answer two central questions:
 - 11.1. What are the key enablers of (and barriers to) improvement in local children's services?
 - 11.2. How can the system as a whole facilitate and support improvement in local children's services?
12. The research identified seven universal enablers which the LGA believes are key to driving improvement in children's services (attached as **Appendix A**).
13. The Isos action research also highlighted the fact that genuinely sustained improvement was a long-term endeavour. The report noted a number of factors that can determine how quickly a local area can progress along the improvement journey. These include:
 - 13.1. The depth and duration of service failure – long-term underperformance by children's services can have a compounding effect on the needs of children and families who need support.

- 13.2. The level of frank recognition and acceptance by leaders of the nature of failure – rather than investing time in disputing whether this is the case.
- 13.3. The effectiveness of the initial response – specifically avoiding false starts on ill-thought-out restructures or innovations, leading to staff turbulence.

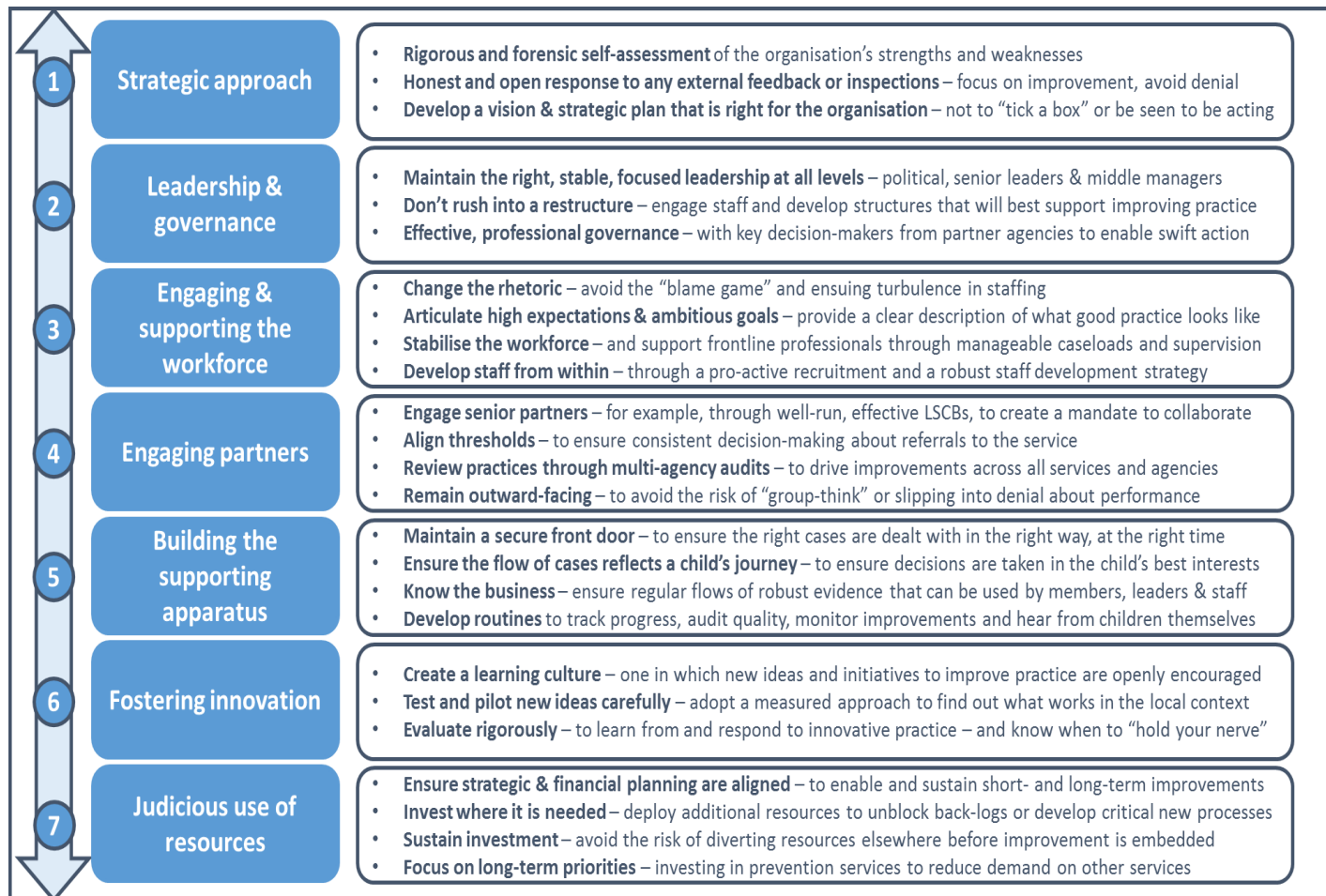
Questions for discussion

14. The Children and Young People Board is keen to engage with member councils to get a clear picture what works best in driving improvement in children's services and use this evidence to inform the work of the task and finish group.

Financial implications

15. There are no specific additional financial implications for the LGA arising from this report.

Isos Partnership Report: Seven universal enablers of improvement in children’s services



Note of last Children & Young People Board meeting

Title: Children & Young People Board
Date: Thursday 29 September 2016
Venue: Westminster Suite, 8th Floor, Local Government House, Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ

Attendance

An attendance list is attached as **Appendix A** to this note

Item	Decisions and actions	Action
1	<p>Declarations of Interest</p> <p>The Chair welcomed the members to the first meeting of the new political cycle and noted the apologies received by the board. He also thanked the previous Chairman, Cllr Roy Perry, for his work on the board.</p> <p>Due to the discussion item on the Schools that work for everyone Green Paper, Cllr Roy Perry, Vice-Chairman, declared that he was the Governor of an independent school.</p>	
2	<p>Membership, Terms of Reference and Appointments to Outside Bodies</p> <p>The Chair asked the Board to note its new membership and agree its terms of reference for 2016/17.</p> <p>The Chair also updated the board as to its working relationship with four outside bodies, and asked the board to appoint members to each of these positions.</p> <p>The Chair asked for a verbal update from those members appointed to outside bodies for the previous political cycle.</p> <p>Decision</p> <p>The Board noted its new membership and agreed its term of reference for 2016/17.</p> <p>The following appointees to outside bodies were agreed by the board;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Adoption Leadership Board – Cllr Chris Coleman2. The Wood Review – Cllr Richard Watts3. National Youth Agency – Cllr Liz Hackett Pain4. Improving Mental Health for Looked After Children: Expert Group – Cllr Gillian Ford	

Cllr Chris Coleman agreed to **submit** a report to the board on his work with the Adoption Leadership Board over the previous political cycle.

Action

Joseph Ling (Member Services Officer) to **inform** outside bodies of the change or continuation of LGA representatives.

3 Board Work Programme and Priorities Report for the 2016/17 meeting cycle

Ian Keating (Principal Policy Adviser, Children) introduced the report, outlining the intersections between Government priorities and those of the Board. These primarily focused upon education, early years, health and children's services.

The Board asked that, in light of the Wood External Advisory and the Department for Education's consultation on the Schools for everyone Green Paper, the role of Local Authorities in educational services and early years provision be particular priorities.

The Board also asked that workforce issues, particularly in relation to number of employees, training and effective use of resources be a priority for a future work programme.

Task and Finish Group

Reflecting the Board's priorities, members requested that a task and finish group be established. This group should focus upon children's services and utilise the valuable work being done by the Wood Review. It should consider key issues in children's social care, such as those highlighted by the Board's work programme.

Decisions

The Board **agreed** that the work programme and priorities subject to the **amendment** of paragraph 5.3 to include missing children.

The Board also decided that;

1. A Task and Finish Group on children's services should be **established**.

Actions

Officers are to;

1. **Amend** paragraph 5.3 of the Board work programme and priorities to include missing children.
2. **Create** proposed terms of reference for a new Task and Finish Group.

4 Schools that work for everyone Green Paper

Cllr Richard Watts introduced the item, inviting the Board to discuss the recent launch of the education Green Paper, Schools that work for everyone. He opened the floor to comment which would inform the response of the Local Government Association to the paper. The Chair placed particular importance on finding those areas of agreement between the board members.

The following discussion was broad and wide ranging, and included;

1. Possible effects of grammar schools on social mobility.
2. The need for the LGA to contribute and engage constructively with the Green Paper.
3. The reiteration that every child matters.
4. The role of local authorities in making decisions about establishing new selective schools so that any decision protects the interests of all local children and parents.
5. Current and possible future impacts of selective institutions on surrounding schools, including; the possible de-facto creation of secondary moderns, the creation of primary feeder schools, and the possible creation of new technical schools.
6. The age(s) at which selective tests are taken.
7. The need for evidence led policy.
8. The need for faith based selection to resist segregation by religion.
9. Addressing the needs of vulnerable children in a new system.
10. The cost to councils of changes to the education system.
11. The need for a fair admissions system, especially relating to inequality of access through tutoring, travel costs or distance.
12. The need to tailor education to the needs of children in specific areas.

Decision

The Board discussion reached **consensus** on the following issues;

1. The LGA should engage constructively with the Green Paper consultation.
2. The LGA prioritises educational attainment for all young people.
3. The need for an evidence based policy.
4. Local authorities have an important role in facilitating a place-based, collective and democratic decision on the establishment of new schools.
5. The relaxation of selection in faith schools must avoid segregation and encourage community cohesion.

Actions

Officers are to use the discussion to **inform** a future submission to the Department of Education consultation.

5 Other Business Report

Update on the dispersal of Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children

Ian Dean (Senior Adviser, Children's Social Care Children) provided a verbal update to the Board on unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UASCs) and the upcoming LGA summit on the issue.

The Board stressed the need for councils to be able to recoup the full costs of placing UASCs. Cllr Peter Oakford, Kent County Council, provided a verbal update on the situation in his authority, including the high number of UASCs and the inability for Kent County Council to adequately provide for them. He expressed doubt that large scale dispersal will be achieved by the voluntary system.

Local Transformation Plans (LTPs) for Children & Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)

The Board noted that CAMHS are under resourced and ineffective in many areas, including difficulties with waiting times, recruiting staff and high levels of demand for services.

Decisions

The Board decided that;

1. The LGA should **encourage** local authorities to participate in the National Dispersal Scheme before the 21st September deadline. The upcoming summit would be a perfect opportunity to achieve this.
2. A break-out meeting focused on UASCs should be **organised** for the upcoming National Children and Adult Services Conference. Government representation should be sought for this meeting.

Actions

Officers are to;

1. **Organise** the NCAS break-out meeting on UASCs and seek Government representation.
2. **Test** with the NHS if all allocated money has been used for intended purposes and **explore** if the costs of these services are being moved from one remit to another.

6 Wood Review of the council role in education and children's services - presentation

Alan Wood introduced his recent work as Chair of the External Advisory Group for the Department for Education review of the role of the council in education and children's services. Mr Wood described its key focusses as the role of the local authority in: the planning of school places; special educational needs and disability provision; early years provision; post-16 education and training; and effectiveness and quality in schools.

Mr Wood described the DfE's recent intention to reduce the Education Services Grant from August of next year due to its interpretation that local authorities had no statutory duties regarding school improvement. He explained that he intended his work to assess what impact the removal of the grant might have on school effectiveness and quality. He also hoped to clarify what the time period for schools to transition to academy status would be, whether this change would be mandatory or financially incentivised, and to what extent the establishment of these trusts would infringe upon local authority powers.

The Board commented that improving the education system should be focused on place-based decisions, especially regarding skills and training, rather than changing school structure. The Board also discussed the role of local authorities in; scrutinising schools and how this would be affected by the proposed changes, school improvement especially regarding infrastructure expenditure, and planning provision.

Decisions

The Board;

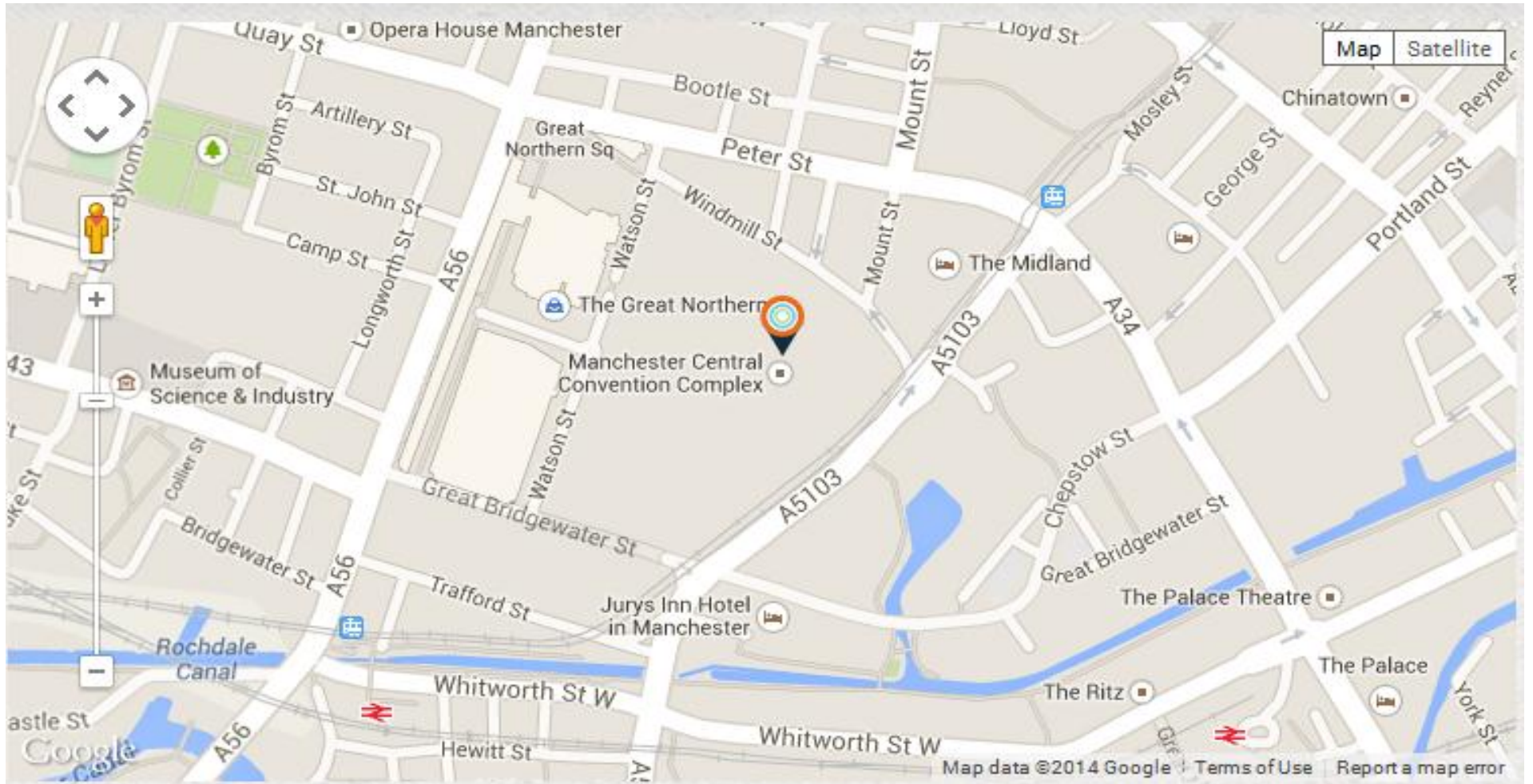
1. **Recommended** that the Wood External Advisory Group focus on the impact of the removal of the Education Services Grant, as well as the role of the council in scrutinising schools of all types.
2. The Board agreed that Cllr Richard Watts, in his capacity as CYP representative on the Wood External Advisory Group, should **update** the Board on further developments at future meetings.

7 Note of the Previous Meeting

The Children and Young People Board **agreed** the minutes of the previous meeting held on 29th June 2016.

Appendix A -Attendance

Position/Role	Councillor	Authority
Chairman	Cllr Richard Watts	Islington Council
Vice-Chairman	Cllr Roy Perry	Hampshire County Council
Deputy-chairman	Cllr Gillian Ford	Havering London Borough Council
	Cllr Liz Green	Kingston upon Thames Royal Borough Council
Members	Cllr Gareth Barnard	Bracknell Forest Borough Council
	Cllr Liz Hacket Pain	Monmouthshire County Council
	Cllr Dick Madden	Essex County Council
	Cllr Ian Parry	Staffordshire County Council
	Cllr Janet Walton	Borough of Poole
	Cllr Bob Cook	Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council
	Cllr Anne Burns	Cumbria County Council
	Cllr David Mellen	Nottingham City Council
	Cllr Paul Cullen	Richmondshire District Council
	Cllr Christopher Coleman	Cheltenham Borough Council
Apologies	Cllr John Kent	Thurrock Council
	Cllr Anntoinette Bramble	Hackney London Borough Council
	Cllr Roz Gladden	Liverpool City Council
In Attendance		
LGA Officers		



Manchester Central
Petersfield
M2 3GX

Manchester Central site plan

