

Children and Young People Board

Agenda

Wednesday, 10 January 2018
2.00 pm

Smith Square 1&2, Ground Floor, 18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ

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

www.local.gov.uk

This meeting is



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Children & Young People Board
10 January 2018

There will be a meeting of the Children & Young People Board at **2.00 pm on Wednesday, 10 January 2018** Smith Square 1&2, Ground Floor, 18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ.

A sandwich lunch will be available before 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:

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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 18 Smith Square is printed on the back cover.

LGA Contact:

Paul Goodchild
0207 664 3005 / paul.goodchild@local.gov.uk

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Children & Young People Board – Membership 2017/2018

Councillor	Authority
Conservative (8)	
Cllr Roy Perry (Vice Chairman)	Hampshire County Council
Cllr Natasha Airey	Windsor & Maidenhead Royal Borough
Cllr Ryan Brent	Portsmouth City Council
Cllr Susie Charles	Lancashire County Council
Cllr Matthew Golby	Northamptonshire County Council
Cllr Dick Madden	Essex County Council
Cllr Laura Mayes	Wiltshire Council
Cllr Roger Gough	Kent County Council
Substitutes	
Cllr John Riley	Hillingdon London Borough Council
Cllr Janet Walton	Borough of Poole
Labour (7)	
Cllr Richard Watts (Chair)	Islington Council
Cllr Megan Swift	Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council
Cllr John Kent	Thurrock Council
Cllr Bob Cook	Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council
Cllr Andy Moorhead	Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council
Cllr Anntoinette Bramble	Hackney London Borough Council
Cllr David Mellen	Nottingham City Council
Substitutes	
Cllr Imran Khan	Bradford Metropolitan District Council
Cllr Brigid Jones	Birmingham City Council
Liberal Democrat (2)	
Cllr Lucy Nethsingha (Deputy Chair)	Cambridgeshire County Council
Cllr Carl Cashman	Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council
Substitutes	
Cllr Christopher Coleman	Cheltenham Borough Council
Independent (1)	
Cllr Gillian Ford (Deputy Chair)	Havering London Borough Council
Substitutes	
Cllr Julie Fallon	Conwy County Borough Council
Cllr Ruth O'Keeffe	East Sussex County Council

Children & Young People Board – Attendance 2017/2018

Councillors	12/9/17	12/10/17
Conservative Group		
Cllr Roy Perry	Yes	Yes
Cllr Natasha Airey	Yes	Yes
Cllr Ryan Brent	Yes	No
Cllr Susie Charles	No	Yes
Cllr Matthew Golby	No	No
Cllr Dick Madden	Yes	Yes
Cllr Laura Mayes	Yes	Yes
Cllr Roger Gough	Yes	No
Labour Group		
Cllr Richard Watts	Yes	Yes
Cllr Megan Swift	Yes	Yes
Cllr John Kent	Yes	No
Cllr Bob Cook	Yes	No
Cllr Andy Moorhead	No	No
Cllr Anntoinette Bramble	No	No
Cllr David Mellen	Yes	Yes
Lib Dem Group		
Cllr Lucy Nethsingha	Yes	Yes
Cllr Carl Cashman	Yes	No
Independent		
Cllr Gillian Ford	Yes	Yes

Agenda

Children & Young People Board

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Smith Square 1&2, Ground Floor, 18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ

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Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday, 13 March 2018, 11.00 am, Westminster Suite, 8th Floor, 18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ

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Children and Young People's mental health services (CAMHS)

Purpose of report

For discussion.

Summary

This paper is designed to facilitate a discussion to prepare for our submission to the Green Paper on children's mental health and will provide material for the CYP mental health campaign we are launching in 2018 in response to the series of recent reports detailing the slow progress of the CAMHS reforms. Previous discussions with CYP and CWB Office Holders indicated that the LGA wants a dramatic shift in how we approach the prevention and treatment of mental health issues in children and young people. A similar paper will be presented to the CWB Office Holders on the 16 January, the full LGA submission will be sent to Office Holders of both Boards for their sign off.

Recommendation:

That the Children and Young People Board discuss the Green Paper proposals as set out in paragraphs 5-10, in order to inform the LGA's proposed response as outlined in paragraphs 11-18

Action:

Officers to take forward work in line with members' steer.

Contact officer: Nasima Patel (CYP team) Samantha Ramanah (CWB team)

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Children and Young People's mental health services (CAMHS)

Background

1. In 2015 the Government committed £1.4 billion in additional investment for Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) over a five year period. In January 2017 the Prime Minister Theresa May announced a comprehensive package of measures to transform mental health support in schools, workplaces and communities.
2. In 2017 Office Holders of the Children and Young People (CYP) Board and Community Wellbeing Board (CWB) agreed that the LGA would run a campaign on Children and Young People's mental health, given the level of concerns supported by internal and external research and policy reports.
3. A number of reports, including the Care Quality Commission (CQC) review (October 17) highlight that the crisis remains in this service despite two years of reforms. Analysis of transformation plans indicate that not all the money is getting through to front line service provision and in some areas it is being used to offset other budget reductions. This, coupled with historical underinvestment as well as the reported increase in demand for NHS CAMHS services has led to the current crisis. The profile of the new funding stubbornly remains at the specialist/acute end. Yet even in this domain clinical pathways and actual provision for the most in need children remain patchy and unsafe.
4. The problems identified in recent reports are fairly clear and thematic:
 - 4.1 A historical underspend on children's mental health when compared with adult mental health (6.7% of mental health spending is on CAMHS). This is despite clear evidence that most serious mental health conditions begin in adolescence. Issues within the system will only be partially remedied by the current new investment.
 - 4.2 A clear acceptance by all that prevention and early intervention and support for children's wider well-being is the key to improving outcomes as well as to reducing demand, yet the funding profile remains stubbornly at the specialist/acute end.
 - 4.3 A very complex fragmented system with many organisations involved, this is coupled with years of under investment, budget reductions and increased demand.

- 4.4 Most children and young people are turned away as not meeting thresholds despite having needs.
- 4.5 Unacceptable waiting times for young people to receive treatment.
- 4.6 A high attrition rate, some of which is created by children and young people not wanting to enter a service they find stigmatising, unfriendly and/or in an unfamiliar setting.
- 4.7 A shortfall in inpatient beds for the most vulnerable.

The CYP Mental Health Green Paper

- 5. [Transforming children and young people's mental health provision: a green paper](#) was published by the Department of Health and the Department for Education on 4 December. The deadline for response is 2 March 2018.
- 6. The Green Paper affirms the current work programme to implement "Future in Mind". A further £300m has been announced primarily to strength the links between School and the NHS. The money it seems will go to the NHS.
- 7. The new proposals include:
 - 7.1 Every school and college will be encouraged to appoint a designated lead for mental health to oversee the approach to mental health and wellbeing. All children and young people's mental health services should identify a link for schools and colleges. This link will provide rapid advice, consultation and signposting. There will be a new offer of training to help leads and staff to deliver whole school approaches to promoting better mental health.
 - 7.2 Funding for mental health workforce of community-based mental health support teams, supervised by NHS children and young people's mental health staff, to provide specific extra capacity for early intervention and ongoing help. Their work will be managed jointly by schools, colleges and the NHS. The Designated Senior Leads for Mental Health in schools will work closely with the new Support Teams.
 - 7.3 A new 4-week waiting time for NHS children and young people's mental health services to be piloted in some areas. This builds on the expansion of specialist NHS services already underway. The reduced waiting time will be achieved for a fifth to a quarter of the country by 2022/23.

8. For SEND children there will be further work and proposals taking into account Dame Lenehan's review of children in residential and special schools in spring 2018. There will be a national leadership board for children and young people with high needs.
9. For 16-25 year olds, there will be a new national strategic partnership with key stakeholders focused on improving the mental health of 16-25 year olds by encouraging more coordinated action, experimentation and robust evaluation.

Proposed LGA response

10. The key themes for a proposed LGA response to the Green Paper are set out below for Members to discuss. This is based on previous discussions with Officer Holders, the Boards and at the Roundtable.
11. Our response will include our existing lines which includes calls for greater transparency and accountability for new funding, reducing waiting times, root and branch reform, additional investment and school based counselling available in every secondary school.
12. We welcome the additional investment and focus on schools/earlier intervention in the Green Paper. We particularly welcome the focus on a whole school approach with designated leads as well a commitment that the new (S)RE curriculum will include teaching every child about mental health This is in keeping with our calls in this and related areas.
13. As part of the call for a whole school approach we will advocate that some of the new investment is used to fund an independent counselling service in every secondary school in England. That this should be done directly via the Designated Schools Grant (DSG) thus avoiding the concerns of money getting possibly 'lost' in the wider pressures within the NHS. The LGA undertook a review of the costings of an independent school counselling service and agree with the best estimate in the sector that that it would cost in the range of £90m to have an independent school counselling services in every secondary school in England. This we estimate is 5.3% of all the new money promised.
14. We remain concern that the additional investment will at best give a partial response (less than half of children will be able to access CAMHS even with the additional investment according to the NHS) with no clear strategy of how the remaining gaps will be funded, given the reduction in council 's early intervention funding and pressures on school funding.
15. The proposals largely overlook the role local authorities play as key partners with schools and the NHS in designing, commissioning and delivering early intervention, preventative and universal services including mental health services. By ignoring the key role Councils play in improving the wider system for children it may in effect undermine this as well as existing relationships and the wider work local partners are undertaking to develop a local offer for CYP mental health services through Local Transformation Plans.
16. More clarity is needed on the new support teams and their relationships with existing CAMHs and local transformation plans. The development of new teams and national

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boards for different cohorts of children risks introducing further complexity, as often children with complex needs can cut across many domains of needs.

17. The proposal that children who are referred will be seen by CAMHS within 4 weeks is only going to be achieved according to the Green Paper for a fifth to a quarter of the country by 2022/23 with no clarity as to how children in the remaining areas will overcome the obstacle of long waiting times. This proposal will be piloted in a number of areas and a key risk that should be checked as part of the pilots is that it does not have unintended consequences in other parts of the system such as a shorter wait for an assessment but a longer wait for treatment.
18. We are calling for the Government to further increase funding and support to CAHMS services to ensure we have a sustainable well-being and mental health system that can deliver our shared ambition of delivering support for children and families when they ask for it. We want to see the full implementation of 'Future in Mind' recommendations for access and waiting time standards.
19. We are calling for the Government to ensure that there is an urgent increase in pathways for children with complex needs (such as Looked after children (LAC), ADHD, USAC and youth justice young people).

Implications for Wales

20. As the Green Paper applies to Wales we will be in discussions with Welsh colleagues in the coming weeks to understand the implications.

Financial implications

21. This work will be undertaken from within existing LGA budgets.

The future of children's social care improvement task and finish group

Purpose

For discussion and direction.

Summary

This report sets out the work undertaken by the future of children's services task and finish group since its first meeting in January 2017 and how the proposals contained in the *Bright Futures* report, which was the culmination of the group's work, will be monitored in future. This report also proposes the creation of a new task and finish group that will focus on gaining a clear understanding of the challenges facing councils in their work to deliver to Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) support, with particular reference to implementation of reforms set out in the Children and Families Act 2014.

Recommendation:

That the Children and Young People Board note the work undertaken by the task and finish group to date, agree the creation of a new task and finish group focussing on SEND and; nominate one member from each political group to participate.

Action:

Officers to action as appropriate.

Contact officer: Clive Harris
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The future of children's social care improvement task and finish group

Work undertaken to date

1. The future of children's social care improvement task and finish group was established by the LGA Children and Young People Board to develop a coherent, evidence-based narrative of the current state of children's social care improvement support in England, and a clear vision for how this support should be designed and delivered in future.
2. The task and finish group met six times between January and September 2017, with work focussed on three specific strands, reviewing the range of children's social care improvement activity taking place across central and local government, collation and analysis of existing evidence of this activity and; commissioning and overseeing any new research to fill any identified gaps in this evidence base.
3. The work of the task and finish group culminated with publication of the *Bright Futures report* to coincide with this year's NCAS conference. *Bright Futures* sets out seven key areas where councils and their partners should work together to deliver the most effective services for children, young people and their families
 - 3.1 A stronger focus on outcomes for children;
 - 3.2 Consistently strong local leadership;
 - 3.3 A culture of continuous improvement;
 - 3.4 The right support for children at the right time;
 - 3.5 Sustainable funding to help children thrive;
 - 3.6 A better understanding of what works for children and;
 - 3.7 Strengthened morale and support for social workers.
4. To support publication of *Bright Futures*, the LGA has to date focussed primarily on disseminating the report and highlighting the key messages to a wide group of stakeholders. This includes:
 - 4.1 Speeches at the Solace, County Council Network and Association of Independent LSCB Chairs conferences.
 - 4.2 Circulating copies to regional Lead Member networks.
 - 4.3 Circulating copies with the Education Select Committee, the All Party Parliamentary Group for Children, and the All Party Parliamentary Group for Looked After Children and Care Leavers, as well as the Secretary of State for Education.

- 4.4 The production of a two page version of the report, highlighting our three primary campaign asks, which has been sent to all UK Members of Parliament, and Cllr Richard Watts has given a copy direct to the Leader of the Opposition. Labour have since referenced this document in several Parliamentary debates and questions.
5. In terms of statistics, the report has had:
- 5.1 Over **6,500** total views of our online campaign hub;
 - 5.2 **11** media releases produced, generating **46** episodes of national coverage;
 - 5.3 **39** Tweets promoting the campaign and publication, reached over **91,600** people;
 - 5.4 **892** downloads of our campaign publication and **1,523** summary page views;
 - 5.5 **583** views of a joint letter to government, signed by LGA and the Chief Executives of four major children's charities, drawing on the key messages from *Bright Futures*;
 - 5.6 **3,634** views of our specially produced 60 second summary video;
 - 5.7 **1,540** printed copies produced.
6. At the Children and Young People Board office holders meeting that took place on the 6 December it was agreed that the task and finish group's formal work should come to an end, but that the group should reconvene on an informal basis in twelve months' time to review progress on the recommendations made in the *Bright Futures* publication.

The proposed creation of a new task and finish group focussing on SEND

7. Feedback from member councils has highlighted Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) as an area that is causing considerable concern as rising demand for support for children and young people has not been mirrored by increased funding. This has been combined with both an Ofsted inspection framework that has highlighted the mixed council performance picture and the April 2018 deadline for transferring all children and young people with SEND statements to Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs).
8. Given the complex nature of the SEND policy landscape, the Children and Young People Board is asked to agree to create a task and finish group that, between January and September 2018, will develop a coherent, evidence-based narrative of the current state of SEND provision in England, and a clear vision for how this provision should be designed and delivered in future.
9. In order to undertake this task, the group will:
- 9.1 Review the role of councils, central government, health and other partners in delivering SEND support. Specifically this could include; gaining a clear picture of



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the rising demand for support and it's drivers, sufficiency of funding and the impact of reforms to high needs funding, identifying what effective multi-agency work to support children and young people with SEND looks like, including joint commissioning and; the impact of Ofsted inspection of SEND provision.

9.2 Collate and analyse existing evidence on the impact and effectiveness of this activity.

9.3 Commission and oversee new research to fill any identified gaps in this evidence base.

10. The task and finish group Chair will provide regular updates at future CYP Board meetings, and a final report will be presented to the Board in September 2018.

Next steps

11. A draft work programme, along with terms of reference, will be drafted and shared with task group members, once nominated, subject to the agreement of Children and Young People Board.



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Vision for Youth Services

Purpose of report

For discussion and noting.

Summary

The LGA has developed a Vision for Youth Services in order to set its aspirations for youth services, support lobbying of government, and guide future work in this area. This is attached at **Appendix A** and was formally launched at the Youth Services Conference on Wednesday 6 December 2017.

Recommendation

That the Children and Young People Board note the report.

Action

Officers to take any action arising from discussion of the report.

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Vision for Youth Services

1. At its meeting on 23 March 2017, the Board also approved a roundtable meeting with partners to support the development of LGA policy around youth services. In light of changes both to local authority funding and the needs and experiences of young people, it was considered an appropriate time for the LGA to look at how councils could best deliver their duties towards young people, and how it could support them to do so.
2. A roundtable was held on 16 August 2017, with feedback from this forming the basis of a vision for youth services. The vision outlines the LGA's aspirations for youth services in order to help shape support to local authorities, and to help make the case for additional government funding for youth services. It also provides a starting point for local discussions by outlining six principles for effective youth services, and key areas for consideration.
3. The vision was developed in consultation with national partners, regional youth work groups, councils and lead members. We have also held discussions with both the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, and the Department for Education.
4. The document includes a range of recommendations for action by the Government and the National Citizen Service Trust, along with our offer of support to councils, which will guide our future work in this area.
5. Since its launch, the Vision document has been well received by the sector. For example, Leigh Middleton, CEO of the National Youth Agency commented "I'd like to congratulate the LGA on showing essential leadership on this often overlooked area"¹, and the Partnership for Young London stated that it was "a really positive long-term vision for youth services and provision [and] a great step towards a more asset-based approach towards youth service provision."²

Implications for Wales

6. As Children's Services are devolved there are no implications for Wales arising.
7. A representative of the Welsh Local Government Association spoke at the Youth Services Conference on 6 December 2017 to support the link between services in both countries, and officers are continuing discussions with WLGA counterparts on this.

Financial Implications

8. None.

Next Steps

9. Members are asked to note the Vision for Youth Services.

¹ <http://www.nya.org.uk/2017/12/nya-responds-lga-vision-youth-services/>

² <http://www.partnershipforyounglondon.org.uk/blog/response-to-lgas-bright-futures-youth-strategy/>

Appendix A

Bright Futures: Our vision for youth services

1. Making sure all children and young people can have the bright future they deserve is a key ambition of every council. But our children's services are under increasing pressure, and every council in the country has seen major changes to their youth provision over the past decade. Demand for child protection support has increased dramatically at the same time as local authority funding has been significantly reduced. Recent research suggests that central government funding for children and young people services has fallen by £2.4 billion since 2010,¹ and our analysis shows that an additional £2 billion funding gap will have opened up by 2020. Councils have had to make extremely difficult decisions about how to allocate increasingly scarce resources, and youth services have seen their funding reduced as councils are forced to prioritise urgent help for children at immediate risk of harm. This has had a particularly strong impact on the availability of open access, universal services, with provision increasingly targeted at those in greatest need.
2. Yet councils still retain statutory responsibilities to make sure, as far as possible, that there is sufficient provision of educational and recreational leisure-time activities for young people, despite the increasingly limited funding available to do so. They have a vital role to play in youth provision, whether they are delivering this directly, commissioning services or maintaining oversight of local provision. This includes informal and non-formal learning, safe spaces to meet friends, youth voice services and sports and leisure activities. Councils also have a responsibility for the wellbeing of all young people in their area.
3. We know that councils are determined that all young people can enjoy where they live, reach their full potential and enter adulthood with confidence and optimism. Local authorities work hard to make the best use of available funds to support as many young people as possible, particularly those with the greatest needs. However, we also know that funding cuts have had a significant impact on universal services in particular, that services in many areas have become fragmented, and as councils have faced different funding and need challenges, levels of provision differ around the country.
4. This document sets out our long-term vision for youth services and provision, outlining the LGA's aspirations to support local work in this area. It is based on existing good practice around the country, and feedback from councils, partners and practitioners. We will develop a range of support for local authorities to help them to work towards delivering the vision, and use it to help make the case for additional government funding for youth services that genuinely meet the needs of young people.

¹ National Children's Bureau, 2017

https://www.ncb.org.uk/sites/default/files/uploads/documents/Turning%20the%20tide%20report_final.pdf

5. Youth services are unlikely to return to the same levels of the pre-austerity years. However, we have a duty to our younger citizens to do the very best we can with what we have, and to argue for better. We hope that this document will provide the starting point to taking a fresh look at youth provision, encouraging true collaboration between all providers, to get the best for our children and young people.

Our vision

6. Our vision is for all young people to enjoy their lives, reach their full potential and make a good transition to adulthood. They should be able to achieve their ambitions, develop positive relationships and make worthwhile contributions to their communities.
7. We want to help councils to work across departments and with their partners to support all young people to do this, enabling access to both universal services and targeted support through safe spaces and activities that young people need, want and value.

Six key principles for effective youth services

8. Youth-led

- 8.1 Young people's voices are central to the provision offered to them. They can choose to attend a variety of services on a voluntary basis, building a sense of autonomy and trust in practitioners that encourages engagement with further work where needed.
- 8.2 Provision is structured around the needs of young people locally, offering both universal, open-access provision wherever possible, with targeted support for those considered more at-risk, disadvantaged or with higher need.

9. Inclusivity, equality and diversity

- 9.1 Young people feel included in their local area and can access the support they need as they progress towards adulthood. No young person feels marginalised or isolated as a result of disability, sexuality, nationality, socio-economic status, special educational needs, mental health issues, religion or any other characteristic.
- 9.2 The local youth offer helps to improve social mobility for young people from all backgrounds by offering support to develop the skills, knowledge and networks they need to access and take advantage of opportunities.

10. Respect

- 10.1 Young people are a valued and respected part of the community whose needs and wishes are considered equally with those of other groups. They are actively

encouraged to participate in their communities and to enjoy opportunities in their local area without fear of judgement or negative stereotyping.

11 Quality, safety and well-being

- 11.1 Good quality services are provided by staff with appropriate safeguarding training, linked to a wider network of support. Ideally this includes professionally qualified youth workers with the skills, expertise and competencies to support safe, quality services with appropriate levels and types of intervention. The youth offer helps to keep young people safe and supports their mental, emotional and physical health, improves their social and economic wellbeing, and makes sure they can access education, non-formal learning and recreation.

12 Empowerment

- 12.1 Services empower young people to progress and engage in employment, education and training, and to take an active role in their local communities. Young people are listened to and can make positive demonstrable changes to their communities, and understand how to engage with the democratic process.

13 Positivity

- 13.1 Services are strengths-based and focus on developing the skills and attributes of young people, rather than attempting to 'fix a problem'.

Delivering our vision

Local solutions

14. As local leaders who know their communities best and have a key role in place-shaping, councils are ideally placed to set out the vision and direction for youth provision in their area. This includes establishing what services and support are needed and wanted, how all local provision (not just youth services) supports young people, identifying the outcomes that matter most to young people, and working with partners to find ways to deliver these. Councils may not be in a position to directly deliver or commission all youth provision, however their ability to oversee and coordinate, with the support of all levels of local government, is invaluable.
15. Consultation with young people and partners is key; a joint vision that genuinely responds to young people will stand a far better chance of being delivered and being successful than a vision developed by the local authority alone. This work should also include the local voluntary and community sector, faith groups, schools and employers, involving them from the very start to ensure that their experiences help to shape the vision and the local offer, and that they can contribute to the delivery of outcomes.
16. As with other children and young people's services, the importance of strong leadership should not be underestimated. The lead member for children's services and the director of children's services should champion young people, the importance of youth provision

and set the direction for delivery in the area. District councils may find it helpful to appoint a 'youth champion' to lead this work across all services in their area; this could also be an option for children's services authorities to help give a specific focus on young people in addition to the work of the lead member and DCS, whose remits are very large.

17. Many issues that impact on the wellbeing and life chances of young people fall outside the remit of youth services, such as housing, public health and employment, so the whole council – along with district, parish and town councils – needs to be engaged with this agenda to deliver a positive vision for young people. The role of families and the community is also important; local authorities are in an ideal position to set a clear example as to how young people deserve to be treated in society, and make sure that young people and their families are at the centre of decision-making.

Coordination

18. Local children's services authorities have a statutory responsibility to make sure, as far as possible, that there is sufficient provision of educational and recreational leisure-time activities for young people aged 13-19 (or up to 25 for those with learning difficulties). A strong needs assessment is vital to ensure that provision is led by service users' needs; useful tools to inform this include the local Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and the Risk of NEET Indicators (RONI) tool.
19. Councils already work with a huge range of local partners and have well-established relationships; they also have a statutory duty to promote coordination with the police, NHS services and schools locally for the benefit of young people's wellbeing. These relationships and duties should be maximised to make sure that partners are working together in the most effective way to make the best use of resources and make progress towards shared outcomes and meeting need. Councils may wish to consider the model used by Partnership for Young London, whose purpose is to:
- 19.1 connect (providers, funders, young people, partners)
 - 19.2 develop (staff, capacity, leadership, collaboration)
 - 19.3 influence (partners, government, vision).
20. There is often a significant amount of provision available for young people in any given area, but this information is rarely collated and oversight is often limited at best. Coordinating provision across an area is difficult, particularly where services change frequently. However in order to ensure the safety of young people attending services, maximise uptake and spot gaps in provision where needs aren't being met, processes should be put in place to attempt this. Maintaining oversight of services will also help councils to monitor the quality of provision so that they can offer support to improve if needed. Supporting partners in genuine collaboration, for example partners redesigning services to deliver joint outcomes rather than more superficial partnership working, can also help to deliver the local vision, with improved collaboration and coordination more likely to lead to better outcomes.

21. Government has committed £1.26 billion of investment in the National Citizen Service (NCS) scheme between 2016 and 2020². NCS guidance³ published in October 2017 recognises local authorities as a key partner in the delivery of the programme, and states that “your NCS provider will always work with you to make sure NCS is delivering the best outcomes for your area in a way that is right for you”. The NCS Trust should work closely with councils on the design and delivery of the programme locally so that councils can take advantage of this available funding and provision, and to ensure the scheme supports the needs of local young people and delivery of the local vision. We will also argue for the devolution of a portion of NCS funding to councils to support local provision for young people, expanding the reach of NCS funding from a time-limited programme to ongoing support and an enhanced local offer.

The national context

22. Local leadership and vision should ideally operate within a framework established by a clear and ambitious national vision for young people. Young people need to know that they are an important consideration in national policy, and that they will receive services to support them towards the same positive outcomes wherever they are in the country. However, there is currently no clear national vision or policy around services for young people, which fall under the remit of the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS). Responsibility for young people is with the Minister for Sports and Civil Society.
23. Neither youth services nor young people are listed in the Department’s priorities or in the Minister’s role on the departmental website, and we are concerned that this fails to reflect the Government’s stated ambitions and commitment to young people. It also does not give effective or sufficient direction required to support and engage with such a vital part of our society. We consider it essential that youth policy has a far higher profile in government in the future, to provide leadership to the sector and a voice to young people.
24. Furthermore, where youth services sit with children and family services within councils to ensure integration of services from birth to adulthood, services for young people are currently separate to children’s services and education in government. We therefore believe that the Government should explicitly include responsibility for young people within a Ministerial portfolio, to champion young people within government and ensure coordination of policy across all departments.

Safeguarding

25. Councils have a statutory duty to safeguard the wellbeing of all young people in their area. This includes making sure that they are safe, and that their mental, emotional and physical health is looked after. Councils will want to satisfy themselves that all provision for young people – regardless of who provides this – is delivered by staff trained in safeguarding procedures and who know how to respond to any concerns. They will also

² National Audit Office ‘National Citizen Service’ 2017

<https://www.nao.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/National-Citizen-Service.pdf>

³ Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, 2017

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-citizen-service-guidance-for-local-authorities>

want to be sure that practitioners have the appropriate training and skills for their provision. Training and advice for providers is a key way that councils can support safe, quality provision in their areas. This should reflect the different approach to safeguarding needed for teenagers rather than children, to make sure that all practitioners are aware of the different challenges facing adolescents and are confident in responding to these.

26. Councils also need to have a strong understanding of their local area and the issues that are affecting young people, as these can change quickly and have considerable impacts in a short space of time. For example, there are emerging criminal activity trends that are more likely to affect young people, such as county lines and gang-related acid attacks; the impact of Brexit is unknown and potentially causing anxiety for those who will be entering the job market at the point of exit from the EU; and the spate of terrorist attacks in England in the summer of 2017 caused an upturn in hate crime, in addition to the inevitable fear felt by residents. Councils need to be ready to respond swiftly to such changes and challenges by putting in place appropriate services to meet the needs of young people, when they need them. Year-round work with young people, as opposed to time limited interventions, is invaluable in identifying and tackling these new issues quickly. It is also helpful to build in flexibility, where possible, to contracts with commissioned providers so that they are responsive and able to alter provision where necessary to meet arising needs.

Funding

27. Where many youth services were traditionally funded by councils, the landscape has changed significantly since 2010. Councils are facing a £2 billion funding gap for children's services by 2020, and were forced to overspend on their children's services budgets by £605 million across England in 2015/16.⁴ Government funding for the Early Intervention Grant has been cut by almost £500 million since 2013 and is projected to drop by a further £183 million by 2020. At the same time, demand for child protection services has increased significantly.
28. These two factors together have led to a major scaling back of universal youth services as councils have been forced to concentrate funding on those children and young people in the most urgent need, rather than the preventative early help and edge of care services – including youth provision – that might reduce need later on. We know that providing early help to children and young people not only supports better outcomes, but it saves significant amounts of money further down the line. The Early Intervention Foundation, for example, estimates that nearly £17 billion is spent every year on late intervention, with £6.4 billion of that falling on local authorities, in particular children's services.⁵
29. With limited funding available from councils, many organisations are often pursuing the same funding from external sources such as charities and trusts. Councils have an opportunity to invest smaller amounts in core funding for groups so that they can access

⁴ Local Government Association analysis, 2017 <https://www.local.gov.uk/about/news/childrens-social-care-breaking-point-council-leaders-warn>

⁵ Early Intervention Foundation, 2016 <http://www.eif.org.uk/publication/the-cost-of-late-intervention-eif-analysis-2016/>

further funding, and to coordinate funding bids, supporting smaller organisations to come together to deliver work that can contribute to the wider vision. Opportunities for organisations to collaborate meaningfully should be explored wherever possible to support collective impact. Support for writing funding bids can also be helpful, particularly where organisations have limited or part-time staffing.

30. In some areas, improving the use of council and community assets has been invaluable, and offers an alternative way of supporting service delivery than financial support. Finding ways to allow easier sharing of assets can improve the viability of, and access to, services across the area. This can apply to buildings, funding and resources – both owned by the council and community organisations, and by private and voluntary partners – as well as staff and volunteers.
31. Using the council's role as a community and partnership leader to facilitate discussions with and investment from the local private sector can help to support delivery of some youth services. Involving local businesses in the development of the vision for local youth services can support this, encouraging buy-in from the beginning and ensuring that the vision helps to support young people to develop the skills they need for the local job market when they reach adulthood.
32. Some authorities are looking at alternative delivery models in order to deliver services in different ways, depending on the local context. In some areas, Youth Mutuals have been developed to open up alternative sources of funding and to allow the generation of income, while in others, Young People's Foundations bring together the public, private, voluntary and community sector to make the most effective use of all available funding and assets. In all models, the council as the body with the statutory responsibility will maintain a key role in supporting and setting the direction of local youth provision.

Commissioning and outcomes

33. The vision for youth provision in an area should be firmly based on the desired outcomes for young people, supported by a clear understanding of how each service, whether directly delivered or externally commissioned, contributes to its delivery. For each service, it is helpful when commissioning to consider why that service is expected to contribute to that outcome and feed into the bigger picture, to ensure that the offer for young people evolves to meet changing needs.
34. Provision by alternative providers such as the voluntary and community sector, schools or religious groups can also help to deliver these outcomes. Clearly this cannot be specified by the council; this is where it is useful to develop the local vision in partnership with other sectors, to encourage progress towards a shared vision for young people. Other provision that is not explicitly youth services, for example health services, parks, housing and transport, can help to meet outcomes as part of a systemic approach to supporting young people. Mapping all of this against the needs analysis and outcomes needed to deliver the vision will help to identify gaps in provision.
35. Evaluating and reporting on outcomes effectively is not easy, and commissioners should acknowledge this, building in proportionate resources to contracts for robust outcome monitoring. In the context of reduced funding, it is not easy to divert money from frontline

delivery; councils have a responsibility to their younger residents to ensure high quality services, and contributing to a good evidence base that allows rigorous scrutiny of services is one way to support this. A clear outcomes framework can help to effectively monitor the impact of a service at key milestones to spot where things aren't working and provide opportunities to make changes where needed. It can also support evidence of collective impact across the system, helping to ensure that everyone is working together toward the same outcomes.

36. As the voluntary and community sector is increasingly involved in the delivery of youth provision, councils will want to consider their commissioning and contract monitoring arrangements to check that these are proportionate and not excluding smaller organisations from putting themselves forward.
37. Involving young people meaningfully in service design and commissioning can also be effective in ensuring the delivery of appropriate services for young people. Working with young people to identify needs, establish the right outcomes for different services and consider the offers of different organisations can be invaluable in ensuring that the right service and the right provider are appointed. Skilled practitioners, for example youth workers, youth offending team officers, edge-of-care workers or mental health workers should also be involved to bring their expert knowledge to the table and identify potential issues that require further investigation.
38. A further opportunity arising from developing a shared vision for youth services in the area is joint commissioning and potentially aligned or pooled budgets. Where outcomes are shared by a range of partners, working with those partners to commission and deliver services that meet those shared objectives is more likely to result in more joined-up, efficient services for young people alongside economic benefits.



**Delivering the vision
Support for councils**

Our offer
We will work with national and regional partners including the National Youth Agency and UK Youth to provide tools to support councils in developing local visions and action plans.
We will work with partners to produce guidance on engaging with young people and involving young people in commissioning.
We will work with partners to coordinate a biannual meeting of key national and regional stakeholders to share information and identify national lobbying priorities.
We will gather and share examples of best practice to share learning and support councils in developing their approaches.
We will commission new research to establish and disseminate the factors that facilitate an effective early help offer including youth provision, looking at how best to engage partner agencies and the community and voluntary sector in developing a joined up offer.
We will work with the National Youth Agency and the Centre for Youth Impact on an outcomes framework for youth services that all councils can use.
We will work with partners to develop a standard checklist for councils to use when commissioning services.

Recommendations for the Government & NCS Trust
The Government should ensure that youth policy has a high profile across government to provide leadership and to make sure that young people’s voices are heard. Suggestions to do this include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Government should set out its policy and ambitions for services for young people, clearly articulating the role that all government departments will play to deliver that vision. • The Government should explicitly include responsibility for young people within a Ministerial portfolio to establish a champion for young people and ensure coordination of policy across all departments.
The NCS Trust should work closely with councils on the design and delivery of the National Citizen Service locally.
The Government should allocate a proportion of the funding dedicated to the National Citizen Service directly to councils for them to dedicate to supporting local youth services.
The Government must commit to sustainable investment in preventative services by reversing the cuts to early intervention funding for local councils.
Funding to support the measurement of outcomes and development of a wider evidence base for youth services should be made available to local authorities.

Note of last Children & Young People Board meeting

Title: Children & Young People Board
Date: Thursday 12 October 2017
Venue: Bayview Suite, 1st Floor, Bournemouth International Centre, Exeter Rd, Bournemouth BH2 5BH

Attendance

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

Item	Decisions and actions
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1	Apologies and Declarations of Interest
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There were no declarations of interest.

2	Bright Futures: Getting the Best for Children and Young People
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The Chair expressed his gratitude to the Children's Social Care Task Group and welcomed the formal launch of Bright Futures: Getting the Best for Children and Young People.

Cllr Dick Madden, Chair of the Children's Social Care Task Group, introduced Bright Futures: Getting the Best for Children and Young People. Cllr Madden gave thanks to the officers involved in bringing this publication together. Cllr Madden emphasised that all the details and statistics in the report were evidenced based.

Members strongly endorsed the report, and agreed that it presents a powerful vision and message to central government on the actions required to drive sustained improvement across the sector.

3	Update on LGA activities on CAMHS and Discussion on forthcoming green paper
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Nasima Patel, National Children's Services Adviser, introduced a report setting out our key concerns about the CAMHS reforms, our work programme to help address these issues and an update on the forthcoming green paper. Members were asked to provide early views on areas they would want to focus on to help inform our submission.

In the discussion which followed, Members raised the following points;

- A concern was raised that there were limited options of partners available to commission outside of CAMHS.
- A view was expressed that online counselling and Thrive Hubs had proven to be extremely valuable.
- In response to a concern raised that mental health support for care leavers ceasing as they turn 18 was leading to a range of issues, Nasima explained that continued support until the age of 25 would be beneficial.
- A view was expressed that Kooth had provided effective support to young people and there had been very positive feedback on this service
- A concern was raised that children who were home educated did not have access to the necessary mental health support.
- Sharp, an anonymous self-support service for young people committing self-harm, was raised as extremely valuable in supporting young people.
- A concern was raised as to the disparity between how schools refer children to CAMHS.
- A Member raised a concern about the stress and anxiety caused by exams and how much of an impact this was having on young people's mental health.
- A Member brought the Board's attention to a self-referral service implemented in schools in Rochdale which had been co-designed with young people.

Decision

Members considered and provided comments on the questions raised in sections 7 and 8 of the report.

Actions

Officers to incorporate Members views into work on CAMHS going forward.

4 Minute of the Previous Meeting

Members of the Children and Young People 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 Lucy Nethsingha	Cambridgeshire County Council
	Cllr Gillian Ford	Havering London Borough Council
Members	Cllr Natasha Airey	Windsor & Maidenhead Royal Borough
	Cllr Susie Charles	Lancashire County Council
	Cllr Dick Madden	Essex County Council
	Cllr Laura Mayes	Wiltshire Council
	Cllr Megan Swift	Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council
	Cllr David Mellen	Nottingham City Council
Apologies	Cllr Ryan Brent	Portsmouth City Council
	Cllr Matthew Golby	Northamptonshire County Council
	Cllr Roger Gough	Kent County Council
	Cllr John Kent	Thurrock Council
	Cllr Bob Cook	Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council
	Cllr Andy Moorhead	Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council
	Cllr Anntoinette Bramble	Hackney London Borough Council
	Cllr Carl Cashman	Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council

LGA location map

Local Government Association
 18 Smith Square
 London SW1P 3HZ

Tel: 020 7664 3131
 Fax: 020 7664 3030
 Email: info@local.gov.uk
 Website: www.local.gov.uk

Public transport

18 Smith Square is well served by public transport. The nearest mainline stations are: Victoria and Waterloo: the local underground stations are **St James's Park** (Circle and District Lines), **Westminster** (Circle, District and Jubilee Lines), and **Pimlico** (Victoria Line) - all about 10 minutes walk away.

Buses 3 and 87 travel along Millbank, and the 507 between Victoria and Waterloo stops in Horseferry Road close to Dean Bradley Street.

Bus routes – Horseferry Road

- 507** Waterloo - Victoria
- C10** Canada Water - Pimlico - Victoria
- 88** Camden Town - Whitehall - Westminster - Pimlico - Clapham Common

Bus routes – Millbank

- 87** Wandsworth - Aldwych
- 3** Crystal Palace - Brixton - Oxford Circus

For further information, visit the Transport for London website at www.tfl.gov.uk

Cycling facilities

The nearest Barclays cycle hire racks are in Smith Square. Cycle racks are also available at 18 Smith Square. Please telephone the LGA on 020 7664 3131.

Central London Congestion Charging Zone

18 Smith Square is located within the congestion charging zone.

For further details, please call 0845 900 1234 or visit the website at www.cclondon.com

Car parks

Abingdon Street Car Park (off Great College Street)

Horseferry Road Car Park
 Horseferry Road/Arneway Street. Visit the website at www.westminster.gov.uk/parking

