

Note of decisions taken and actions required

Title:	Children and Young People Programme Board
Date and time:	31 May 2011, 11am
Venue:	Westminster Suite, Local Government House, Smith Square, SW1P 3HZ

Attendance

Position	Councillor	Council
Chairman	Baroness Ritchie	Kensington & Chelsea RB
Vice chair	John Merry CBE	Salford City
Deputy chair	David Bellotti	Bath & NE Somerset Council
	Chris Townsend	Mole Valley DC / Surrey CC
Members	Ken Meeson	Solihull MBC
	David Pugh	Isle of Wight
	Rita Krishna	Hackney LB
	Gloria Cawood	Somerset CC
	Martin Candler	Stockport MBC
	Paul Lakin	Rotherham
	Catharine Grundy	Birmingham City
Substitutes	Anne Burns	Cumbria CC
Observer	Andrew Povey	Surrey CC
Apologies	Ivan Ould	Leicestershire CC
	David Simmonds	Hillingdon LB
	Paul Carter	Kent CC

Item	Decisions and actions	Action by
1.	<p>Children's Improvement Board (CIB)</p> <p>Liz Railton, Interim Director of Children's Services Self-Improvement for the Children's Improvement Board, introduced a report on a £10.5 million improvement programme for Children's Services authorities, funded by the DfE and overseen by a 'Children's Improvement Board' on which LG Group, DfE, ADCS and SOLACE are represented.</p> <p>Members were pleased to hear that, given the potentially very broad remit, the CIB would be responsive to the priorities of the sector.</p> <p>Engaging the health sector was seen to be a potential challenge; there has however already been interest in the programme from Directors of Public Health (particularly around payment by results pilots).</p> <p>Concerns were raised over the level of political oversight of the governance arrangements. Assurances were given both that the governance arrangements were not yet set and must involve councillors to be successful.</p> <p>Members requested clarity on the approaches that had been made to leaders and lead members to act as regional representatives for the implementation of the programme.</p> <p>Action: Children's Improvement Board business plan to be presented to the Board once drafted.</p> <p>CIB update to be a standing agenda item for this Board for the next six months.</p> <p>A copy of the letter inviting lead member involvement in the programme to be circulated to the Board.</p>	<p>Liz Railton</p> <p>Lucy Ellender</p> <p>Helen Johnston / Alison Miller</p>
2.	<p>Finance update</p> <p>A report giving an update on schools funding, capital funding, Academies funding and the Standards fund was considered by Members.</p> <p>Continuing frustration over the creation of the Schools Funding Agency and the breadth of its remit was expressed by Members.</p>	

In the legal action by 23 local authorities against the 2011-12 top-slice arrangements for Academies funding an expedited hearing has been applied for.

Action:

A letter from the Chairman to be sent to Lord Hill, covering the Board's concerns over the development of a new central body overseeing schools' capital spending, and warning of the potential loss of design standards for schools.

Mike Heiser

3 Youth unemployment

Members welcomed a report on a proposed work plan to allow the LG Group to help councils improve youth engagement and tackle youth unemployment, building on the Group's previous work in this area in the Hidden Talents programme.

This issue cuts across the remit of both the LG Group's Economy and Transport Programme Board and the CYP Board, who considered the report at their last meeting.

Whilst work in this area, and the direction of the report was welcomed it was felt to need development before we could arrive at a coherent offer from local government.

Members stressed the economic elements of this issue should not be overlooked, in the context of rising youth unemployment across diverse areas.

Decisions:

An Autumn Local Government Youth Unemployment Summit was felt to be premature.

Further work needs to be done in this area before a lobbying strategy can be produced.

Action:

A joint meeting of the office holders of the Economy & Transport and this Board on this issue to be arranged.

Lucy Ellender

Officers to formulate a coherent position from this joint meeting with a view to a Ministerial meeting on youth unemployment.

**Ian Keating /
Philip Mind**

4. Education update

Ian Keating, Senior Policy Consultant, gave a verbal update on developments in the area of the council role in education.

Donald Rae, Policy Adviser, gave an update on developments relating to the Special Educational Needs and Disability green Paper.

Actions:

A written briefing on the new draft admissions code to be sent to Members. **Ian Keating**

5. Getting Closer update

Helen Johnston, Head of Programmes, updated on the getting Closer process, which has seen staffing costs reduced by 45%, with a concomitant reduction in the number of staff in the Group from 447 FTE to 269 FTE.

Decisions:

A formal vote of thanks was passed to Paul Ogden, former Business Manager to the Board, and George Moody, former Member Support to the Board who had moved on to other areas,.

Members expressed their thanks to officers for the professionalism of the continuing support they received during this prolonged period of uncertainty and redundancies.

Actions:

Members felt that the Getting Closer aim of focusing more on councillors and councils had not yet been achieved and that more needed to be done once the new structures are in place. **Helen Johnston**

6. Other business report

Munro review

A letter to be sent from the Chairman to the Implementation Panel reiterating our position on of the importance of engaging the health sector in the reforms and the dangers of creating unnecessary bureaucracy around Local Safeguarding Children Boards.

NFER and NYA update

Work on youth unemployment and transport to be coordinated as appropriate.

**Ian Keating /
David Pye**

Children's health

Briefing material for the joint office holder meeting with the Community Wellbeing Programme Board to be circulated to all

**Samantha
Ramanah**

Members of the Board.

George Moody

British Association for Adoption and Fostering update

The Board expressed their thanks to Cllr Pat Case for her continuing work with BAAF on behalf of the Board. These thanks to be passed on directly.

National Children and Adult Services Conference

Members warmly endorsed plans to hold a Board meeting at the conference again this year, feeling last year's experiment with this had been very successful.

7. Note of 29 March Board

Agreed

Date of Next Meeting: 12 July 2011, 11am Westminster Suite, Local Government House.