Children and Young People– report from Cllr Judith Blake CBE (Chair)

**Events**

1. On 21 January, Cllr Susie Charles attended the Adoption and Special Guardianship Leadership Board where she highlighted key issues to the then Parliamentary Undersecretary of State for Children and Families, Michelle Donelan.

**Vicky Ford MP**

1. I have written to the new Parliamentary Undersecretary of State for Children and Families, Vicky Ford, to welcome her to her role and to outline key issues that we would like to see included in the forthcoming review of the children’s care system. Making sure that care experienced people have a significant voice in the review, and issues including early help, funding and placements for children in care, are all key, as are issues around workforce and how we support foster carers and kinship carers.

**Independent children’s placements providers**

1. We have published research on profit making and financial risk amongst independent children’s placements providers, which demonstrates that some of the largest providers are carrying significant levels of debt. We have called on the government to introduce oversight of the market, as already happens in the adult market, as well as emphasising the need for transparency of costs to councils and to support in-house and smaller providiers to ensure we have the placements available that our children need.

**Press Releases**

1. Since the last forum, I and lead members, have commented in the following LGA press releases on behalf of the Board:

**JANUARY 2020**

* 1. Number of children in care reaches 10-year high - <https://www.local.gov.uk/number-children-care-reaches-10-year-high>
  2. LGA responds to Education Policy Institute report on children's mental health service - <https://www.local.gov.uk/lga-responds-education-policy-institute-report-childrens-mental-health-services>
  3. LGA responds to EPI report on Early Years workforce - <https://www.local.gov.uk/lga-responds-epi-report-early-years-workforce>
  4. LGA responds to OFSTED annual report - <https://www.local.gov.uk/lga-responds-ofsted-annual-report>
  5. LGA responds to UCL report on children in care with SEND - <https://www.local.gov.uk/lga-responds-ucl-report-children-care-send>
  6. LGA responds to report by Children's Commissioner on children's mental health - <https://www.local.gov.uk/lga-responds-report-childrens-commissioner-childrens-mental-health>
  7. LGA responds to latest ONS youth justice statistics - <https://www.local.gov.uk/lga-responds-latest-ons-youth-justice-statistics>

**FEBRUARY 2020**

* 1. Councils share good practice for supporting children and young people’s mental wellbeing - <https://www.local.gov.uk/councils-share-good-practice-supporting-children-and-young-peoples-mental-wellbeing>
  2. LGA responds to government consultation on unregulated children's homes - <https://www.local.gov.uk/lga-responds-government-consultation-unregulated-childrens-homes>
  3. LGA responds to Young Carers research - <https://www.local.gov.uk/lga-responds-young-carers-research>
  4. Rising demand heaping pressure on children's social care - <https://www.local.gov.uk/rising-demand-heaping-pressure-childrens-social-care>
  5. LGA responds to Coram Family and Childcare Survey - <https://www.local.gov.uk/lga-responds-coram-family-and-childcare-survey>
  6. Private children's social care company debts putting children's care at risk - LGA warns - <https://www.local.gov.uk/private-childrens-social-care-company-debts-putting-childrens-care-risk-lga-warns>

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