

## **Children and Young People Board – report from Cllr Roy Perry (Chair)**

### **Home Office CSE Panel**

1. On 8 December, I represented the LGA at an expert panel meeting on child sexual exploitation, chaired by the Minister for Preventing Abuse and Exploitation, Karen Bradley MP. A range of statutory and non-statutory agencies were in attendance, and the theme of the discussion was “how can national policy be made to work with, and not against, local action in tackling child sexual exploitation?” As part of a wide ranging discussion, I spoke on the importance of all government departments working together in a co-ordinated way, highlighted the significant pressures on local agencies caused by rapidly rising demand at a time of reduced budgets across the public sector, and underlined the need to ensure that Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs) are properly able to hold the system to account. I also highlighted the work of the LGA to support national work to tackle CSE at a local level, and reminded the Minister of local government’s ongoing commitment to this issue.

### **Meeting with the Secretary of State for Education**

2. I accompanied the Chairman of the LGA, Lord Porter of Spalding, to a meeting with the Secretary of State for Education, the Rt. Hon. Nicky Morgan MP, on 18 November. Our conversation covered a wide range of topics, and we were glad to hear that central government shares a number of our concerns on key issues such as the pressures facing local government funding of children’s services, the impact of Ofsted on children’s services and the planning of further education provision for 16 to 19 year olds. The Secretary of State suggested that the Minister of State for Children and Families, Edward Timpson MP, might attend one of our future Board meetings to continue these discussions in more detail.

### **Profile in Schools Week Magazine**

3. On 8 December, [Schools Week Magazine published my profile](#) as the new Chairman of the LGA Children and Young People Board. The profile touched upon several policy areas, including the work of Ofsted (*‘While [Cllr Perry] sees a role for inspection, he adds that Ofsted inspections of local authorities in particular are “causing serious problems for children’s services”*) and free schools (*‘Responding to the government’s big push for 500 new free schools by 2020, [Cllr Perry] told Schools Week last month that free schools should only go ahead in areas in need of places – and that councils have the local knowledge to identify the most suitable locations’*). The piece also drew attention to [the Children and Young People Board’s response to the Spending Review](#), in which we: *‘called for “urgent clarification” on how the £600 million cuts in the Education Services Grant (ESG) — used by schools to fund a host of provision including safeguarding and criminal records checks and ensuring students are at school — would be achieved, “and how quickly, without impacting on welfare and standards”.*

### **Annual Conference of Association of Independent LSCB Chairs**

4. Cllr Ivan Ould represented the Board at the Annual Conference of the Association of Independent LSCB Chairs on 9 November. He joined a panel in the opening session of the conference, which included, among others, the President of the Association of Directors of Children’s Services (ADCS), Alison O’Sullivan; the Chief Executive of Children England, Cathy Evans; and the Chair of the NHS Confederation, the Rt. Hon. Stephen Dorrell. The

panel discussed recent developments in safeguarding, with a particular focus on partnership working when there is reduced capacity but increased need for joint working. A key theme of the discussion was the potential value of agreeing a process between key stakeholders for defining a national framework for monitoring the effectiveness of local safeguarding arrangements.

### **Youth Employment Convention**

5. Cllr Antoinette Bramble represented the Board at the Youth Employment Convention on the 24 November. She spoke at a break out session on 'Skills We Need', which focussed on jobs and productivity and the youth offer. Cllr Bramble highlighted research published as part of the LGA's DevoNext campaign, which shows that devolution has the potential to reduce youth employment by 20 percent. She also emphasised the benefits of greater local government involvement in skills programmes.

### **Healthy beginnings: Giving our children the best start in life**

6. Together with the Community Wellbeing Portfolio, [we published a document](#) in which a number of leading practitioners outline the major implications of the transfer of responsibility for delivering public health services for children aged 5 years and under from NHS England to local government.

### **Leadership Essentials: Children's Services**

7. We held a 'Leadership Essentials' event for children's services from 7 – 8 November. The event provided portfolio holders, service committee chairs and interested council leaders a chance to develop leadership skills specific to the area of children's services and share their experiences among colleagues dealing with similar challenges.

### **Meetings with the NCB and YMCA**

8. On 3 December, I met with the Director of the National Children's Bureau (NCB), Enver Solomon, to discuss ways in which our organisations might work together, particularly in the areas of education and children's social care. On the same day, I met with the Senior Parliamentary and Policy Officer at the YMCA, Liam Preston, who highlighted two projects that might be of interest to the LGA: one focussing on Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) support in schools, and another on 'help to rent'. I offered to share any good practice in our Children and Young People Bulletin.

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