

# Children and Young People Board

## Agenda

Thursday, 23 March 2017  
11.00 am

Rooms A&B, Ground Floor, Layden House,  
76-86 Turnmill Street, London, EC1M 5LG

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

[www.local.gov.uk](http://www.local.gov.uk)

This meeting is



## **Guidance notes for members and visitors**

### **Layden House, 76-86 Turnmill Street, London, EC1M 5LG**

Please read these notes for your own safety and that of all visitors, staff and tenants.

#### **Welcome!**

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#### **Security**

Layden House has a swipe card access system meaning that a swipe enabled security passes will be required to access the lifts and floors 1-5.

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When you visit Layden House, **please show your Local Government House security pass to reception** and they will provide you with a temporary pass which will allow you access to floors 1-5 if required. **Please don't forget to sign out at reception and return your security pass when you depart.**

If you do not have a LGH Security Pass, please email [member services](#) with your name and a recent photo and a pass will be made for you. You can pick this up from the Layden House reception desk on your next visit.

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**DO NOT USE THE LIFTS.**  
**DO NOT STOP TO COLLECT PERSONAL BELONGINGS.**  
**DO NOT RE-ENTER BUILDING UNTIL AUTHORISED TO DO SO.**

#### **Soft Seating Area**

There is a small soft seating area on Floor 2 which will also operate as an 'Open Council' area for visiting members and officers from member councils. Please note however that unlike Open Council, this area does not have tea and coffee facilities, nor access to computers.

#### **Toilets**

There are accessible toilets on the Ground Floor, 2nd and 4th floors.

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### **Further help**

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### **Why have the LGA’s Headquarters moved?**

The LGA has temporarily relocated from Local Government House (LGH) in Smith Square to Layden House in Farringdon, effective from Monday 31 October 2016. This is to allow extensive refurbishment work to be carried out to LGH.

The refurbishment works will see the ground floor conference centre and all meeting rooms fully refurbished. Floors 1, 2 and 3 will be upgraded and released for commercial letting to enable the LGA to maximise the income from this building as part of its drive for financial sustainability. A new and larger Open Council will be located on the seventh floor. The refurbishment is expected to last for nine months and we expect to be back in LGH by September 2017.

We appreciate your understanding and flexibility during this time.

Children & Young People Board  
23 March 2017

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There will be a meeting of the Children & Young People Board at **11.00 am on Thursday, 23 March 2017** Rooms A&B, Ground Floor, Layden House, 76-86 Turnmill Street, London, EC1M 5LG.

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.

<b>Conservative:</b>	Group Office: 020 7664 3223	email: <a href="mailto:lgaconservatives@local.gov.uk">lgaconservatives@local.gov.uk</a>
<b>Labour:</b>	Group Office: 020 7664 3334	email: <a href="mailto:Labour.GroupLGA@local.gov.uk">Labour.GroupLGA@local.gov.uk</a>
<b>Independent:</b>	Group Office: 020 7664 3224	email: <a href="mailto:independent.grouplga@local.gov.uk">independent.grouplga@local.gov.uk</a>
<b>Liberal Democrat:</b>	Group Office: 020 7664 3235	email: <a href="mailto:libdem@local.gov.uk">libdem@local.gov.uk</a>

**Location:**

A map showing the location of Layden House is printed on the back cover.

**LGA Contact:**

Alexander Saul  
0207 664 3232 / [alexander.saul@local.gov.uk](mailto:alexander.saul@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.

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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
<b>Conservative ( 7 )</b>	
Cllr Roy Perry (Vice-Chair)	Hampshire County Council
Cllr Gareth Barnard	Bracknell Forest Borough Council
Cllr Liz Hacket 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
<b>Substitutes</b>	
Cllr Matt Bennett	Birmingham City Council
Cllr Ryan Brent	Portsmouth City Council
Cllr Peter Oakford	Kent County Council
<b>Labour ( 7 )</b>	
Cllr Richard Watts (Chair)	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
<b>Substitutes</b>	
Cllr Megan Swift	Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council
Cllr Dora Dixon-Fyle MBE	Southwark Council
Cllr Rachel Harris	Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council
<b>Independent ( 2 )</b>	
Cllr Gillian Ford (Deputy Chair)	Havering London Borough Council
Cllr Paul Cullen	Richmondshire District Council
<b>Substitutes</b>	
Cllr Helen Grant	North Yorkshire County Council
Cllr Lorna Corke	Sedgemoor District Council
Cllr Rebecca Novell	Lancaster City Council
<b>Liberal Democrat ( 2 )</b>	
Cllr Liz Green (Deputy Chair)	Kingston upon Thames Royal Borough Council
Cllr Christopher Coleman	Cheltenham Borough Council
<b>Substitutes</b>	
Cllr Jon Hubbard	Wiltshire Council

## LGA Children and Young People Board Attendance 2016-2017

<b>Councillors</b>	<b>29/9/16</b>	<b>3/11/16</b>	<b>13/01/17</b>
<b>Conservative Group</b>			
Roy Perry	Yes	Yes	Yes
Gareth Barnard	Yes	Yes	Yes
Liz Hackett Pain	Yes	No	No
Ian Hudspeth	No	No	Yes
Dick Madden	Yes	Yes	Yes
Ian Parry	Yes	No	by phone
Janet Walton	Yes	No	by phone
<b>Labour Group</b>			
Richard Watts	Yes	Yes	Yes
John Kent	No	No	No
Bob Cook	Yes	Yes	Yes
Anne Burns	Yes	Yes	No
Anntoinette Bramble	No	Yes	Yes
David Mellen	Yes	Yes	Yes
Roz Gladden	No	Yes	Yes
<b>Independent</b>			
Gillian Ford	Yes	Yes	Yes
Paul Cullen	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>Lib Dem Group</b>			
Liz Green	Yes	Yes	Yes
Christopher Coleman	Yes	No	Yes
<b>Substitutes</b>			
Peter Oakford	Yes		
Rachel Harris		Yes	
Helen Grant		Yes	
Megan Swift			Yes

## Agenda

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### Children & Young People Board

Thursday 23 March 2017

11.00 am

Rooms A&B, Ground Floor, Layden House, 76-86 Turnmill Street, London, EC1M 5LG

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7. <b>Update on LGA Task Group: The Future of Children's Social Care Improvement</b>	
Cllr Dick Madden will give a verbal update on the CYP Board's task group on the future of children's social care improvement.	
8. <b>Note of the Previous Meeting</b>	37 - 43

**Date of Next Meeting:** Thursday, 29 June 2017, 11.00 am, 5th Floor Conference Suite, 5th Floor (South side), Layden House, 76-86 Turnmill Street, London, EC1M 5LG







**Children and Young People  
Board**

23 March 2017

## **National Youth Agency**

### **Purpose**

For discussion.

### **Summary**

In light of changes both to local authority funding and the needs and experiences of young people, it is an appropriate time for the LGA to consider how councils can best deliver their duties towards young people, and how it can support them to do so.

The National Youth Agency is the national body for youth work. The Agency will present to members information on its current work, and views on the changing landscape of youth service provision, to help inform LGA policy in this area.

### **Recommendations**

The Children and Young People's Board is asked to;

1. Discuss the key issues facing councils in fulfilling their youth services duties and consider how the LGA could support councils in this area; and
2. Approve a roundtable meeting with partners to support the development of LGA policy around youth services.

**Contact officer:** Louise Smith  
**Position:** Adviser  
**Phone no:** 020 7664 3163  
**Email:** Louise.Smith@local.gov.uk

## **National Youth Agency**

### **Background**

1. Under Section 507B of the Education Act 1996, local education authorities in England must, so far as is reasonably practicable, make sure that young people aged 13-19 (or up to 25 for those with learning difficulties) in the authority's area have access to sufficient educational and recreational leisure-time activities, and facilities for those activities, which are for the improvement of their well-being.
2. Following several years of significant budget cuts, most councils have changed the ways in which they provide services for young people, for example through different structures, outsourcing or more specific targeting of services.
3. Unison's "A future at risk: Cuts in youth services" report<sup>1</sup> in 2016 found that:
  - 3.1 Spending on youth services had been cut by £387 million since 2010
  - 3.2 3,652 youth work jobs were lost and 603 youth centres closed between 2012 and 2016
  - 3.3 138,898 places for young people were lost between 2012 and 2016
4. On a broader scale, young people face a range of challenges that have become more acute over recent years, from difficulties accessing housing when they leave home<sup>2</sup>, to the increasing likelihood of suffering from a mental health disorder<sup>3</sup>.
5. In light of changes both to local authority funding and the needs and experiences of young people, it is an appropriate time for the LGA to consider how councils can best deliver their duties towards young people, and how it can support them to do so.

### **Recent policy developments**

6. National policy around youth services, and the ways in which councils deliver them, is already changing. Some of the key developments include:

#### National Citizen Service

7. National Citizen Service (NCS) is the Government's flagship scheme for 16 and 17 year olds living in England, in which young people take part in a social action scheme in their

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.unison.org.uk/content/uploads/2016/08/23996.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.jrf.org.uk/report/housing-options-and-solutions-young-people-2020>

<sup>3</sup> [http://www.youngminds.org.uk/training\\_services/policy/mental\\_health\\_statistics](http://www.youngminds.org.uk/training_services/policy/mental_health_statistics)

area to encourage personal and social development by working on skills like leadership, teamwork and communication.

8. The National Citizen Service Bill, which is currently going through Parliament, will extend provision of the scheme to 247,000 young people by 2020/21<sup>4</sup> – a recent reduction from the 360,000 initially announced, following concerns from the National Audit Office that no recruitment targets had been met by the scheme since 2010. Approximately 93,000 16- and 17-year-olds took part in NCS in 2016. Funding of £1.26 billion has been granted for the scheme between 2016-20<sup>5</sup>, up to £75 million of which is due to be spent on advertising and marketing the scheme<sup>6</sup>.
9. A report<sup>7</sup> published by the Public Accounts Committee on 14 March 2017 stated that The Office for Civil Society (OCS) and the NCS Trust, which manages the scheme, expected to spend £1,863 for each participant in 2016. The Committee concluded that, although the Scheme appears to have a real impact on those participating, it may no longer be justifiable if it is unable to cut its costs while meeting targets for increasing the number of participants and achieving its long-term societal aims.
10. As part of the Government's digital strategy, NCS will be working with education charity the Raspberry Pi Foundation to pilot the introduction of digital skills and careers programmes, including coding and digital entrepreneurship, to encourage young people to consider careers in the digital economy.
11. The NCS Trust is considering ways to work with councils to encourage take up of the scheme, including longer-term engagement with hard-to-reach or disadvantaged groups. It is also looking at co-commissioning of services to ensure that programmes are best suited to local areas.

#### Youth Investment Fund

12. In September 2016, the Government announced £40 million funding, in conjunction with the Big Lottery Fund, to support schemes targeted in disadvantaged communities across England through the Youth Investment Fund (YIF).
13. The YIF will support voluntary, community and social enterprise youth organisations to deliver, expand and create high quality local youth provision in targeted communities in the following areas:
  - West Midlands Urban
  - London East

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<sup>4</sup> <http://www.cypnow.co.uk/cyp/news/2003131/national-citizen-service-recruitment-targets-cut-by-more-than-100-000>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.nao.org.uk/report/national-citizen-service/>

<sup>6</sup> [http://www.mytenders.org/search/show/search\\_view.aspx?ID=JUN126816](http://www.mytenders.org/search/show/search_view.aspx?ID=JUN126816)

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201617/cmselect/cmpubacc/955/95502.htm>

- Tees Valley & Sunderland
- Bristol & Somerset
- Eastern Counties
- Liverpool City

14. Funding will be available up to 2020 to help organisations invest and plan for the future. Young people will be involved in the design and decision-making for the new fund, with the first awards expected to be made in Spring 2017.

#### New Youth Policy Statement

15. The Department for Culture, Media and Sport will shortly be announcing a call for evidence on a new youth policy statement, which will set out the Government's vision and priorities on non-formal and informal learning opportunities for young people. It is expected that this will be launched during the last two weeks in March, with engagement events to encourage views from local government along with other stakeholders.

16. No new funding to accompany the statement is planned at this stage.

#### Changes to service delivery

17. As budgets have been reduced since 2010, councils have been seeking new ways to deliver services.

18. One option being pursued by a number of councils is the establishment of Youth Mutuels. These are organisations that are no longer under council control, but are delivering public services, with employee voice a significant factor. More information on public sector mutuels is available on the [gov.uk website](http://gov.uk). Councils currently running this model include Knowsley and Lewisham.

19. A further option currently being considered by some councils is Social Impact Bonds (SIBs). These are designed to help improve the social outcomes of publicly funded services by making funding conditional on achieving results. Investors pay for the project at the start, and then receive payments based on the results achieved by the project. These are clearly defined, measurable "social outcomes" rather than outputs, for example improved health.

20. Social Impact Bonds are currently not widely used for the delivery of youth services, but the Government's Youth Engagement Fund has funded four SIBs to help prevent young people from becoming Not in Employment, Education or Training:

- 20.1 Unlocking Potential Ltd: working with up to 4,040 young people with behavioural, mental health or wellbeing issues aged 14 to 17 in Greater Merseyside.
- 20.2 Prevista Ltd: working with up to 1,000 young people aged 14 to 17 in London, 70% of whom will be gang members, ex-offenders/at risk of offending, in care/care leavers, and those with high levels of school absence.

- 20.3 Futureshapers Sheffield Ltd: working with up to 1,319 young people aged 14 to 17 in Sheffield who have poor attendance at or have been excluded from school, who have experience in the youth justice system, are 'looked after', have special educational needs or disability, or are teen parents.
- 20.4 Teens and Toddlers Youth Engagement LLP: working with up to 1,680 young people aged 14 to 17 years in Greater Manchester who are in care/edge of care, have a history of offending/at risk of offending and/or other risky behaviour (eg drugs/teen pregnancy), have behavioural or mental health issues and are truanting.
- 20.5 Evaluations of these projects are not yet available.

### **The National Youth Agency**

21. The National Youth Agency is the national body for youth work, promoting youth work through:

- 21.1 **Championing youth work**—showcasing good practice, supporting new approaches, and promoting more understanding of the value and depth of the discipline among policy-makers, educators and employers.
- 21.2 **Professionalising youth work**—training youth workers, setting occupational standards, offering accreditation for professional development and researching and improving the methodologies and practice of youth work.
- 21.3 **Enabling youth work**—making it happen through networks of front line youth work providers, and through innovative links and funding arrangements with commercial and public sector partners.

22. The NYA will present to members information on its current work, and views on the changing landscape of youth service provision, to help inform LGA policy in this area.

### **Future Work**

23. It is suggested that, to further this presentation, a roundtable is held with key partners to consider the future delivery of youth services in England in order to inform LGA policy in this area, with a report submitted to a future meeting of the Board.

### **Implications for Wales<sup>8</sup>**

24. None.

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<sup>8</sup> The WLGA pays a membership fee to the LGA on behalf of all Welsh councils and we lobby for them on "non-devolved" issues - e.g. DWP work. The WLGA provides "top-slice" for workforce support, but none for "improvement".

**Financial Implications**

25. None.

**Next steps**

26. Members are asked to:

- 26.1 Discuss the key issues facing councils in fulfilling their youth services duties and consider how the LGA could support councils in this area; and
- 26.2 Approve a roundtable meeting with partners to support the development of LGA policy around youth services.



**Children and Young People  
Board**

23 March 2017

## **Centre of Expertise on Child Sexual Abuse**

### **Purpose**

For discussion.

### **Summary**

The LGA is a key partner on the Home Office funded Centre of Expertise on Child Sexual Abuse, delivered by Barnardo's under a four year contract until 2020. The Centre's Director, Cassandra Harrison, will be in attendance to update the Board on its current work and provide an opportunity for Members to influence the work programme over the coming years.

### **Recommendations**

Members are asked to:

1. Note the current activity of the Centre of Expertise on Child Sexual Abuse.
2. Advise on future areas for the Centre's research, evaluation or practice development activity over the coming years.

**Contact officer:** Ian Dean  
**Position:** Senior Adviser  
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**Email:** [ian.dean@local.gov.uk](mailto:ian.dean@local.gov.uk)

## **Centre of Expertise on Child Sexual Abuse**

### **Background**

1. The Home Office has awarded Barnardo's £7.5 million until 2020 to develop and lead a Centre of Expertise on Child Sexual Abuse (CSA). The LGA supported Barnardo's during the initial bidding process, and is now a key partner on the Centre's Advisory Board.
2. The Centre has been established to help bring about significant and system-wide change in how child sexual abuse is responded to locally and nationally, by identifying, generating and sharing high quality evidence of what works to prevent and tackle CSA (including child sexual exploitation, CSE). It has four primary aims:
  - 2.1 Local areas across England and Wales have a confident and effective multi-agency response to CSA, based on access to evidence and information on what works.
  - 2.2 National policy on CSA is informed by the latest research and evidence produced by the Centre.
  - 2.3 Increased understanding and awareness of the scale and nature of CSA.
  - 2.4 A clear assessment of how recent changes and improvements to policy and practice have impacted on the scale and nature of abuse.
3. The initial focus of the Centre's work in early 2017 is on child sexual exploitation, but its remit over the longer-term covers all forms of child sexual abuse. Several work strands are already underway, most of which will be published within the next month. These include:
  - 3.1 Key messages from research on child sexual exploitation (some of which are already available at [www.csacentre.org.uk](http://www.csacentre.org.uk).)
  - 3.2 Work to improve the assessment of the scale and nature of child sexual abuse.
  - 3.3 An evidence review of what works in supporting parents of sexually exploited and at risk young people.
  - 3.4 A review of the use of tools and checklists to assess risk of child sexual exploitation.
  - 3.5 A scoping study on the effectiveness of interventions with perpetrators.
  - 3.6 A rapid review and gap analysis of interventions for perpetrators of online child sexual exploitation.
  - 3.7 An initial analysis of local commissioning arrangements.



- 3.8 Mapping of existing services for victims of child sexual abuse.
- 3.9 A scoping study on the characteristics and perspectives of perpetrators.
- 4. The Centre will be launching an online consultation in April 2017, seeking views from stakeholders on its future priorities in terms of research, practice improvement and the identification and evaluation of promising practice. This meeting will provide an opportunity for CYP Board members to hear from the Director of the CSA Centre, Cassandra Harrison, and provide some initial views on the future direction of its work.

#### **Implications for Wales <sup>1</sup>**

- 5. The CSA Centre's remit covers England and Wales, and work is currently underway to develop governance arrangements in Wales with key stakeholders.

#### **Financial Implications**

- 6. None.

#### **Next steps**

- 7. Members are asked to:
  - 7.1 Note the current activity of the Centre of Expertise on Child Sexual Abuse.
  - 7.2 Advise on future areas for the Centre's research, evaluation or practice development activity over the coming years.

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<sup>1</sup> The WLGA pays a membership fee to the LGA on behalf of all Welsh councils and we lobby for them on "non-devolved" issues - e.g. DWP work. The WLGA provides "top-slice" for workforce support, but none for "improvement".





**Children and Young People  
Board Meeting**

23 March 2017

**Update on lead members' special meeting on children and young people's mental health and wellbeing**

**Purpose**

For discussion and direction.

**Summary**

This report summarises the key issues that were discussed at the lead members' special meeting on children and young people's mental health and wellbeing and seeks the Board's views on resulting actions and next steps. A more detailed note is attached at **Appendix 2**.

The Office Holders of the Children and Young People's Board attended the meeting and will give an oral update.

**Recommendation**

The Children and Young People's Board is asked to provide views on the actions listed in **section 6** of this report, including which actions should be prioritised.

**Contact officer:** Deepa Patel  
**Position:** Adviser, Children's Health  
**Phone no:** 020 7664 3079  
**Email:** [deepa.patel@local.gov.uk](mailto:deepa.patel@local.gov.uk)

## **Update on lead members' special meeting on children and young people's mental health and wellbeing**

### **Background**

1. Lead members of the LGA Children and Young People Board and Community Wellbeing Board requested a joint meeting on children and young people's mental health and wellbeing in order to raise their awareness and understanding of key issues and to help both Boards agree actions they want to focus on, to support work on this agenda.
2. A half-day special meeting took place on 23 February 2017, to which a number of expert speakers were invited to share views on key issues.
3. This report seeks members' advice on the priority actions they now wish to pursue.

### **Issues**

4. A list of speakers who attended the meeting can be found at **Appendix 1** and a summary of the issues and challenges that were highlighted by speakers at the meeting can be found at **Appendix 2**. The issues discussed included:
  - 4.1 Accountability for spend on CAMHS
  - 4.2 Shifting the focus to prevention
  - 4.3 A key role for schools
  - 4.4 Involving children, young people and their families
  - 4.5 Fragmented commissioning landscape and lack of systems leadership
  - 4.6 Provider capability
  - 4.7 A need for evidence informed interventions and data
  - 4.8 Particularly vulnerable groups
  - 4.9 Waiting times and criteria to access services
  - 4.10 On-line mental health support services, social media and cyber bullying
5. This report will also be presented for discussion at the next meeting of the LGA Community Wellbeing Board meeting on 27 April 2017.

### **Suggested actions for consideration**

6. Based on the issues identified in this report members are asked to consider the following suggested actions, advise which others they may wish to pursue and ***identify which of the Board actions should be prioritised.***

#### LGA:

- 6.1 Develop guidance for health and wellbeing boards and scrutiny members to strengthen local leadership and accountability for the quality, delivery and spend on children's mental health and wellbeing services through Local Transformation Plans.
- 6.2 Use the forthcoming LGA campaign on children and young people's mental health services to highlight the importance of the role of prevention; the need for accountability of spend on services; and the key role of councils to this agenda through sharing best practice examples.
- 6.3 Use the forthcoming LGA state of the nation style report on mental health to highlight the importance of prevention and explore transitions between children and adult mental health services (July 2017).

#### CYP Board and the Community Wellbeing Board:

- 6.4 Engage with DfE and DH to influence the scope of the forthcoming green paper on children and young people's mental health (due out in Autumn 2017.)
- 6.5 Engage with CQC to influence the scope of the forthcoming thematic review of children and young people's mental health services (findings will be reported in 2017/18.)
- 6.6 Hold a round table discussion with DH, Health Education England and NHS commissioners and providers, to identify further work to build the capacity of providers to deliver services that achieve the transformative change described in Future in Mind.
- 6.7 Meet with the Chair of the the All Party Parliamentary Group on Mental Health (Helen Whateley MP), to understand the work of the Group and explore any opportunities for joint working.
- 6.8 Provide DfE with a sector view on content for PHSE, to highlight the need for age appropriate mental health and wellbeing education recognising the growing impact of social media and the need to build e-resilience.
- 6.9 Engage with DfE to identify how councils can contribute to achieving sustainable delivery models for the further roll out of the metal health services and school link pilot. (*As noted, a number of the critical success factors identified in the evaluation highlight the role and contribution required from local authorities to make joint working arrangements a success.*)

### **Implications for Wales <sup>1</sup>**

7. The contents of this report applies to England. The Welsh Local Government Association are leading on activity in relation to children and young people's mental health in Wales and making any representations on behalf of their members to the Welsh Government.

### **Financial Implications**

8. There are no financial implications to the LGA relating to the information in this report.

### **Next steps**

9. The Children and Young People's Board is asked to provide views on the actions listed in **section 6** of this report, including which actions should be prioritised.

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<sup>1</sup> The WLGA pays a membership fee to the LGA on behalf of all Welsh councils and we lobby for them on "non-devolved" issues - e.g. DWP work. The WLGA provides "top-slice" for workforce support, but none for "improvement".

**Appendix 1**

**Local Government Association**

**Special Interest Meeting: Children and Young People’s Mental Health**

Lead Members of the LGA Children & Young People & Community Wellbeing Boards

Date: Thursday 23 February 2017      Time: 10am – 2.30pm

**Pooky Knightsmith**

- Vice Chair, Children and Young People’s Mental Health Coalition & Director, Children, Young People and Schools Programme, Charlie Waller Memorial Trust

**Dr Cathy Street**

- Researcher, GIFT Partnership Lead for London and the South East

**Leanne Walker and Amanda Tuffrey**

- Young GIFT Advisors

**Dr Phil Moore**

- Chair of the Mental Health Commissioners Network & Deputy Chair (Clinical) at NHS Kingston CCG

**Professor Jim McManus**

- Director of Public Health, Hertfordshire County Council

**Steve Miley**

- Member of the ADCS Health, Care and Additional Needs Policy Committee & Director of Family Services, Hammersmith and Fulham

**Frank McGhee**

- National Transformation Adviser, Children and Young Peoples’ Mental Health Team, NHS England

**Ann Gross**

- Director of Special Needs, Disadvantage and Character policy, DfE

**Jonathan Marron**

- Director, Community, Mental Health and 7 Day Services Department of Health

**Rt Hon Norman Lamb MP for North Norfolk**

- Chair of the Independent Commission on Children and Young People’s Mental Health





## **Appendix 2**

### **Summary of the issues and challenges that were highlighted at the Special Interest Meeting: Children and Young People's Mental Health**

#### ***Accountability for spend on CAMHS***

1. The £1.25 billion of funding committed by the government over five years (announced March 2015) equates to £250 million per year. £143 million was released in the first year, and of that £75 million was distributed to clinical commissioning groups to commit to front line services.<sup>1</sup> It is not clear how much of the £75 million released to CCGs has been spent on frontline services.
2. For 2016/17, £119 million of the £250 million total has been allocated to clinical commissioning groups, but this has been included in their total baseline allocation. The funding for children and young people's mental health has not been ring-fenced and so there is a risk that it will be spent on other priorities, such as those covered by national targets, like A&E waiting times or be used to plug budget deficits.<sup>2</sup>
3. Accountability for release of this money and for local decisions on how it is spent is critical. Spending decisions need to support delivery of the transformation agenda set out in Future in Mind. There should be good communication between health, education, the council and other partners to determine how money will be invested to support the transformation agenda in a local area, with decisions captured in Local Transformation Plans.

#### ***Shifting the focus to prevention***

4. Future in Mind recognises that to achieve real change, a whole systems approach which focusses on prevention of mental ill health, early intervention and recovery is needed.
5. There is also evidence which makes both the moral and economic case for early intervention. Despite this, we know that as much as 80 per cent of all mental health care takes place in GP surgeries and hospitals.<sup>3</sup> Mental health is still seen as a specialism, with organisations continuing to work in silos.
6. Local councils have a key contribution to make to the prevention and early intervention agenda through universal early years services such as health visiting, children's centres (which are seen as a good model for breaking down silos and bringing together a range of services including preventative mental health services), and Youth Information Advice & Counselling Services (YIACS). This work is essential to avoid over medicalising mental health and reducing stigma.

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<sup>1</sup> Children and Young People's Mental Health: Time to Deliver, Emily Frith November 2016

<sup>2</sup> Children and Young People's Mental Health: Time to Deliver, Emily Frith November 2016

<sup>3</sup> Closing the Gap: Priorities for Change in Mental Health Department of Health January 2014

## Appendix 2

7. In relation to YIACS, funding pressures on local authority budgets has seen a reduction in the number of drop in services for young people in local areas. The rise in the numbers of both routine and emergency presentations for CAMHS tiers 2/3 services has seen an average increase of 25 per cent in referrals since 2012. This is possibly due in part to the impact of regional and local cuts on community based and third sector services.<sup>4</sup> There are still examples of good practice to be found; Birmingham and Croydon were two local areas highlighted.

### ***A key role for schools***

8. The current fragmentation of the school system is seen as potentially hindering progress with provision of high quality children mental health and wellbeing services in all schools.
9. Compared to schools maintained by local authorities, academies have greater freedom to commission a range of services according to their particular preferences and the nature of their pupils' needs. Consequently, local councils have very little control over the approach that individual academies take to this issue, and few levers through which to influence exactly what mental health support schools choose to commission for their pupils. This adds to the fragmented nature of commissioning responsibilities. Local areas need to be able to identify and understand what mental health and wellbeing support is available in all schools in their area.
10. In March, the government tabled amendments to the Children and Social Work Bill, to make it a requirement that all secondary schools in England teach relationships and sex education (RSE). *The amendments also allow the government to make regulations requiring personal, social, health and economic education (PSHE) to be taught in all schools in England - primary and secondary, maintained and academy - in future (timescales have not yet been confirmed).* There is an opportunity for local government to engage with DfE and provide a sector view on content for PHSE, including how it fits with a whole schools approach to mental health and wellbeing to help break stigma around this issue.
11. There is a growing body of evidence that indicates that emotional well-being is an important foundation for learning and educational achievement. Teachers are not currently equipped to reduce the stressors that can impact on children and young people's mental health. Links between mental health services and schools need to be strengthened, with better training and information for teachers and parents to reduce stigma.
12. The mental health services and schools link pilot (launched in 2015) aimed to strengthen joint working between schools and mental health services. A total of 22 areas, incorporating 27 CCGs and 255 schools, were funded to establish named lead contacts within NHS children and young people's mental health services and schools.

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<sup>4</sup> Health Select Committee Inquiry CAMHS November 2014

## Appendix 2

13. An evaluation of the pilot programme was published in February 2017. It demonstrated the potential added value of providing schools and NHS CAMHS with opportunities to engage in joint planning and training activities, improving the clarity of local pathways to specialist mental health support, and establishing named points of contact in schools and NHS CAMHS.
14. At the same time, the evaluation has underlined the lack of available resources to deliver this offer universally across all schools at this stage within many of the pilot areas. Given the pilots show that additional resources would need to be allocated locally to deliver the offer universally across all schools, *further work is needed to understand how sustainable delivery models can be developed*. A number of the critical success factors identified in the evaluation highlight the role and contribution required from local authorities to make joint working arrangements a success.
15. DfE has also announced it will be running a programme of pilot activity on peer support for children and young people's mental health and emotional wellbeing across schools, colleges and community settings and undertake randomised control trials (RCT's) of promising preventative programmes that can be delivered in schools.

### ***Involving children, young people and their families***

16. Children, young people and their families need to be involved in making decisions about their treatment and which services are needed. Services often do not have the time to engage with parents, but parents have a key role to play and need to be supported through provision of better information and training which reduces the stigma of mental health and enables them to support children and young people.
17. The forthcoming green paper on children and young people's mental health will set out plans to transform services in schools, universities and for families. It provides an opportunity to engage with children, young people and families and to test proposals to ensure that they are guided by the voice of those with experience of services.

### ***Fragmented commissioning landscape and lack of systems leadership***

18. There is currently a fragmented commissioning landscape, with responsibilities split across the council, schools, NHS England and CCGs. This has resulted in a lack of systems leadership. Joint commissioning practice in local areas across all tiers of services is needed to bring some coherence and co-ordination to delivery at a local level. All partners need to work together to shared outcomes, and the funding that local areas receive for mental health services should be used to pursue joint commissioning opportunities that simplify the system and provide more holistic support.
19. Children, young people and families need a single point of contact, with clarity on what services are available and how to access them so that they do not have to negotiate between different organisations and professionals. This requires shifting the focus from structures to person centred care, where there is better working between organisational

## Appendix 2

boundaries, so that all professionals making decisions about a child or young person's care understands the full circumstances of their situation. One way to support this would be through the introduction of a common assessment across professional and organisational boundaries.

20. Multi agency training of health and education professionals could also make a difference in helping to join up the system, break down silos of care and enhance awareness of the different roles and challenges of partners involved in the system.

### ***Provider capability***

21. The transformative change described in Future in Mind relies on the capacity of providers to think differently about how they work with partners to deliver services. Further support from government (and universities) to skill up providers and create the capacity for change is needed to develop the provider market. Some local areas have a limited choice of providers and there is difficulty finding appropriate services for local people.

### ***A need for evidence informed interventions and data***

22. Better data and information which helps us to understand the difference that services are making is needed. Local and national commissioners are still using 2004 data to support their understanding of the prevalence of mental health issues in the population. The Office for National Statistics (ONS) and NatCen Social Research have been commissioned by the Health and Social Care Information Centre (HSCIC) to carry out the Survey of the Mental Health of Children and Young People (MHCYP) 2016 (results are due to be published in 2018).
23. Further research and evaluation, will help to build an evidence base and identify a common view of what works. This research needs to recognise that a range of age appropriate interventions are needed; there is a concern from some non NHS partners that Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT) is being overused and that whilst it is an evidence based intervention it will not work for everyone. Alternative provision to CBT that supports the prevention and early intervention agenda is also needed.
24. In January 2017, the Prime minister announced a major thematic review of children and adolescent mental health services across the country, led by the Care Quality Commission, to identify what is and isn't working (scope to be confirmed). This will help to contribute to the existing evidence base.

### ***Particularly vulnerable groups***

25. We know that health (especially mental health) outcomes for looked after children are significantly worse than for the child population as a whole. Children in care are four times more likely to experience a mental health difficulty than their peers.

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26. The current focus on schools, does not prioritise those between 16-25 who are transitioning from children to adult's services or those children that are not in school. We know that suicide is the leading cause of death among young people aged 20-34 years in the UK and it is considerably higher in men, with nearly four times as many men dying as a result of suicide compared to women.
27. The transition point between children and adults is poor across the majority of the country. A study of young people's transitions from CAMHS to adult mental health services has found that two thirds of teenagers are either 'lost' from or interrupted in their care during this time, which is likely to have serious consequences, especially if needs are unmet.<sup>5</sup> Moving out of an area also brings challenges with many finding existing support begins to fall apart and that they have to start over again.
28. One option would be to designate a virtual mental health lead professional in children's services similar to the role of the virtual school head currently in schools.

### ***Waiting times and criteria to access services***

29. Waiting times or criteria to accessing mental health and wellbeing services are inconsistent, depending on where you live. Criteria to access support can also be extremely high, which means it is only when a child or young person is at crisis point that services will intervene. (One example given is where some local services require two suicide attempts before a child or young person can access support). The length of waiting times is also unacceptably high, with little support whilst the child or young person waits to get to the top of the list.
30. The government has set out an ambition to introduce access and waiting time standards across all mental health services between 2016 and 2020. Guidance to support the development of standards relating to eating disorders, early intervention in psychosis, the improved access to psychological therapies programme and liaison psychiatry was issued in 2015. Work to support commissioners and providers implement the standards and collect data is ongoing.

### ***On-line mental health support services, social media and cyber bullying***

31. On-line counselling services are seen as a positive move, however it is recognised that the internet can also enable access to material that can cause harm to a child's mental health and wellbeing. Social media has a growing impact on children and young people's mental health. Dudley has identified six young people who have committed suicide due to cyberbullying.

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<sup>5</sup> Singh et al. (2010) Process, outcome and experience of transition from child to adult mental healthcare: multi-perspective study

## **Appendix 2**

32. Children need to be taught e-resilience and council's need to be mindful of internet access in public facilities such as libraries. Young people will rarely share concerns about cyberbullying for risk of having their technology taken away. Staff need training to understand the dangers and opportunities of digital technology including Apps.



## **Promoting sector-led improvement in children's services**

### **Purpose of report**

For discussion and noting.

### **Summary**

Since the Department for Education (DfE) funded Children's Improvement Board was closed in 2013, the capacity of the LGA and sector partners to deliver a comprehensive programme of council-led children's improvement support has been reduced.

The DfE has sought to drive improvement centrally through both the Partners in Practice and Innovation Programmes, but the National Audit Office (NAO) report on children in need of help or protection highlighted the Department's failure to act before councils were judged to be *inadequate* by Ofsted.

Discussions have been held with DfE officials on a proposed programme of council-led support that seeks to utilise the expertise of the sector to improve children's services 'upstream' of an *inadequate* Ofsted judgement. This report outlines the possible elements of such a programme and the Board's comments are invited.

### **Recommendation**

The Children and Young People Board is asked to;

1. Discuss and comment on the proposed content of a sector-led improvement offer for children's services.
2. Consider additional opportunities to lobby on the value of a sector-led approach for improvement.

### **Action**

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

**Contact officer:** Clive Harris  
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## **Promoting sector-led improvement in children's services**

### **National Audit Office report on Children in need of help or protection**

1. The National Audit Office (NAO) report, published in October 2016 found that “the actions taken by the Department for Education (DfE) since 2010 to improve the quality of help and protection services delivered by local authorities for children have not yet resulted in services being of good enough quality.”
2. It commented “The Department’s interventions to improve failed local services for children are neither risk-based nor early enough. The Department only intervenes when Ofsted has already found services to have failed local children. It does not plan to use performance information to anticipate risks of failure. Neither the Department nor the 23 per cent of authorities rated *good* yet have the capacity and capability to intervene effectively on a wider scale.”

### **DfE support for improvement in children's services**

3. The Department for Education has committed more than £300 million for improvement and innovation in children's services since 2013. This funding, which runs until 2020, has been allocated for the Innovation Programme, Partners in Practice, City Deals and Trusts.
4. There are currently 34 councils in some form of DfE intervention and we know that the current model of support used by the Department costs a significant amount of money. In some cases, DfE support to individual councils can run into millions of pounds, with comparable investment by the councils concerned.
5. To date, DfE investment has principally been in councils judged to have failed and in mainly *good* councils that can act as innovators and beacons of good practice. We believe that to achieve the NAO aim of seeing more *good* or better children's services by 2020, a more comprehensive improvement offer needs to be made available to the sector which also provides support to councils not yet inspected under the Single Inspection Framework (SIF) and those found to *require improvement*.

### **Increasing the number of Good or better councils**

6. There are 38 councils still awaiting an Ofsted SIF inspection and if current trends continue, we can expect to see at least another 10 of these councils judged to be *inadequate* by March 2018, when the current inspection programme ends. A key aim should be to provide support that will reduce the number of these councils being judged 'less than good' in the coming months.
7. Of the 82 councils rated as less than *good* by Ofsted, the majority, 56, *require improvement* to be good. There is no specific improvement offer to this group and encouraging strong improvement in these councils over the next 3 years is likely to be the best strategy for increasing the number of *good* or better councils in the medium term – by 2020.



8. There are 26 councils judged to be *inadequate*. One concern is that some councils are struggling to 'escape' from this category. Research undertaken for the LGA by iMPower Consulting in 2015 showed that *inadequate* councils face a more severe decline in key performance indicators following inspection than councils judged to be *requires improvement* or better.

### **Our offer to the DfE for sector-led children's services improvement**

9. Our offer to the DfE would be to deploy our tried and tested SLI tools to:

- 9.1 Build strong and effective performance and cost data and sector-wide intelligence

- 9.1.1 Support each region to develop effective cost and performance benchmarking networks, using common core data sets to ensure every council is well informed of their own strengths/ weaknesses. Providing real-time in-year data.
- 9.1.2 Publish nationally on LG Inform a full suite of key metrics for all councils.
- 9.1.3 Utilise our Principal Advisers and appoint Children's Improvement Advisers, with current expertise of working in the children's sector, to work across the country, linking to Association of Directors of Children's Services (ADCS) regional networks to provide 'soft-intelligence' and identify potential risk factors likely to affect children's services.

- 9.2 Self-diagnostic tools

- 9.2.1 Develop risk-assessment that allow councils to be more self-aware of their current performance and areas where practice falls below what is good.
- 9.2.2 Offer each council case auditing and other practical tools to test and assess their front-line practice and inspection readiness.
- 9.2.3 Work with regional ADCS to implement rigorous peer-to-peer challenge mechanism to drive improvement in practice.

- 9.3 Upstream work to improve practice and reduce risk of costly inspection outcomes

- 9.3.1 Undertake a children's peer review for every council once every four years with the purpose of driving improvement in services across all councils at all levels. This would provide high level assurance for DfE of the sector as a whole, and a rich source of transferable learning for the sector.
- 9.3.2 Offer a range of specialist diagnostic reviews: SEND, care practice, London Safeguard Children's Board (LSCB) etc.

- 9.3.3 Design a bespoke version of our financial diagnostic tools for children's services to help councils be cost efficient in their practice and deliver services that are financially sustainable and more resilient.
- 9.3.4 Make best use of the knowledge and expertise in the sector by deploying our extensive list of trained peers (at no cost or marginal fee) to support councils to improve practice ahead of inspection, including case auditing, observing social care practice, supporting and developing front line supervisors and managers, coaching and mentoring.
- 9.3.5 Deploy Children's Improvement Advisers to design and deliver bespoke packages of support to those services seen as being in greatest need.
- 9.3.6 Commission national research, such as the recent ISOS study to identify and share good practice to accelerate improvement in service performance and outcomes.
- 9.3.7 Deliver a full range of regional and national learning events to disseminate good practice.
- 9.4 Work intensively with councils identified as being at risk and those with poor Ofsted judgements
  - 9.4.1 Regional Principal Advisers are expert in brokering and commissioning a wide range of support from specialist technical expertise through to peer mentoring for councils more generally seen as vulnerable or at risk for DCLG and working alongside our in-house Children's Improvement Advisers these skills are fully transferable to children's settings.
  - 9.4.2 Work with and through the DfE advisers, externally appointed commissioners to accelerate improvement in those judged RI (and potentially inadequate.)
- 9.5 Build the leadership and capacity of the sector
  - 9.5.1 Ensure all councils have access to the LGA's nationally recognised leadership development programmes for political leaders.
  - 9.5.2 Use our extensive pool of 400+ trained officer and member peers with specialist knowledge of children's services and currently working in the sector, to deliver a broad range of coaching, mentoring and buddying support for lead members.
  - 9.5.3 Develop and support councillors involved in children's scrutiny arrangement, LSCB boards etc.
  - 9.5.4 Develop the role of Children's Improvement Board (CIB) to provide wider governance of children's improvement by political leaders at a national and local level and to engage key strategic partners – DfE, LGA, ADCS, Solace.



**Children and Young People's  
Board meeting**

23 March 2017

**Implications for Wales**

10. As Children's Services are devolved there are no implications for Wales arising.

**Financial Implications**

11. None.

**Next Steps**

12. The Children and Young People Board is asked to;

12.1. Discuss and comment on the proposed content of a sector-led improvement offer for children's services.

12.2. Consider additional opportunities to lobby on the value of a sector-led approach for improvement.





**Children and Young People Board**

23 March 2017

## Education update

### Purpose of report

For discussion and noting.

### Summary

The LGA has been contributing to the Department for Education (DfE) review of the local authority role in education (the review was originally due to look at children's services as well), through the External Advisory Board (EAB), chaired by Alan Wood.

As a result of the discussions that have taken place at EAB meetings, the Children and Young People Board lead members jointly wrote to the Secretary of State for Education at the start of January, setting out proposals for four key areas, including a 'reset' in relations between central and local government on schools. The full letter is attached at **Appendix 1**.

The paper also provides a summary of the points made in our responses to the Department's consultations on the proposed introduction of a national school funding formula and proposed changes to high needs funding.

### Recommendation

Members are asked to consider how proposals set out in the letter to the DfE Secretary of State can be developed further.

### Action

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

**Contact officer:** Clive Harris  
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## **Education update**

### **Background**

1. The LGA welcomed the Department for Education (DfE) review of the local authority role in education and children's services and supports its aim of establishing a clear and sustainable future role for councils. In our Autumn Statement submission we asked that councils be given a clear and strategic role in overseeing local schools systems, accompanied by appropriate resources, powers and flexibilities.
2. Councils have responded positively to increasing school autonomy and increasing expectations that schools should become responsible for their own improvement. Using a variety of models, they have worked with schools to establish authority-wide school improvement partnerships and have encouraged and supported schools to work in local clusters, federations, Multi-Academy Trusts and Teaching School Alliances.
3. The LGA has been contributing to the Department for Education (DfE) review of the local authority role in education, through the External Advisory Board (EAB), chaired by Alan Wood. As a result of the discussions, the Children and Young People Board lead members jointly wrote to the Secretary of State for Education at the start of January, setting out proposals for four key areas, including a 'reset' in relations between central and local government on schools. The full letter is attached at **Appendix 1**.

### **A 'reset' in relations between central and local government on schools**

4. There is a cross-party view within the LGA that the current debates about school structures are increasingly a distraction from addressing the very real challenges in our education system. While the evidence can be presented to support a number of different arguments, councillors believe that structural reforms are only a limited part of the answer to raising educational standards in England.
5. We believe that the appointment of Justine Greening as Secretary of State for Education and the move away from forced academisation of schools, present an opportunity for a 'reset' in relations between central and local government.
6. We are clear that local councils support the desire for an autonomous school-led system, but have not considered themselves as 'providers' of education since the introduction of Local Management of Schools in 1990. However, we do believe that local government plays an essential role in the strategic oversight of the local schools system but currently lacks the powers to be truly effective at this job.
7. We would like to see a 'reset' that acknowledges that local councils aren't providers of education but, in return, allows us to have the powers to effectively shape and commission provision, place plan and champion the interests of the most vulnerable pupils. Councils should be freed up to convene links between schools and other key partners in an area such as employers. We want to move the debate on school structures into a place where central and local government can better work in partnership to tackle

the big questions our education system faces in delivering the best outcomes for children and young people.

### **Responses to the national schools and high needs funding consultations**

8. The LGA has submitted responses to both the national schools and high needs funding consultation, which closed on 22 March.
9. Our response to the national schools funding consultation focusses on the following areas:
  - 9.1 Concern that the proposal to only have one year of the 'soft' formula in 2018/19 (and not two as proposed in the stage one consultation) will give schools and councils facing budget reductions insufficient time to make the necessary cuts. We believe that the proposed changes need to be phased in gradually to protect those facing a reduction in budgets.
  - 9.2 We have serious doubts about the effectiveness of the proposal for maintained schools being asked to fund, from their own budgets, council statutory duties, particularly around school improvement, that are currently funded from the Education Services Grant (ESG) (recently cut by £600 million or 75 per cent). We do not believe that schools should, or will, be willing to fund council duties from their own resources.
  - 9.3 We believe that there is a clear, continued council role in distributing funding at a local level, in partnership with schools and head teachers. We do not believe that school budgets should be set by the Department for Education alone, without some input which takes local needs and priorities into account.
10. Our response to the high needs funding consultation focusses on the following issues:
  - 10.1 Concern that the proposed High Needs National Funding Formula is not sufficiently responsive to changes in need, partly because a significant proportion of the funding will be locked into historic spend factors, and partly because there is too great a time lag in the data that will be used.
  - 10.2 Concern that the proposed proxy measures and weightings do not fully reflect the needs of children and young people with SEND, representing a striking departure from the ISOS recommendations and research commissioned by DfE to inform the development of the formula.
  - 10.3 The DfE has acknowledged rising needs in SEND by allowing a limited facility for councils to transfer funding from other blocks in 2018/19 and for schools to pool their budgets from 2019/20 to provide for increases in complex needs. The extent to which this is possible could vary, depending on the impact of the Schools National Funding Formula in different areas.



**Children and Young People  
Board**

23 March 2017

10.4 After a virtual cash freeze in recent years, we are clear that the government needs to give careful consideration to the High Needs quantum each year, informed by statistical evidence of trends. If rising needs are not catered for, it will add to existing disincentives from the high stakes accountability system for schools to be inclusive.

**Implications for Wales**

11. As education is devolved there are no implications for Wales arising.

**Financial Implications**

12. None.

**Next Steps**

13. Members are asked to consider how proposals set out in the letter to the DfE Secretary of State can be developed further.



Rt Hon Justine Greening MP  
Secretary of State for Education  
Sanctuary Buildings  
20 Great Smith Street  
Westminster  
SW1P 3BT

CC. Jonathan Slater, DfE Permanent Secretary  
Alan Wood

5 January 2017

Dear Secretary of State

### **The council role in education and children's services**

The LGA welcomed the DfE review of the local authority role in education and children's services and supports its aim of establishing a clear and sustainable future role for councils. In our Autumn Statement submission we asked that councils be given a clear and strategic role in overseeing local schools systems, accompanied by appropriate resources, powers and flexibilities.

Councils have responded positively to increasing school autonomy and increasing expectations that schools should become responsible for their own improvement. Using a variety of models, they have worked with schools to establish authority-wide school improvement partnerships and have encouraged and supported schools to work in local clusters, federations, Multi-Academy Trusts and Teaching School Alliances.

As representatives of the four political groups on the LGA Children and Young People Board, we thought it would be helpful to set out our views as you consider the work of the External Advisory Board chaired by Alan Wood. We would welcome the opportunity to meet you to discuss our proposals in four key areas.

### **A 'reset' in relations between central and local government on schools**

There is a cross-party view within the LGA that the current debates about school structures are increasingly a distraction from addressing the very real challenges in our education system. While the evidence can be presented to support almost any argument one wishes to make, councillors believe that structural reforms are only a limited part of the answer to raising educational standards in England.

We believe that your appointment and the move away from forced academisation of schools present an opportunity for a 'reset' in relations between central and local government. Local councils support the desire for an autonomous school-led system. We haven't considered ourselves 'providers' of education since the introduction of Local Management of Schools in 1990. However, we do believe that local government plays an essential role in the strategic oversight of the local schools system but currently lacks the powers to be truly effective at this job.

We would like to see a 'reset' that acknowledges that local councils aren't providers of education but, in return, allows us to have the powers to effectively shape and commission provision, place plan and champion the interests of the most vulnerable pupils. Councils should be freed up to convene links between schools and other key partners in an area such as employers. We want to move an increasingly stale debate about school structures into a place where central and local government can better work in partnership to tackle the big questions our education system faces in delivering the best outcomes for children and young people.

### **The continuing council role in education**

The Government has been clear that councils will have a continuing role in school place planning, school admissions and championing the interests of all local children and families. This includes a significant continuing role in protecting the interests of the most vulnerable children, including Looked After Children and those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities. Councils need sufficient funding and powers to discharge these vital responsibilities. This includes reserve powers in support of their place planning and vulnerable pupil responsibilities to direct schools of all types, if voluntary local agreement cannot be reached.

Councils have a good record in school improvement. 89% of council-maintained schools are good or outstanding. Maintained schools outperform academies in every Regional Schools Commissioner region. The improvement system should be 'status blind' as between council maintained schools and academies. Councils should be seen as partners in school improvement.

We do not believe there is capacity within the system to withdraw funding and powers for councils to support school improvement and hold schools to account in August 2017 as currently planned by the Government. Support available through Teaching School Alliances, Multi-Academy Trusts and Regional Schools Commissioners is not yet geographically comprehensive and does not have the track record of success that council school improvement and oversight has. We believe that councils should maintain a strategic role to help commission the improvement support necessary for schools, particularly spotting those in the early stages of failure. Councils, if they wish, should continue to be able to compete in an open market to offer traded school improvement services.

In the longer term, we believe that councils will need to retain a role in oversight of school standards, school quality assurance and school finances. They are the only local body that possesses the necessary detailed local knowledge and connection with schools.

### **The council role in supporting and convening schools and other partners**

Councils already convene a variety of partnerships in their areas to protect and promote the life chances of local children and young people, including Local Children's Safeguarding Boards; local employment partnerships and Health and Wellbeing Boards.

In order to support their future education role we propose that they should be asked to convene a local forum which should take responsibility for:

- sharing data on the needs and achievements of children in a local place, and the needs of future cohorts;

- sharing that data and information with parents, and engaging with them on key issues;
- convening links between schools and employers to help shape the career paths for young people;
- agreeing local approaches to ensuring sufficient school places;
- developing capacity for school improvement support where it is needed
- Ensuring the needs of vulnerable children can be met within the local authority area

We would welcome a discussion about the membership and the possible statutory underpinning of such a forum. We do not believe that there should be a prescriptive membership list – the forum would need to be small enough to promote a strategic discussion. But key partners should include local businesses, schools and other education providers, NHS, Regional Schools Commissioners, MAT and faith representatives.

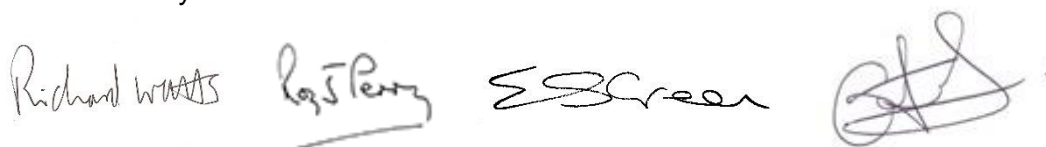
### **The council role in maintaining schools**

Councils do not control schools but they do employ staff in community schools and this has led to accusations that councils should not have a role in school oversight because they have a conflict of interest as both a provider and regulator. We think this conflict of interest is more imagined than real because maintained school governing bodies have almost complete autonomy in employing staff and setting budgets. However, we would be prepared to explore with Government the options for ending any council role that they perceive to amount to a conflict of interest.

The Government's preferred model to end the council role in maintaining schools is for all schools to become academies. We believe that this is a costly and disruptive focus on structures, costing councils up to £320 million in legal and other expenses. We would like to discuss a more rapid process for granting wider freedoms to all schools. Any model adopted needs to be low cost and not disruptive because schools need to concentrate their energies and resources in school improvement and responding to the budgetary pressures they face.

There are very real challenges facing our school system: improving standards, particularly in 'Opportunity Areas', up to those of the best systems in the world; matching the best in the world on skills and vocational education; and providing young people with the life skills to allow them to succeed in the workplace. We believe that grasping the opportunity for a 'reset' in relations between central and local government provides a way to move the education policy debate onto how best we can address these critical questions.

Yours sincerely



Cllr Richard Watts, Chair of the LGA Children and Young People Board  
Cllr Roy Perry, Vice Chair  
Cllr Liz Green, Deputy Chair  
Cllr Gillian Ford, Deputy Chair



## Note of last Children & Young People Board meeting

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<b>Title:</b>	Children & Young People Board
<b>Date:</b>	Friday 13 January 2017
<b>Venue:</b>	Rooms A&B, Ground Floor, Layden House, 76-86 Turnmill Street, London, EC1M 5LG

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### Attendance

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

Item	Decisions and actions
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### 1 Declarations of Interest

The Chairman welcomed the Board and those observing.

There were no declarations of interest.

### 2 Regional adoption agencies

The Chair introduced Mark Owers, Professional Advisor to the Adoption Leadership Board (ALB).

Mark Owers gave a presentation on the work the ALB has undertaken in working with central government, local authorities and voluntary adoption agencies in establishing Regional Adoption Agencies (RAAs). During his presentation he raised the following points:

- To date 19 RAAs were in place involving 132 local authorities.
- Of the 20 Local Authorities that had not agreed an RAA to be a part of, 13 were already engaged with the Department for Education to either join an existing RAA or establish a new one.
- That there would be a phased roll out with some going live in 2017.
- He brought the Board's attention to 5 RAAs being established that he was working closely with as Demonstration Projects. This is helping ascertain the features of an effective RAA.
- That going forward the aim should not be to create a bigger service but a better service.
- There could be significant gains around cost performance, but the picture of possible savings was currently unclear.
- That all projects now consider RAA Funding Principles and RAA Funding Options.
- In regards to costs there would be some areas that benefit and some that do not.

In the discussion that followed, Members raised the following points:

- The progress in establishing the Adopt Thames Valley RAA was given as a very positive example. There had already been joint working between the Unitary Authorities involved. A Member stated that engagement with the local authorities involved had also been very good. Mark Owers expressed to the Board that he was grateful for the feedback and to hear very positive progression in establishing RAAs in some areas.
- A view was expressed by Members that there will be risks to the quality of the service should RAAs have to grow even larger.
- A Member explained there had been a very positive outcome for a family of 6 who had been adopted in Nottingham. The complexity of this case meant it took considerably longer than the recommended timescales, which could cause the LA difficulties with regard to government scorecards. This must be acknowledged in further conversations with the Department for Education, to ensure that RAAs are not discouraged from seeking the best possible outcomes for all children due to the partial picture presented in timescales-based scorecards
- In regards to the ALB data available to local authorities Mark Owers reassured Members that the ALB data returns were published quarterly and that they were looking on improving the way in which this information was shared
- A concern was raised that delays in a child being adopted were often due to family courts as opposed to local authorities. The Chair shared Members' concerns and stated that this would need to be looked at in more depth.
- In regards to accountability it was confirmed by a Member that in his local authority information from their RAA feeds back into Scrutiny Committees. The Chair expressed a view that it will be important to have clarity on the legal and accountability structures around RAAs.
- The Chair expressed a view that the notion RAAs are a permanent revolution is unhelpful and that the results will need to be seen before determining how to go forward. The main test will be whether regionalising the adoption system does make it easier to permanently house difficult cases.

### **Decision**

The Board noted the current activity taking place to regionalise the adoption system.

### **Action**

Mark Owers to report back the LGA's views to the Adoption Leadership Board.

## **3 Children and Social Work Bill: Power to test different ways of working**

The Chair introduced the report which updated Members on the recent amendments to the Children and Social Work Bill, which have been the subject of national debate, and asked for the Board's input to confirm the LGA's future position on this.

Ian Dean, Senior Adviser, explained that provisions had changed since the Board last discussed the Children and Social Work Bill, partly as a result of LGA lobbying. In

particular, the powers were now entirely LA-led, with no power for the Secretary of the State to enforce changes upon a local authority area without their consent. He stated that it is important to ensure changes to the Bill were used to help children receive better outcomes and that the powers needed to achieve this lie with local councils. He also confirmed that the government have since proposed the creation of an expert panel to oversee any applications for these legislative exemptions. He informed the Board that a number of organisations, including Barnardo's and the Children's Society, are now supportive of the amended provisions.

In the discussion that followed, members of the Board raised the following points:

- Several members expressed the view that this was a good opportunity for local government to tailor provision around local children and young people, and that they were therefore supportive.
- There was also a view this would enable greater innovation in service design, in particular in joint work between Local Authorities.
- A Member expressed a view that current legislation has not stopped innovation, and that they are cautious in regards to the freedoms proposed through the Children and Social Work Bill.

The Chair concluded that the LGA collectively welcome changes that could enable greater flexibility for local authorities, but with a degree of caution. He expressed a view that flexibility given to local authorities, although welcome, will not be used much in practice. He also emphasised that every effort should be made to ensure that local authorities have a strong voice in considering applications to do things differently and that the focus must remain achieving the best outcome for children.

### **Decision**

The Board noted the report.

### **Action**

Officers to incorporate the Board's views in the LGA's future position in relation to the power to test different ways of working.

## **4 Education funding announcements**

Clive Harris, Senior Adviser, introduced the item informing the Board on the second stage of the Department for Education consultation on a schools national funding formula which had been announced just before Christmas. The Board's attention was brought to the fact schools would be expected to move from a soft formula to a hard formula in on year (a two year soft formula was proposed in the first national funding formula consultation) and that under new proposals, councils would be able to seek top-slice funding from schools to pay for statutory duties previously funded through ESG. He welcomed the views of the Board to inform the LGA response to the consultation.

In the discussion that followed, the Board raised the following points:

- Members expressed a view that they were sceptical top slicing funding from schools through the schools forum was a valid option for local authorities.
- A concern was raised in regards to the impact on smaller schools and, should a smaller school be forced to close, the financial issues it would cause the local authority, including increases in school transport costs. The Board had a clear consensus in regards to their concern to the impact of the new funding formula on smaller schools in particular. The Chair emphasised that the Board should continue to argue the case for further devolution and how important it will be for local authorities going forward.
- Members shared concerns in regards to schools moving to a new hard formula in just one year. It was suggested that a longer transitional period moving into the new formula would be welcome. The Chair shared Members' concerns as to the pace schools would have to adopt the new schools national funding formula.
- A concern was raised that as the current government is committed to increasing the housing stock there will be a significant pressure to open the schools required to accommodate new residential developments.
- A view was expressed that local authorities also would benefit from the same flexibility as multi academy trusts.
- The Chair expressed a view that there were exceptions where a local authority will be better informed than central government such as with new housing estates, traveller communities and armed forces housing. The Chair expressed a view that in these circumstances greater flexibility and devolution would benefit local authorities.

The Chair concluded that it was of crucial importance to have sustained funding towards school improvement. He echoed the Boards view that local authorities want the same flexibility as multi academy trusts. He also indicated that where there is a local demand to top slice funding from schools central government should not seek to overrule the will of the local area.

### **Decision**

The Board noted the report and advised that as a general position on the LGA's response to the consultation is that the new schools national funding formula must be determined carefully and that the local knowledge of local authorities must be respected.

### **Action**

Officers to incorporate the Board's view in the LGA's response to the consultation.

## **5 Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children**

Ian Dean, Senior Adviser, introduced the item updating members on the settlement of Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC) and providing further information on funding arrangements. He informed the Board that the Home Office acknowledged and appreciated the crucial role that local government had played in responding to the situation in Calais, often providing support and placements at extremely short notice, and



that conversations with the LGA had been marked by an increasing openness from government. Further to this, the Home Office, LGA, ADCS and others were now considering the lessons learnt from the process, while acknowledging that Calais was a unique situation in terms of the lack of planning time at both national and local level. . He asked the Board to give their feedback to inform the LGA's ongoing dialogue with government.

In the discussion that followed, the Board raised the following points:

- That local authorities were glad their hard work in this area had been given recognition.
- A concern was raised that family reunification processes were not always robust, with insufficient time to assess the validity or suitability of the proposed placement.
- That, while communication with government may have improved as the process continued, the early weeks of resettlement were marked by a lack of openness and confused messaging from central government. The LGA had played a pivotal role in holding arrangements together during this period, and should be proud of its work in doing so.
- That the LGA should look to draft a document informing Ministers of the role local authorities have played and what they have learned from the sudden increase of UASC settlement.

The Chair concluded by giving his thanks to Cllr David Simmonds for his work on this issue as the previous Chairman of the Board and the current Chairman of the LGA's Asylum, Refugee and Migration Task Group. He also stated that it was important for local government to look at the lessons they have learned so that local authorities can be better prepared to manage the settlement of UASC in future. He endorsed the suggestion that the LGA draft a *Lessons Learned* document.

### **Decision**

The Board noted the report.

### **Action**

Officers to put together a draft *Lessons Learned* document and to incorporate the Board's feedback in the LGA's ongoing dialogue with government.

## **6 LGA Task Group: The Future of Children's Social Care Improvement - Terms of Reference**

The Chair introduced the item by thanking Cllr Dick Madden for agreeing to Chair the new LGA Task Group on the Future of Children's Social Care Improvement, as well as all Members and Officers involved.

Cllr Dick Madden also gave thanks to policy officers from Essex County Council, Peter Fairley and Adam Boey, who had been of great assistance to him and will contribute to the Task Group's work. He informed the Board that as a Task Group they will engage with local authorities across the country.

### **Decision**

The Board noted and endorsed the proposed Terms of Reference for the group.

### **Action**

The Future of Children's Social Care Improvement LGA Task Group to report back to the Board on their progress.

## **7 Note of the Previous Meeting**

The Board agreed the minutes of the previous meeting.

### **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 Ian Hudspeth	Oxfordshire County Council
	Cllr Dick Madden	Essex County Council
	Cllr Bob Cook	Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council
	Cllr Anntoinette Bramble	Hackney London Borough Council
	Cllr David Mellen	Nottingham City Council
	Cllr Roz Gladden	Liverpool City Council
	Cllr Paul Cullen	Richmondshire District Council
	Cllr Christopher Coleman	Cheltenham Borough Council
Apologies	Cllr Liz Hacket Pain	Monmouthshire County Council
	Cllr Ian Parry	Staffordshire County Council
	Cllr Janet Walton	Borough of Poole
	Cllr John Kent	Thurrock Council
	Cllr Anne Burns	Cumbria County Council
In Attendance	Mark Owers	Professional Advisor to the Adoption Leadership Board



Agenda Item 8

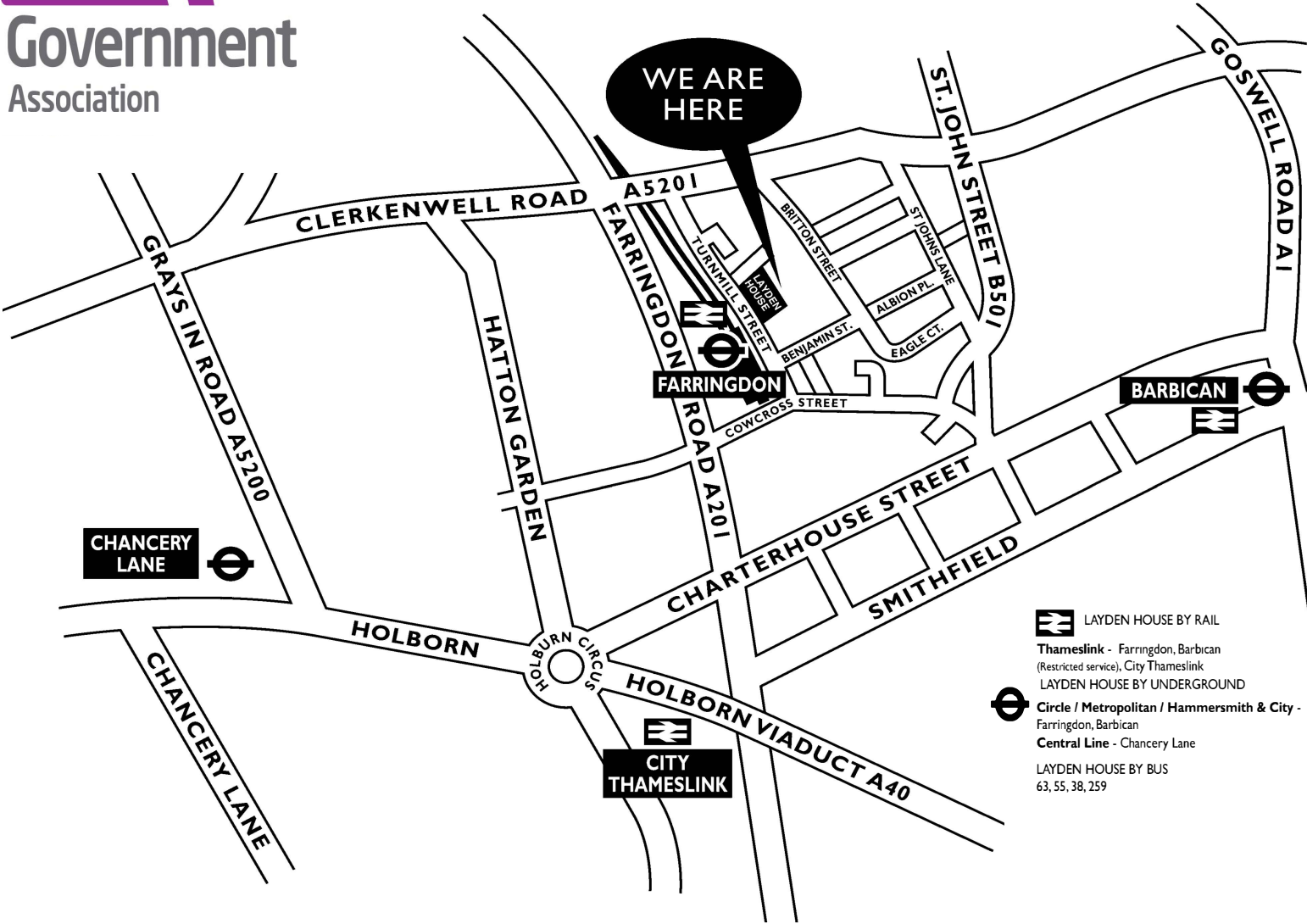
**Children and Young People  
Board**

23 March 2017

LGA Officers

Ian Dean  
Clive Harris

Senior Adviser  
Senior Adviser



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*\*The Local Government Association will be based at Layden House whilst refurbishment takes place at their offices in Smith Square.*

**Public Transport**

Layden House is served well by public transport. The nearest mainline station is **Farringdon** (Circle, Hammersmith & City and Metropolitan Lines. It also has Overground lines)

**Bus routes - Farringdon Station**

- 63 - Kings Cross - Crystal Palace Parade (**Stop A/B**)
- 55 - Oxford Circus -High Road Leyton (**Stop E/K**)
- 243 - Redvers Road - Waterloo Bridge (**Stop E/K**)

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The nearest Santander Cycle Hire racks are on Theobold's Road.  
 For more information please go to [www.tfl.gov.uk](http://www.tfl.gov.uk)

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- Smithfield Car Park - EC1A 9DY
- NCP Car Park London Saffron Hill - EC1N 8XA