

Children and Young People Board

Agenda

Thursday, 15 November 2018
4.00 pm

Exchange 8/9/10 Manchester Central
Convention Centre, Petersfield, Manchester,
M2 3GX

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

www.local.gov.uk

This meeting is



Children & Young People Board

15 November 2018

There will be a meeting of the Children & Young People Board at **4.00 pm on Thursday, 15 November 2018** Exchange 8/9/10 Manchester Central Convention Centre, Petersfield, Manchester, M2 3GX.

Attendance Sheet:

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

Apologies:

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

Conservative:	Group Office: 020 7664 3223	email: lgaconservatives@local.gov.uk
Labour:	Group Office: 020 7664 3263	email: Lewis.addlington-lee@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

LGA Contact:

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Carers' Allowance

As part of the LGA Members' Allowances Scheme a Carer's Allowance of up to £7.83 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 twitter hashtag for this meeting is #lgacyp

Children & Young People Board – Membership 2018/2019

Councillor	Authority
Conservative (8)	
Cllr Roy Perry (Vice Chairman)	Hampshire County Council
Cllr Natasha Airey	Windsor & Maidenhead Royal Borough
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
Cllr Teresa Heritage	Hertfordshire County Council
Substitutes	
Cllr Lynne Doherty	West Berkshire Council
Cllr Warren Whyte	Buckinghamshire County Council
Cllr Jane Murphy	South Oxfordshire District Council
Labour (7)	
Cllr Annetoinette Bramble (Chair)	Hackney London Borough Council
Cllr Megan Swift	Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council
Cllr John Kent	Thurrock Council
Cllr Bob Cook	Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council
Cllr David Mellen	Nottingham City Council
Cllr Clare Coghill	Waltham Forest London Borough Council
Cllr Barry Kushner	Liverpool City Council
Substitutes	
Cllr Imran Khan	Bradford Metropolitan District Council
Cllr Edward Davie	Lambeth London Borough Council
Cllr Lesley Williams MBE	Gloucestershire County 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

Agenda

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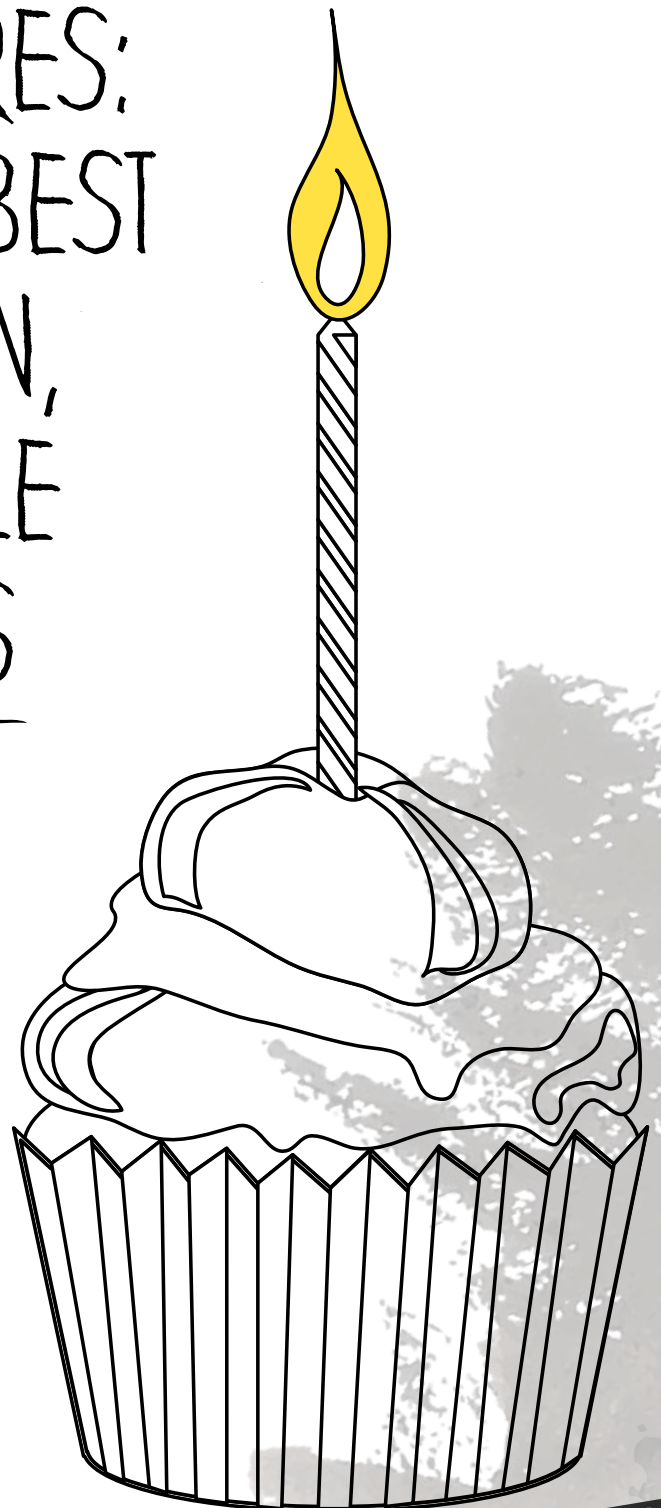
Exchange 8/9/10 Manchester Central Convention Centre, Petersfield, Manchester, M2 3GX

Item	Page
1. Declarations of Interest	
2. Q&A with Nadhim Zahawi MP, Minister for Children	
3. Bright Futures: what next?	1 - 16
4. Note of the Previous Meeting	17 - 24

Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday, 16 January 2019, 11.00 am, Westminster Room, 8th Floor, 18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ

BRIGHT FUTURES:
GETTING THE BEST
FOR CHILDREN,
YOUNG PEOPLE
AND FAMILIES

ONE YEAR ON





Helping children and young people to fulfil their potential is a key ambition of all councils, but our children's services are under increasing pressure.

WE ARE CALLING ON GOVERNMENT TO:

1. Plug the growing £3 billion funding gap for children's services by 2025

Children's services are absolutely vital for many families, and must be fully funded to ensure vulnerable children get the appropriate support and protection they need.

2. Reverse the cuts to early intervention funding to local councils

Without this funding, councils have found it increasingly difficult to invest in the early help services, such as children's centres and family support, that can prevent children entering the social care system, and help to manage needs within families to avoid them escalating.

3. Urgently review high needs funding for SEND

Many children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities could miss out on the high quality education they need if councils aren't given adequate funding to manage the unprecedented rise in demand.

Join our call to government for fully funded children's services.

FOREWORD

It is now a year since we launched Bright Futures, our vision for the future of children's social care. Alongside a national campaign calling for the services that change children's lives to be properly funded, Bright Futures set out seven key areas for reform designed to support the sector and demonstrate how councils, our multi-agency partners and national government could work together to get the best for children and families.

We want Bright Futures to be a real catalyst for meaningful change, not just another report left to gather dust on a shelf. With that in mind, and with a host of other organisations uniting behind our campaign, this update highlights what we have achieved over the past year but also, importantly, looks at where there is still more work to do.

The continued absence of sustainable funding for children's social care remains a grave concern. With record numbers of children in the care system and councils now starting more than 500 child protection enquiries every day, we believe that the case for action has never been more compelling.

Councils across the country are struggling to provide the support that children and families need with the resources available to them, leaving many unable to access help until they reach crisis point. Councils had to spend in excess of £800 million more than they had budgeted for children's social care in the last year alone. This cannot carry on.

There are signs that the Government has started to listen, with our campaigning contributing to the inclusion of new money in October's Budget. The announcement of £84 million over five years to expand children's social care programmes in 20 areas is a small step in the right direction, and the flexibility to use £410 million of additional funding for social care in 2019/20 on adult and children's services is a further acknowledgement of the pressures facing councils.

However, while any additional investment is welcome, we are clear that this will do little to alleviate the immediate and future pressures on services for some of the most vulnerable children and families in the vast majority of council areas, and will continue to campaign for a long-term sustainable funding solution in next year's spending review.

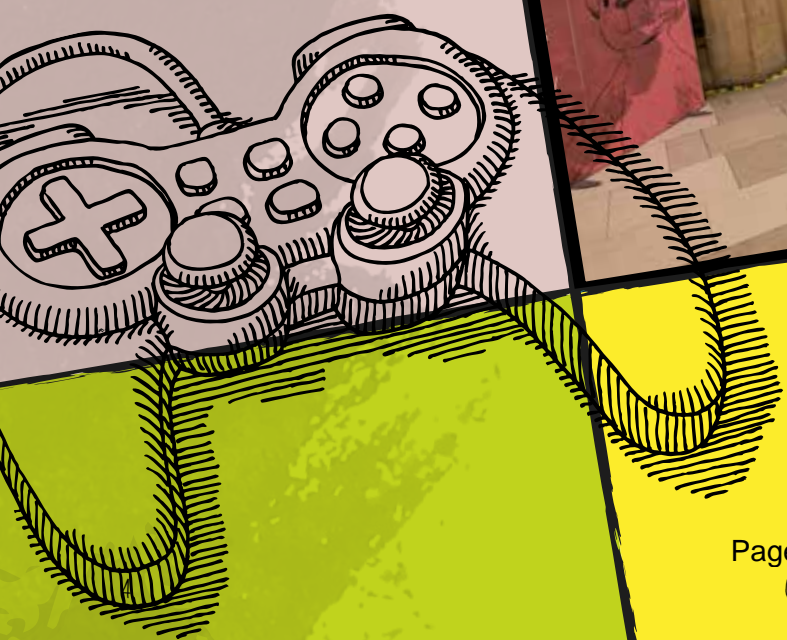
It is also encouraging that our call for greater investment in a sector-led approach to improvement has been heeded, helping to secure an additional £20 million for a range of sector-led initiatives including an enhanced LGA peer support offer. While this is no replacement for the funding solution that councils need, it is positive that the Government has recognised the value of a collaborative approach, with councils learning from each other.

Despite being under increasing pressure, the recent improvement in Ofsted inspection results shows that children's services teams are still finding innovative ways to deliver the high quality services that children and families rely on. But as councils face the prospect of further funding reductions and a £3 billion funding gap for children's services by 2025, difficult decisions will have to be made that will have a real and lasting impact. We cannot ignore the consistent warnings that children's services are at a tipping point. Much more needs to be done if we really want to make sure every child and young person can look forward to the bright future they deserve.

Councillor Anntoinette Bramble
Chair, LGA Children and Young People Board

Councillor Dick Madden
Chair, LGA Children's Social Care Task Group

Following our calls the Government has told us they will invest £84 million over five years to expand children's social care programmes in 20 areas and give councils the flexibility to use £410 million of additional funding for social care in 2019/20 on adult and children's services. Our campaigning has also helped secure £20 million for sector-led improvement, including £2 million for an enhanced LGA peer review offer.



SINCE BRIGHT FUTURES LAUNCHED AT THE NATIONAL CHILDREN AND ADULT SERVICES CONFERENCE IN OCTOBER 2017, WE HAVE:

- **published** six children's services resource packs for councillors
- collated more than **70 good practice** case studies
- held a week long **exhibition** and launch reception in **Parliament** to promote the important role that councils play in prevention and early intervention, hosted by **Wera Hobhouse MP**; speakers included **Nadhim Zahawi MP**, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Children and Families
- **commissioned new research** looking at the factors leading to variable spend on children's services, current and emerging practice in the delivery of early help services, budget pressures for special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), and funding for new burdens on council children's services
- engaged with politicians on our key concerns by submitting evidence to **9 Select Committees** and **All Party Parliamentary Group enquiries**, briefed for **10 Parliamentary debates**, sent a summary of our key asks to every English MP, highlighted children's services prominently in our Budget submission, tabled written parliamentary questions, and arranged meetings and briefings with key stakeholders
- built a **broad coalition of support** behind our funding ask to government; published a **joint letter** to government co-signed by the chief executives of the **Children's Society**, **Barnardo's**, **Action for Children** and the **National Children's Bureau**
- issued **43** media releases generating **107** national newspaper, online and broadcast mentions
- had more than **50,000** visits to the Bright Futures web pages, and published **133** tweets reaching nearly **700,000** people.

Newton Europe's forensic analysis challenges and disproves the notion that variation in spend between different councils is primarily an indication of inefficiency. Rather, Newton demonstrated that variable spend is an inevitable consequence of economic and geographic factors largely outside of council control.

Separate LGA analysis of council spending patterns has highlighted the sheer scale of the challenge facing children's services departments across the country, with spend on children's social care increasing by more than £750 million over the past four years.

In a report by the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Children (APPG)¹, MPs backed our call for government to address the the funding gap facing children's services. This call was also supported by the multi-agency Care Crisis Review², through a joint letter to government from more than 120 children's organisations, and has been echoed by several reports from major children's charities and pressure groups.

¹ www.ncb.org.uk/storinguptrouble

² <https://frg.org.uk/involving-families/reforming-law-and-practice/care-crisis-review>

SEVEN CLEAR PRIORITIES FOR COORDINATED ACTION

A STRONGER FOCUS ON OUTCOMES FOR CHILDREN

All partners at a local and national level must keep a strong focus on the needs of children, young people and families.

OUR OFFER

WE SAID

Many areas are already modelling a whole-council approach to children’s services. We will gather case studies and hold events to help share this practice more widely across the country, including amongst partner agencies.

We will produce guidance for all local councillors, including backbench members, to help them act effectively as corporate parents. We will continue to encourage scrutiny chairs to attend our children’s leadership essentials course to develop skills in the effective oversight of children’s services.

We will revise the existing peer review offer for local safeguarding children boards, taking into account the changing landscape of multi-agency safeguarding. We will recruit additional peer reviewers to enable a wider reach for these reviews and ensure that all partnerships are able to access an expert ‘health check’ on a regular basis.

We will develop and publish 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.

WE DID

We have published more than 70 new children’s social care case studies at www.local.gov.uk, including examples specifically focussed on a whole-council approach to children’s services.

We continue to share this practice through our Leadership Essentials course, and have also held specific events on issues such as County Lines, child obesity, special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), youth services, safeguarding in education and children’s services finance.

We published a corporate parenting resource pack in October 2017, strongly focussed on the role that all councillors can play. We continue to have good engagement from scrutiny chairs at Leadership Essentials, with around 20 per cent of attendees in 2017/18 holding a scrutiny post.

We are currently considering how best to develop our current local safeguarding children board peer review offer. This work will develop further once new multi-agency arrangements begin to emerge in 2019.

We published ‘Local leadership and accountability for children and young people’s mental health and wellbeing services’ in October 2018, providing guidance and exploring how ten local areas have improved their services through better leadership and accountability and by putting young people centre stage.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

WE SAID

WE DID

The Government should consider developing a new 'children and young people impact assessment' for public bodies to use alongside existing equalities impact assessments, to ensure that the needs of children are central to all policy and legislative changes.

Support has been building for a children and young people impact assessment. Our recommendation has been echoed in other influential reports, such as the cross-disciplinary Care Crisis Review (July 2018). We will continue to press for the introduction of such an assessment.

The Department for Education (DfE) must ensure that schools of all type are adequately represented and actively participate in local multi-agency safeguarding arrangements.

Following our campaigning, the role of schools in multi-agency safeguarding arrangements was given greater prominence in the DfE's 2018 revision of 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' guidance. We will continue to monitor the role of schools as the new arrangements are rolled out in 2019, including through our revised local safeguarding children boards peer review offer.

When considering new arrangements for multi-agency safeguarding partnerships, the Government must ensure that all relevant agencies are appropriately represented and engaged, and that funding does not fall disproportionately on one agency.

These points were also addressed in 'Working Together to Safeguard Children', and we will continue to monitor the impact of this guidance once the new arrangements are rolled out in 2019.

The Government must ensure that the promised £250 million a year for children's mental health and wellbeing services is released in full and extends beyond this Parliament, with greater transparency in how mental health funding is spent. All local transformation plans should include expenditure relating to CAMHS services, signed off by local health and wellbeing boards.

Our Bright Futures campaign continues to call strongly for this to be resolved and also featured strongly in our recent 'Transforming children and young people's mental health provision' Green Paper response.

In October's Budget, the Government announced £250 million a year for new mental health crisis support; part of the broader £20.5 billion NHS funding deal. The support will include children and young people's crisis teams in every part of the country. The announcement also referred to the new mental health support teams.

We support the provision of additional funding to help adults, young people and children who experience mental health issues. To reach those in need the NHS should work closely with councils and local partners to ensure that crisis care funding is joined-up with wider mental health community support and locally-led suicide prevention strategies. New mental health support teams need to help more children rather than just creating new structures.

CONSISTENTLY STRONG LOCAL LEADERSHIP

National and local bodies must do more to nurture consistently strong local leadership for children’s services at all levels.

OUR OFFER

WE SAID

Together with the Association of Directors of Children’s Services (ADCS) and the Society of Local Authority Chief Executives and Senior Managers (Solace), we have well-established mechanisms to support new leaders, including training and development, networking opportunities, mentoring and buddying processes. We will continue to develop and enhance this offer to ensure that all senior leaders and other key individuals such as scrutiny chairs have regular opportunities to offer and receive support at a regional and national level on an ongoing basis.

WE DID

We successfully bid for £2 million of DfE funding to enhance our current range of support for councils, with a particular focus on improving leadership in children’s social care services, and are currently working up a new support offer for full rollout in 2019. We have already expanded our existing Leadership Essentials programme, with 65 members already booked on for 2018/19, two additional courses added to the programme to accommodate demand, and targeted marketing underway to ensure that those councils who have not sent a member in recent years are encouraged to do so.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

WE SAID

The Government should support the LGA and Solace to develop a training and support offer focused specifically on the role of council leaders and chief executives, including advice on providing effective support to lead members and directors of children’s services. This could be offered to all councils across the country, making use of existing political and senior officer structures to ensure widespread engagement.

The DfE should work with the Department of Health and Social Care and Home Office to consider how a similar offer could be developed for senior officers in the police and across the health service. This should also clarify responsibilities at senior level, particularly within health.

WE DID

Our successful £2 million funding bid, outlined above, includes a specific focus on leadership at both service and corporate level.

We are currently developing a new support offer for councils, and will further consider how this could be developed for other partners in the coming year.

A CULTURE OF CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

Local and national government must work together to ensure that improved outcomes for children remain an ongoing priority, with improvement led by local government and subject to independent scrutiny.

OUR OFFER

WE SAID

We will work with ADCS, Solace and others to develop an enhanced programme of sector-led support for children’s services, coordinating national, regional and local elements into a coherent whole sector approach. This will offer everything from regular ‘health checks’ and benchmarking information to a range of diagnostics and support on specific areas of concern, made available to all councils regardless of Ofsted rating.

WE DID

As highlighted above, an enhanced LGA support offer is currently under development following a £2 million grant from the DfE and we are working closely with ADCS and other sector partners on the development of regional improvement alliances for children’s services.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

WE SAID

The DfE should devolve a proportion of its £300 million budget for improvement and innovation to support this new sector-led offer, enabling a stronger focus on delivering service-wide improvement in addition to the specific innovations currently funded through the Children’s Social Care Innovation Programme.

Ofsted must work with local authorities to monitor the impact of the new ILACS inspection process following rollout, to ensure that it remains proportionate and better able to identify good practice and facilitate improvement.

Ofsted must ensure that inspections consider the wider corporate context around children’s services. The lead member for children’s services, with statutory duties that complement those of their directors, must play a key role in these conversations.

WE DID

The DfE announced a £20 million investment in sector-led improvement following publication of ‘Bright Futures: Getting the best for children, young people and families’ at the 2017 National Children and Adult Services Conference. The Government has since supported the sector in rolling out regional improvement alliances across the country, brought more councils into the Partners in Practice programme and provided £2 million for the LGA to expand our existing peer review offer.

Ofsted have engaged closely with the sector during the rollout of the ILACS framework and appear receptive to any concerns that are raised. Following our lobbying, for example, Ofsted recently announced that they will stop re-inspecting inadequate authorities under the overly burdensome Single Inspection Framework and use the more proportionate ILACS instead.

Early feedback on the new ILACS framework has been broadly positive, particularly with relation to engagement with the lead member for children’s services. We will continue to monitor the situation as the new framework becomes embedded.

PROVIDING THE RIGHT SUPPORT FOR CHILDREN AT THE RIGHT TIME

Stronger investment in early help is vital to ensure that children and families can access the support they need when they need it.

OUR OFFER

WE SAID

We will work with partners across the statutory and voluntary sector to develop a clearer picture of the factors driving increased demand for child protection services.

We will work with the Early Intervention Foundation to identify and disseminate any available evidence about which approaches have been shown to be effective for different groups of children and families.

We will commission new research to establish and disseminate the factors that facilitate an effective early help offer, including how best to engage partner agencies and the community and voluntary sector in developing a joined up early help offer.

WE DID

We have developed a strong coalition of support for our Bright Futures campaign and are currently working with a consortium of major children's charities to coordinate our messages ahead of the 2019 Spending Review. Recent reports from the APPG for Children, the Children's Commissioner and the Care Crisis Review have echoed many of our core asks of government, while adding to the evidence on the factors behind this increased demand for services.

We are currently working with the Early Intervention Foundation (EIF) on a new early help resource pack, for publication in early 2019. We are also working with the EIF to deliver an early years peer review programme. This collaboration will deliver a self-assessment tool for councils and the collation and dissemination of effective practice.

The ISOS Partnership have been commissioned to undertake this project, for publication in early 2019.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

WE SAID

The Government must commit to sustainable investment in preventative services by reversing the cuts to early intervention funding for local councils.

WE DID

This remains central to our Bright Futures campaign. We are working closely with the Early Intervention Foundation and others to further build and share the evidence base for early intervention. We held a week long Parliamentary exhibition and reception to raise awareness amongst parliamentarians and stakeholders in May. Our call for greater investment in these services has been backed by influential bodies such as the Office of the Children's Commissioner, the APPG for Children and many of the country's largest children's charities. This work will continue to develop in the build up to the 2019 Spending Review, and beyond.

SUSTAINABLE FUNDING TO HELP CHILDREN THRIVE

Local and national government must ensure that sustainable funding is available and used effectively to provide the vital services that children, young people and their families rely on.

OUR OFFER

WE SAID

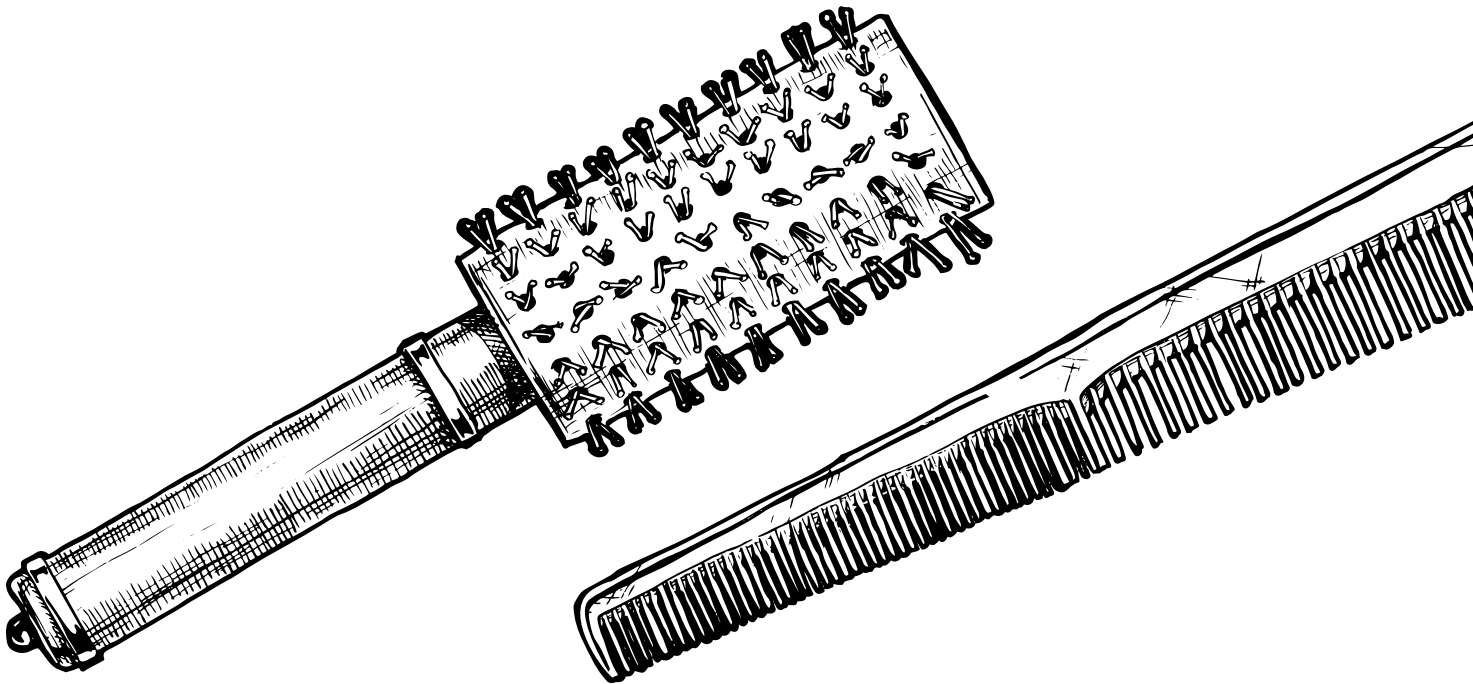
We will commission new research to better understand local variations in spending, working with a sample of councils to develop a more complete picture while identifying areas of good practice and 'top tips' for the benefit of the wider sector.

We will work with ADCS, Solace and others to develop a diagnostic support offer with a specific focus on children's services finances, helping councils to understand how to manage their budgets in a way that allows savings to be made safely and without a detrimental impact on vulnerable children and young people.

WE DID

On behalf of the LGA, Newton Europe published 'Making Sense' in June 2018. This research comprehensively disproved the argument that differences in spend between councils are simply due to inefficiency. The report concluded that differing levels of spend are inevitable, and demonstrated that the majority of variation is due to five economic or geographic factors largely outside the control of councils.

This finance diagnostic offer is currently in development, and will be piloted in several council areas in late 2018, ahead of full rollout in 2019.



RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

WE SAID

The Government must act quickly to ensure councils can continue to provide essential services for vulnerable children and families by closing the £2 billion funding gap for children’s services by 2020.

The Government must address longstanding problems with financial returns in children’s services by implementing the recommendations of the 2014 joint CIPFA/LGA review of section 251 returns.

WE DID

The Government announced in October’s Budget £84 million over five years to expand children’s social care programmes in 20 areas and the flexibility to use £410 million of additional funding for social care in 2019/20 on adult and children’s services. This is a small step in the right direction, but we will continue to campaign for a long-term sustainable funding solution in next year’s spending review.

We continue to highlight the unsustainable pressure on children’s services budgets, and we have worked over the past year to further develop the evidence base while building a broader coalition of support around our key messages. We have issued a large number of high profile press releases on children’s services, achieving extensive national newspaper, TV and radio coverage on outlets including the BBC, BBC radio, Channel 4, the Times, Telegraph and Guardian. Our funding gap analysis (since updated to £3 billion by 2025) is now regularly quoted by key stakeholders including MPs from all parties, and our social media activity has reached more than 700,000 people. We intend to continue and intensify this activity over the coming year.

These problems were further highlighted by Newton Europe’s ‘Making Sense’ report. We remain in discussion with government on the most effective way to support councils to accurately assess and benchmark their spend on children’s services.



A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT WORKS FOR CHILDREN

Local and national government must develop a better understanding of ‘what works’ and ‘what good looks like’ for children’s services.

OUR OFFER

WE SAID

We will work with partners to explore a new framework for assessing outcomes in council children’s services, making greater use of comparable data alongside Ofsted inspection results.

We will produce and disseminate a series of resource packs for councils, highlighting current practice and research evidence on a range of topics including corporate parenting, achieving permanence for children, support for care leavers, youth justice and supporting unaccompanied asylum seeking children.

WE DID

The Nuffield Centre has funded NatCen Social Research to develop a new outcomes framework for children’s social care services. The work is due to conclude in 2019.

We have published resource packs on corporate parenting, support for care leavers, youth justice, permanence, early education and children’s centres. Our proposed resource pack on unaccompanied asylum seeking children has been put on hold due to national policy developments, but we hope to publish in 2019.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

WE SAID

The Government should commission robust evaluations of some of the ‘innovative but not yet evidenced’ multi-disciplinary approaches to assessment and delivery of early help and child protection services which are widely used, such as multi-agency safeguarding hubs (MASH).

The Government must ensure that the What Works Centre for Children’s Social Care provides capacity to boost local learning and evaluation, and delivers clear, practical information to councils in a timely fashion.

WE DID

The What Works Centre for Children’s Social Care is at an early stage of development, but it is encouraging that initial themes for study include safely reducing the need for children to come into care and ‘front door’ arrangements for responding to safeguarding concerns. We will continue to work with the centre as it develops.

As above, it is early days for the What Works Centre but we will remain in close contact with the leadership team as their work develops.

STRENGTHENED MORALE AND SUPPORT FOR SOCIAL WORKERS

Local and national government must do more to showcase the excellent work of social work teams across the country, and support councils to recruit and retain high quality social workers.

OUR OFFER

WE SAID

We will build on our 'Come Back to Social Work' campaign to develop a clearer public understanding of the role of social workers, and the wider support provided to children and families under the umbrella of council children's services.

We will build on our existing online resources around good practice in recruitment and retention of social workers, highlighting positive work and providing a valuable learning resource for councils.

WE DID

We are in discussions with Social Work England regarding the requirements for returners and hope to launch the next programme in spring 2019.

Our Workforce Strategy is due to be launched in November 2018, aiming to support the recruitment and retention of social workers and other hard to fill roles. We have also launched a new resilience offer for council employees.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

WE SAID

The Government should work with local government on a major national recruitment campaign to improve the image of social work.

The Government should work with the LGA, ADCS, Solace and others to ensure that Social Work England takes full account of the needs of employers as it develops its remit.

WE DID

This is an ongoing ask of government, which we will continue to press over the coming year.

The LGA is part of the advisory group to Social Work England. We are hopeful that the proposed regional structure of Social Work England will allow for close liaison with employers so that their needs can be taken into account, and we will discuss this further with Social Work England as it takes shape.

SUPPORT US

If you feel strongly that we should properly fund the services that change children's lives there are a number of ways you can help.

RAISE YOUR VOICE

It's important that we send a clear message to government that urgent action is required. Each time the issue is raised with your local MP or minuted in a Full Council or cabinet meeting, you can help to amplify our call for change.

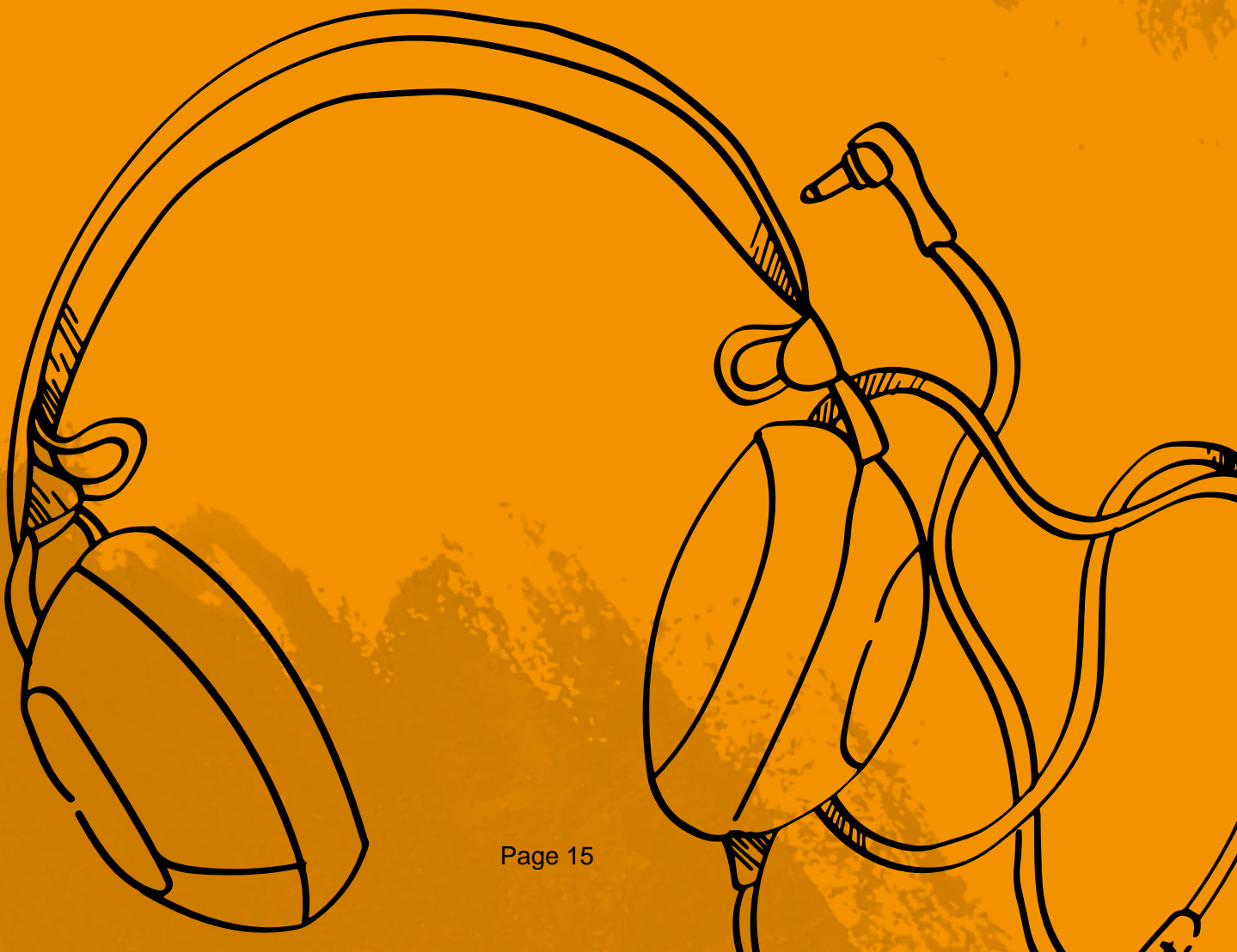
SHARE OUR CAMPAIGN WITH YOUR RESIDENTS

Spread the message far and wide that children's services are under pressure – print and distribute our summary and use social networks to share our campaign and the hashtag #gettingthebest with your followers.

TELL US YOUR STORY

We want to show the effects of the funding pressures, but also how councils are still working to get the best for children, young people and their families.

If your local area is improving outcomes for children and young people, from providing support to catch issues early to supporting families in the system already, then please send a brief description to marketing@local.gov.uk.





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please contact us on 020 7664 3000.
We consider requests on an individual basis.

Note of last Children & Young People Board meeting

Title: Children & Young People Board
Date: Monday 10 September 2018
Venue: Smith Square 1&2, Ground Floor, 18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ

Attendance

An attendance list is attached as [Appendix A](#) to this note

Item	Decisions and actions	Action
1	<p>Declarations of Interest</p> <p>The Chair welcomed all newly appointed and reappointed members to the first Children and Young People Board meeting for the political cycle 2018/19. Congratulations were given to the recently appointed ADCS President Stuart Gallimore. Apologies were noted listed at Appendix A.</p> <p>No declarations of interest were made.</p>	
2	<p>Presentation by Sir Alan Wood on Children's Residential Care</p> <p>The Chair introduced Sir Alan Wood, Chair of the Residential Care Leadership Board (RCLB), to the meeting. Sir Alan Wood provided the Board with an update of the progress of the RCLB's work so far, outlined achievements, current challenges faced and sought guidance from Members on how to take additional work forward.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sir Alan Wood highlighted the recommendations taken forward from the Narey Report on children's residential care. The RCLB has focussed on improving placement commissioning and supporting pilots of the Staying Close initiative for young people from a residential setting.• Sir Alan Wood explained the aims and challenges faced to date. With regards to commissioning, the focus is on building capacity in secure children's homes. The biggest challenges surround availability of beds for children placed on welfare grounds, high placement costs and the lack of provision in certain parts of the country.• Sir Alan also highlighted that, while lack of capacity was certainly the primary issue, there were also many examples of placements being unavailable despite apparent under-occupancy in some homes. While there are some legitimate logistical reasons for under-occupancy (the physical condition of the home, the needs of young people already accommodated, the skill and expertise of staff to meet the specific needs of the young person needing a	

placement) Sir Alan Wood welcomed comments from the board on how best to drive up occupancy to allow more children to benefit.

- The Board agreed that further work needs to be undertaken to understand why some homes are at capacity and others under-occupied. A query was raised around progress with previous plans to introduce national commissioning of secure children's home placements. Sir Alan explained that the RCLB's focus had moved to the regional commissioning of secure children's homes, and that groups of local authorities would be encouraged to come together and submit proposals to increase capacity in their own region. This would be supported by a small central fund to provide feasibility studies.
- With regards to geographic placement of open children's homes, Sir Alan reported that the lack of children homes in London results in a lot of London traffic moved to the North West or the South East regions which displaces children. Sir Alan Wood raised the issue that local authorities are increasingly removing themselves as direct providers and now 80% of providers are commercial institutions compared to only 20% which are local authorities. This places further strain on local authorities as the nature and complexity of children's needs are changing and there is still not enough supply to meet demand.
- Sir Alan Wood drew the Board's attention to the particular challenges encountered in accessing services offering effective therapeutic support, not least due to a lack of clarity on what is meant by "therapeutic", and argued that there needs to be an increased level of specificity on this point from both providers and commissioners.
- Sir Alan Wood acknowledged the stigma of past events and children's homes and expressed that this can cause hesitance about local authorities building new ones, which is a potential obstacle. He did, however, highlight a number of examples of local authorities beginning to build new homes, while acknowledging the difficulty in identifying suitable sites in some parts of the country.
- The Board asked whether areas where providers are not providing have been identified, and what action could be taken in these circumstances. Sir Alan explained that there is capacity for this, but without regional choice it has made this more difficult. The Board agreed that a system in place that focuses on regional placement for regional need is the right approach as it would provide accountability and be much more effective.

The Chair expressed her gratitude to Sir Alan Wood for speaking to the Board. She echoed the recommendations put forward by the Board that, while a focus on regional arrangements was an appropriate response to the current position, further consideration should be given to the national role in secure children's home commissioning and focus should remain on the relationship between local authorities and private providers of open children's homes. and

Decision

The Children and Young People Board **noted** the update provided by Sir

Alan Wood.

3 Update from the ISOS partnership on progress on research on early help and SEND

The chair welcomed speaker Isos Director, Natalie Parish, from the Isos Partnership to the meeting. Natalie Parish provided the Board with a verbal update on the progress of three pieces of research: SEND good practice action research, research into high needs budget and early help action research and asked members for their feedback.

- Natalie introduced the first project of SEND good practice action research and how this work aims to identify how councils are meeting the challenges of providing SEND support as demand continues to grow. Natalie explained that the project had been approached in three phases: initial workshops, developing messages and case studies, and further workshops to build on findings. Six themes have emerged from the findings and key messages were identified on how to best engage with SEND children and families within the system:
 1. Strategic partnerships with parents/cares and young people
 2. Partnerships working and joint commissioning across education, health and care
 3. Identifying and assessing young people's needs
 4. Building inclusive capacity in mainstream schools and settings, and providing targeted support for inclusion
 5. Developing responsive, effective local specialist provision
 6. Preparation for adulthood
- Natalie updated members on the progress so far in regards to the high needs budgets and spending project. An outline of the project had been built up of three phases: analysis of the funding gap, fieldwork visits to councils and developing the final report which was due October 2018.
- Natalie updated members on the progress made so far on the early help action research taking place from August 2018 until February 2019. Isos were currently reviewing the existing material and research in terms of what worked in early help, what areas could be strengthened and development of early tools. They were currently working with eight local authorities to engage in field visits before going ahead with research until January/February 2019.
- All members agreed that building inclusive capacity for SEND children in mainstream schools was important, while accepting that this can put additional strain on school resources. To deal with this, some local area's mainstream schools have specialist ASD units

which have proven to be more cost effective and inclusive. Feedback also included the need for more continuous learning or training for teachers, teaching assistants and parents to recognise SEND tendencies.

- The board agreed that the needs of SEND children are becoming more complex and it is proving to be more challenging for children and their families to access the support that they require.

The Chair expressed her gratitude to Natalie for speaking to the Board. Natalie noted that she would be happy to update the Board on all three projects when they have concluded next year.

Decision

The Children and Young People Board **noted** the update from Isos Partnership.

4 Membership and Terms of Reference for 2018/19

The Chair asked the board to formally note the membership and the Board's Lead Members for 2018/19, the Terms of Reference which outlines the purpose of the Board and to appoint councillors to current vacancies for Outside Bodies.

Decision

The Children and Young People Board **noted** and **agreed** their Membership, Terms of Reference and Outside Bodies.

5 CYP Board Policy Priorities for 2018-2019

The Chair asked the Board for their comments with regards to the Board's priorities:

- Item three regarding the Government's 30 hour free childcare policy and available funding was a highlighted concern, with the need to drive forward this priority to ensure it is targeted to those who need it and how it can be more effectively utilised.
- The Board noted that the Board priorities did not mention county lines, and the priorities should include reference as to how this impacted children.

The Chair and the board agreed that the priorities will be amended to ensure these areas are covered.

Decision

Subject to the amendments above, the Children and Young People Board **agreed** the Board's priorities and work programme for 2018/19

6 CYP Mental Health Green Paper & CYPMH: 10 year NHS plan

Samantha Ramanah, children and young people's health adviser, introduced the board report on children and young people's mental health reforms and updated the Board on the Government's response to its Green Paper 'Transforming Children and Young People's Mental Health' and provided an update on the NHS Long-term Plan. Members' steer were sought on the direction of travel.

The Government's response to the Green Paper included strengthening the links between schools and the NHS, taking a whole school approach to deliver early intervention, addressing social media and the pilot of a four week waiting list for mental health referrals.

The following points were raised by members:

- While a focus on university students and reducing mental health stigma were welcomed, concerns were raised about the lack of focus on the 16-25 age group who are not in further education, training or employment, many of whom may be from demographics that are underrepresented or fall into vulnerable cohorts. Members felt that there was a lack of acknowledgment for other social groups who are more susceptible to mental health issues.
- Members were concerned that the paper did not address the Brighter Future campaign and the accountability for the £1.7 billion funding. Members therefore felt that there needed to be a focus on how to strengthen local government's role.
- Role of health and wellbeing boards- there is no guarantee that health and wellbeing boards would be effectively implemented to fit into wider integration.
- While the focus on a whole school approach in the Green Paper was a helpful contribution to the LGA's call for an independent school based counselling service, the board agreed that it does not fully meet the Board's call for action.
- Members felt that a four week waiting time is not ambitious enough with no clarity as to how children in the remaining areas will overcome long waiting times. This raised the question of the point of referral as many young people are referred already at the point of crisis. There was also a missed opportunity to who picks up the pieces when young people get turned away when their mental health is not deemed severe enough.

Members agreed that there is a lack of accountability on who is held responsible for the delivery of the reforms and members agreed that though aspects of the green paper are welcome, there are weaknesses, particularly with regards to a four-week waiting time for referrals, addressing the Bright Future campaign, lack of commitment to an independent school based counselling service and the role of health and wellbeing boards.

Decision

The Children and Young People Board **noted** the updates detailed in the

report.

7 Civil Society Strategy

Louise Smith, Adviser, informed members of the LGA work with DCMS on the Civil Society Strategy, and outlined how the strategy intended to support young people with opportunities to improve their life chances.

The following points were raised:

- The strategy committed DCMS to fully embedding the National Citizen Service (NCS) in the wider youth sector. The Board members strongly felt that NCS was not the solution to supporting young people in wider society for a number of reasons. NCS did not offer year-round provision in the same way that other youth services did, while the majority of young people taking part were not from vulnerable backgrounds, and were not those in most need of support.
- Members felt that the funding should be devolved from the NCS and into councils in order to target the needs of the most vulnerable.
- Members felt that it would be helpful for organisations such as the NHS, civic societies, and sport partnerships to pool money for youth services rather than delivering in silos.
- The LGA would engage with the Government as it revisits and develops its new guidance on councils' statutory duties around youth services. In particular, it will be important to ensure that the clarification of the duty does not result in additional burdens on local authorities or over-ride the importance of local decision-making.
- One member raised concerns around whether the government might try to remove the duty from councils. The Board agreed that it was an important part of early help and intervention, and it was therefore important that the duty was not lost.
- Regarding the 'Brighter Futures: our vision for youth services' campaign, some members felt there needed to be an emphasis on cooperation with partners and ensuring provision for vulnerable children.
- Members discussed the revisit of the wider Bright Futures campaign at NCAS and the need to be in a position to show the progress made one year on. It was felt that further exploration into financial elements was needed in order to build on the work from Newton Europe at the end of the last Board cycle 2017/18.
- The Chair agreed to meet with members working on the Bright Futures campaign and officials to discuss these areas and will provide a full update at the next Board meeting.

Decision

The Children and Young People Board **noted** the report and **agreed** lines of enquiry to pursue with DCMS.

8 Note of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the last Board meeting of the political cycle 2017/18 were **agreed**.

9 Confidential update on Children's Services Improvement

Sally Burlington, LGA Head of Policy, provided members with a verbal update on the progress with two programmes of work to support improvement in early years and children services, both funded by DfE.

The following points were raised:

- With regards to early years, the focus was on outcomes for speech and language which is a strong predictor of life chances. There had been a lot of work to take this forward, with two pilots completed and a third underway. The Early Intervention Foundation has produced a maturity matrix which is being used in the pilots as part of the self-assessment tool and expert peers are being recruited. There had been 41 expressions of interest and the first 10 peer reviews are planned to take place by April next year.
- In terms of wider improvement support for children's services the LGA are developing a range of support but also working closely with ADCS and Solace to develop a system of sector-led improvement which supports each of the "three pillars" (Directors of Children's Services, Chief Executives and Lead Members) which are needed to support effective children's services.
- Sally Burlington explained that one challenge that faces developing the work programme is ensuring the range of support to councils is properly coordinated. The Minister for children's services is very engaged and particularly interested in the role that data can play in helping to explain and predict performance. He is particularly keen for greater data transparency.
- ADCS President, Stuart Gallimore, expanded on these points and explained that all regions have a Regional Improvement Alliance in place, but all are at different progress points. ADCS have agreed what these will look like but integral to this is peer assessment.
- Different models of improvement boards are also in place. ADCS and the DfE are working together on how this will be best implemented, which would take place April 2019.
- There were challenges around open data-sharing with all regions agreeing to a common system. The aim was to have all data-sharing by February 2019. Further discussions regarding this are scheduled for the National Conference for Adult Social Care in November 2018.

Decision

The Children and Young People Board **noted** the update.

10 Confidential Note of the Previous Meeting

The confidential minutes of the last Board meeting of the political cycle 2017/18 were **agreed**.

Appendix A -Attendance

Position/Role	Councillor	Authority
Chairman	Cllr Anntoinette Bramble	Hackney London Borough 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 Matthew Golby	Northamptonshire County Council
	Cllr Dick Madden	Essex County Council
	Cllr Roger Gough	Kent County Council
	Cllr Teresa Heritage	Hertfordshire County Council
	Cllr Megan Swift	Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council
	Cllr John Kent	Thurrock Council
	Cllr Bob Cook	Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council
	Cllr David Mellen	Nottingham City Council
Apologies	Cllr Clare Coghill	Waltham Forest London Borough Council
	Cllr Barry Kushner	Liverpool City Council
In Attendance	Cllr Laura Mayes	Wiltshire Council
	Cllr Carl Cashman	Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council
LGA Officers		