

# Children and Young People Programme Board

## Agenda

12 July 2011  
11.00 am

The Westminster Suite (8<sup>th</sup> floor)  
Local Government House  
Smith Square  
London  
SW1P 3HZ

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

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## **LG Group Children and Young People Programme Board**

12 July 2011

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There will be a meeting of the LG Group Children and Young People Programme Board at:

**11.00am on Tuesday 12 July 2011, in the Westminster Suite (Room 8.1), Local Government House, Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ.**

### **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**, so that a substitute can be arranged and catering numbers adjusted, if necessary.

**Labour:** Aicha Less: 020 7664 3263 email: [aicha.less@local.gov.uk](mailto:aicha.less@local.gov.uk)  
**Conservative:** Angela Page: 020 7664 3264 email: [angela.page@local.gov.uk](mailto:angela.page@local.gov.uk)  
**Liberal Democrat:** Evelyn Mark: 020 7664 3235 email: [libdem@local.gov.uk](mailto:libdem@local.gov.uk)  
**Independent:** Group Office: 020 7664 3224 email: [independent.group@local.gov.uk](mailto:independent.group@local.gov.uk)

### **Location**

A map showing the location of Local Government House is printed on the back cover.

### **LGA Contact:**

Lucy Ellender Tel: 020 7664 3173 Fax: 020 7664 3232;  
e-mail: [lucy.ellender@local.gov.uk](mailto:lucy.ellender@local.gov.uk)

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[http://www.parkplaza.com/hotels/gbriver?s\\_cid=se.bmm2175](http://www.parkplaza.com/hotels/gbriver?s_cid=se.bmm2175)

<http://www.novotel.com/gb/hotel-1785-novotel-london-waterloo/index/shtml>



## Children and Young People Programme Board - Membership 2010/2011

Councillor	Authority
<b>Conservative (6)</b>	
Baroness Shireen Ritchie <b>[Chairman]</b>	Kensington & Chelsea RB
Paul Carter	Kent CC
Ken Meeson	Solihull MBC
Ivan Ould	Leicestershire CC
David Simmonds	Hillingdon LB
David Pugh	Isle of Wight
<b>Substitutes:</b>	
Jack Hulme	Oldham MBC
Ian Parry	Staffordshire CC
<b>Labour (4)</b>	
Rita Krishna	Hackney LB
John Merry CBE <b>[Vice Chair]</b>	Salford City
Catharine Grundy	Birmingham City
Paul Lakin	Rotherham
<b>Substitutes:</b>	
Anne Burns	Cumbria CC
Ebrahim Adia	Bolton MBC
<b>Liberal Democrat (3)</b>	
David Bellotti <b>[Deputy Chair]</b>	Bath & NE Somerset Council
Gloria Cawood	Somerset CC
Martin Candler	Stockport MBC
<b>Substitutes:</b>	
Rabi Martins	Watford BC
<b>Independent (1)</b>	
Chris Townsend <b>[Deputy Chair]</b>	Mole Valley DC / Surrey CC
<b>Substitute</b>	
TBA	

## LG Group Children and Young People Programme Board Attendance 2010-2011

Councillors	14/9/10	4/11/10	25/1/11	29/3/11	31/5/11	
<b>Conservative Group</b>						
Shireen Ritchie	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	
Paul Carter	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	
Ken Meeson	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Ivan Ould	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	
David Simmonds	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	
David Pugh	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	
<b>Labour Group</b>						
Rita Krishna	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
John Merry	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Catherine Grundy	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	
Paul Lakin	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	
<b>Lib Dem Group</b>						
David Bellotti	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Gloria Cawood	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Martin Candler	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
<b>Independent</b>						
Chris Townsend	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	
<b>Substitutes</b>						
Jack Hulme		Yes				
Ian Parry		Yes				
Ebrahim Adia		Yes				
Gillian Ford			Yes	Yes		
Anne Burns			Yes		Yes	

## Agenda

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### Children and Young People Programme Board

12 July 2011

11am

Westminster Suite (8<sup>th</sup> floor), Local Government House, Smith Square, London SW1P 3HZ

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	<b>Item</b>	<b>Page</b>	<b>Time</b>
	For discussion:		
1.	<b>Children's Improvement Board</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>11.00</b>
2.	<b>Schools and Children's Services Finance Update</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>11.20</b>
3.	<b>Education Update</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>11.40</b>
4.	<b>Community Budgets</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>12.00</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Paul Martin, Chief Executive of London Borough of Wandsworth</li> </ul>		
	To note:		
5.	<b>Other business report</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>12.45</b>
6.	<b>Note of last meeting: 31 May 2011</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>12.55</b>
	<b>Close</b>		<b>13.00</b>

**Date of Next Meeting:** 6 September 2011, 11.00am





**Item 1**

**Children's Improvement Board**

**Purpose of report**

For discussion and direction

**Summary**

This report updates the Board on progress of the work of the Children's Improvement Board on sector-led improvement.

**Recommendation**

The Board is asked to note the progress made and offer guidance.

**Action**

To pursue next steps in the light of members' discussion.

**Contact officer:** Liz Hobson  
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**Item 1**

## **Children's Improvement Board Update**

### **Background**

1. The last meeting of the Board on 31 May received a report and presentation on the work underway through the Children's Improvement Board (CIB) for a sector led approach to improvement for children's services. It was agreed that an update on the work of CIB should to be a standing agenda item for this Board for the next six months.
2. Ministers have now agreed to provide a further £9.3 million for the remainder of 2011-12. This takes the total to £10.5 million to support the implementation of the model. This includes preventing failure at all points in the improvement cycle where there are identified risks and weaknesses, through a robust system of challenge and improvement support.
3. Ministers have asked for a further meeting with the CIB in July to discuss progress.
4. Procurement advice is that the LGID, as the accountable body acting on behalf of CIB, can issue a contract notice calling for tenders for all the expected work under this programme, using the open procedure. This will fulfil the CIB requirement that there should be a rapid move towards a framework of approved providers to support the sector led improvement system.
5. In the interim, until the framework contract is in place, the terms of the grant from DfE allow for a single tender procedure to be applied for the provision of certain services. Grants are being made for this period to C4EO for the provision of improvement support for councils, including self assessment and improvement planning and to SERCO to support the ongoing development of Sure Start Children's Centres during this interim period.

### **Governance**

6. At the last meeting of the Board, members raised questions about the overall governance of the programme and member engagement at a national and at a local level.
7. As one of the priorities in the LG Group Business Plan, the Children and Young People Programme Board maintains policy oversight on the sector-led improvement of children's services on behalf of the whole LG Group.

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8. The CIB is a partnership Board, set up by the LG Group, the Association of Directors of Children's Services, SOLACE and the Department for Education. It is a direction setting and decision making group that is responsible for the overall delivery of the programme. Cllr David Simmonds attends the CIB on the Board's behalf.
9. The CIB is aware of the need to establish strong governance for the programme and work is in progress to provide them with options for consideration.
10. There is a specific issue to note with regard to the accountability for the funding that has been approved by Ministers for children's services improvement. CIB provides the strategic direction on how resources should be used and LGID has been the receiving body for DfE Grant monies for Children's Improvement acting on behalf of the CIB. It is proposed that this arrangement will continue going forward. Procurement of services and spend is subject to authorisation by Group officers with delegated authority and ultimately LGID's Company Board.

**Taking the Lead**

11. At the last meeting of the Board members said that it was important that there was a clear explanation of the links between the service specific elements and the overall approach to self regulation and improvement in local government.
12. The sector-led programmes for both children's and adult services are being developed within the overall umbrella of the LG Group's 'Taking the Lead' initiative for self-regulation and improvement and the key building blocs are consistent, for example
  - 12.1 The importance attached to robust comparable data
  - 12.2 The emphasis on self assessment ("Local Accounts" in the adults framework)
  - 12.3 The value attached to challenge from one's peers.
13. The LG Group Improvement Programme Board will be discussing the need for a single narrative that joins up 'Taking the Lead' with developments in adult social care and children's services to provide a single clear message to the sector about how these initiatives and the support provided under each strand inter-relate.
14. It is proposed that this narrative should be agreed jointly by the relevant Boards and **Members are asked to approve this approach.**

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**Early Adopters**

15. All councils with responsibility for children's services were invited to come forward to be 'Early Adopters' of the system and/or to be early peer challengers. There was an excellent response with 2 regions, 1 improvement cluster and 24 individual councils now signed up. A successful launch event for these councils was held on **29 June**. The list is attached at **Appendix 1**.
16. Early Adopters will test specific components of the model, evaluate and share their learning across three broad areas:
- 16.1 **Universal**. Testing key elements of the universal system, including self assessment, improvement planning, peer challenge and the use of a core set of national data in the form of local profiles.
  - 16.2 **Performance Risks**. Testing the effectiveness of improvement support where councils have identified their own performance risks or weaknesses
  - 16.3 **Intervention**. Testing the effectiveness of sector-led improvement support in councils subject to Improvement Notices as a result of DfE intervention.
17. The NFER has been commissioned to look at the various delivery models of the developing sector-led peer challenge and support programme in order to support its further development. The research will explore this with the early adopter local authorities, and report to the CIB to feed into further developments of sustainable arrangements for sector-led improvement and support by April 2012.

**Regional leads**

18. Alongside the recruitment of local authority early adopters the CIB have been working to secure a Lead Member, Chief Executive and Director of Children's Services from each region. Regional leads will support the CIB through providing a link to, and communication with, the sector in their region and will work towards raising the profile of the programme, gathering intelligence to support their understanding of what is happening at a regional level to share with the region and the CIB. The current list of leads in the regions is attached at **Appendix 2**.

**Policy implementation**

19. In addition to the general focus of improvement through peer challenge and support the CIB is also committed to supporting the implementation of national policy through sector-led support. The first areas of focus are Children's Centres and Payment by Results (PBR).

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20. There has been significant interest from councils in the offer of support with local decision making on provision of sufficient Sure Start Children's Centre services. This might include looking at how the statutory duties placed on local authorities in relation to Sure Start and wider early years provision can best be fulfilled in the context of overall resources available and wider overall priorities. 26 inquiries were received within 2 weeks of the offer of sector-led support being made.
21. There have also been a number of well attended workshops held recently for those expressing an interest in becoming payment by results pathfinders. The pathfinders will focus on the core purpose of children's centres: to improve child development and school readiness among young children and to reduce inequalities. The scheme will explore the potential to join up with other payment by results schemes being developed across Government.
22. The potential for the sector-led system to drive forward a number of other developments is currently being considered – in particular Community Budgets, which are focused on families with complex needs.

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**Appendix 1**

**Appendix 1: List of Early Adopters**

<b>Name of Council</b>
Birmingham
Bracknell Forest, Brighton and Hove, Hertfordshire, Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead, West Berkshire and Wokingham Councils
Bury
Cornwall
Coventry
East Midlands Region (Derby City Council, Derbyshire County Council, Leicester City Council, Leicestershire County Council, Lincolnshire County Council, Northamptonshire County Council Nottingham City Council, , Rutland County Council)
Nottinghamshire County Council
Gateshead Council
Gloucestershire County Council
Kirklees
Lancashire County Council
London
Tower Hamlets (London)
Oxfordshire
Plymouth
Reading Borough Council
Slough
St Helen's
Telford and Wrekin
Thurrock

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**Appendix 1**

Warrington Borough Council
Wokingham
Wolverhampton
Wakfield



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**Appendix 2**

**Appendix 2: Regional Leads**

<b>Region</b>	<b>Lead member</b>	<b>Chief Executive</b>	<b>Director of Children's Services</b>
East Midlands	Cllr Roger Begy – Leader (Rutland)  Lead Portfolio Holder member – Cllr Patricia Bradwell (Lincolnshire) supported by Cllr Ivan Ould (Leicestershire).	John Sinnott, Leicestershire	Anthony May, Nottinghamshire
East of England			Jenny Coles, Hertfordshire
London	Cllr Steve Reid, Lambeth	Cheryl Coppell, Havering	Eleanor Schooling, Islington and Frankie Sulke Lewisham
North East			
North West		Diana Terris, Warrington	Peter Morgan, Sefton
South East		Steve Beynon, Isle of Wight	Anna Wright, Reading
South West		Sheila Wheeler, Somerset	Bronwen Lacy, Plymouth
West Midlands	Cllr Ann Hartley, Shropshire	Mark Rogers	Sally Rees, Staffordshire

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**Appendix 2**

Yorkshire and Humberside	Cllr Jonathan Owen - Deputy Leader, East Riding	Tony Hunter	Elaine McHale, Wakefield
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**Item 2**

## **Schools and Children's Service Finance Update**

### **Purpose of report**

For discussion and direction

### **Summary**

This report updates members on recent developments in schools funding issues.

### **Recommendation(s)**

1. That members
  - 1.1 Note this report;
  - 1.2 Agree to receive further reports on any developments.

### **Action**

Officers continue to provide updates.

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**Schools and Children's Service Finance Update**

**Schools' Funding Consultation**

1. The first stage consultation has now closed and a more detailed consultation is expected in July. Discussions with Department for Education (DfE) officials have been continuing through the Task and Finish Group of the Ministerial Advisory Group (MAG), chaired by Baroness Ritchie and the officer and official-level School Funding Implementation Group.
2. Discussions have centred on exactly what would shape a reformed schools funding system.
  - 2.1 What are the roles and responsibilities of schools and local authorities; should the funding system reflect these as they are or how they might be in an ideal funding system?
  - 2.2 Should there be a national school by school funding formula, or a continuation of the current system, with a new national funding formula for authorities who will then carry on distributing funding, in agreement with schools forum through local formulae. LGA members and officers have continued to argue for the latter.
  - 2.3 How much flexibility should there be for local authorities and schools forums to allow formulae to reflect local circumstances?
3. Following the joint submission to the first stage of the schools funding consultation, the LGA has continued to work jointly with ADCS. Any updates will be reported at the meeting.

**Capital**

4. The MAG Task and Finish Group has also been discussing the recommendations of the James Review on Schools Capital. The following issues have featured:
  - 4.1 How local planning would work; we have said that local authorities should be able to set up their own structures to consult with partners and there should not be a single model imposed.

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- 4.2 Implications of the proposal to establish a central body to take charge of procurement; how will this fit in with local procurement arrangements
- 4.3 Maintenance: Who is responsible for maintenance; does it need clarifying; should there be amounts set aside for maintenance?
- 5. The work of the MAG Task and Finish Group, and the discussion at the MAG itself on 14 July, is expected to influence the DfE response.

**Academies funding**

- 6. As reported previously £148 million in 2011-12 and £265 million in 2012-13 is being removed from formula grant to pay for central education functions for academies. Twenty three authorities have commenced legal action on the 2011-12 top-slice, with a further 7 authorities petitioning to join them. Following this the Secretary of State has agreed to reconsider the amount of the transfer for 2011-12 and 2012-13. A consultation document is expected shortly. The LGA has been doing work on a fairer costing of the academies transfer with the authorities involved in the case which can feed into our response to the consultation document. Further updates will be reported at the meeting.

**Implications for Wales**

- 7. Schools and Children's services are devolved matters so are the responsibility of the Welsh Assembly Government in Wales. The LGA keeps in close touch with the WLGA on developments affecting both England and Wales.

**Financial Implications**

- 8. None specific to this report.

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**Education update**

**Purpose of report**

For noting

**Summary**

This report provides an update on recent developments in relation to education and asks for views on the proposed changes to the schools admissions codes.

**Recommendations**

That the Board should note the report, subject to any comments that members might wish to make.

**Action**

Officers to take account of any comments.

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**Education update**

**Schools admissions codes**

1. The Schools White Paper committed the government to simplifying the schools admissions codes. A new draft School Admissions Code and draft School Admission Appeals Code was issued on 27 May for consultation. Comments are invited by 19 August. The LG Group will be responding to the consultation and the Board may wish to express its view on the proposed changes, to inform the Group response.
2. The current Codes stretch to over 130 pages of text, with more than 660 mandatory requirements. The draft Codes are around a third of their original size and impose about half as many requirements. The consultation paper says:

“These changes are not about weakening the admissions system but removing many of the unnecessary burdens for schools and local authorities to allow them to focus on setting clearer, fairer admission arrangements.”
3. Although the focus is on simplifying the codes, a number of policy changes are being consulted on and the main ones of interest are:
  - 3.1 **The removal of the requirement on local authorities to coordinate in year admissions** – the paper says that some councils are facing a real challenge in managing the large and growing numbers of applications for a school place outside the normal admission rounds. It proposes that while a parent applying for a school place outside of the normal admissions round would still make initial contact with their local authority, parents would then apply directly to the schools and those schools would process the forms, notifying the council of both the application and the outcome.
  - 3.2 **Changes to the Published Admission Number (PAN)** – currently, all schools must have a PAN and there are detailed requirements about the process for changing PANs including a process for local consultation. The paper proposes that schools that are not maintained by the local authority will no longer have to get the approval of the authority where they want to admit pupils in-year above PAN. And where a school wants to change its PAN it will just have to notify the council and to make reference to it on the school website. Anyone who feels a proposal to increase PAN is unreasonable will have to right to make an objection to the Schools Adjudicator.
  - 3.3 **Random allocation** - Since 2007 the School Admissions Code has allowed random allocation (often referred to as ‘lotteries’) as a

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permitted oversubscription criterion. The paper proposes that these should not become the principal route for awarding school places across an entire council area and that random allocation should only be an oversubscription criterion available to individual schools.

- 3.4 **Giving admissions priority to children attracting the Pupil Premium.** The Government is consulting on the proposal to give academies and free schools (not maintained schools) permission to give priority in its admissions policy to children that qualify for the pupil premium.
- 3.5 **Reducing the bureaucracy associated with references to the schools adjudicator**, including “allowing anyone to object to the admission arrangements of a state funded school”. DfE have confirmed that this change will allow councils to refer academies to the adjudicator where they have concerns about their admission arrangements.

**Local freedom or central control II – The council strategic role in education**

4. *Local freedom or central control II – The council strategic role in education* was launched at the LG Group Annual Conference on 30 June. It sets out a vision for a more strategic role for councils in education, supported by case studies demonstrating the initiatives that are already being taken by councils. It also begins to identify the types of support that councils will need to help them fulfil their new role in education.
5. Copies have been sent to the Secretary of State for Education, the other members of the DfE Ministerial team and the members of the Ministerial Advisory Group and Baroness Ritchie has requested a meeting with the Education Secretary to discuss next steps. Members of the Board should have received a hard copy of the report as well.

**Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Green Paper**

6. Following the discussion at the last meeting of the Board, the LG Group has submitted its response to the DfE’s Green Paper: *Support and aspiration: A new approach to special educational needs and disability*. Our key messages are that:
  - 6.1 Many local councils are already working to achieve the aims described in the green paper but find their ability to do so is often restricted by bureaucracy, legal impediments, lack of clarity of responsibility and the ways in which funding is made available.
  - 6.2 We support the proposal of a ‘single assessment’ for children and young people with special educational needs and disability (SEND), which needs to be an assessment fully owned and supported by all

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the agencies involved, eliminating the need for duplication between health, education and social services.

- 6.3 We welcome the proposal to establish an 'Education Health and Care Plan', but councils must have the financial, legal and administrative means to develop and support this approach.
- 6.4 We support the concept of early identification and support, but this needs to take into account that some special needs or disabilities interact, change and express themselves over time.
- 6.5 We welcome the consideration of extending personalised budgets to some aspects of SEND, as long it is linked to the review of funding formulae and enables councils to have the means to develop a greater choice of providers. Communication with parents must be careful so that they understand they are expressing a choice based on what is available.
- 6.6 We support the proposal to create a single system for SEND from birth to 25, but we think that this will require greater transformational change than the green paper suggests.
- 6.7 We are in favour of mediation but believe that increased transparency, especially around assessment and funding, will be more effective in reducing the 'frustrations' as described in the Green Paper.
- 6.8 There should be a new focus on developing educational programmes to meet the outcomes expected for young people with special needs, rather than designing the programmes in response to the funding.

7. Our full response will be available on the LG Group website.

**Education Bill**

8. The Education Bill has begun its Committee Stage in the House of Lords. Early debate during the first couple of sessions looked at "foundation years" development of young children, free early years provision for two-year olds (where the Minister announced that the Government would consult in the autumn on revisions to the code of practice on free entitlement), and inserting a reasonableness test for the searching of pupils in schools.
9. At the time of the preparation of this report the Committee had not yet reached the first of the LG Group's main concerns (provisions relating to the establishment of new schools). However, Baroness Ritchie intervened during debate on an amendment tabled by Lord Laming which sought to reinstate the duty for schools to co-operate with councils (which the Bill currently removes). Citing the LGA's report *Local Freedom or Central Control*, Baroness Ritchie made it clear that whilst you cannot legislate for good partnership working, the duty to co-operate is

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a helpful tool for councils to encourage schools to participate. Lord Laming made it clear that these duties were not simply bureaucratic procedures as many others are - but genuinely helped local authorities and other partners develop stronger relationships. The Minister, Lord Hill, assured Peers he would discuss this further with Lord Laming.

10. Baroness Ritchie has also tabled an amendment relating to the establishment of new schools which removes the obligation on councils to report progress on establishing an academy to the Department for Education; removes the restrictions on a councils flexibility to decide what model of school is established; and removes the requirement for a council to get approval from the DfE before it proceeds with a model alternative to that of an academy. There has been cross-party support for such an amendment and it is likely that this matter will have been debated between the writing of this report and the Board's meeting. An oral update will be provided at the meeting.

**Education Funding Agency**

11. Since the Board's last meeting DfE has announced Partnerships for Schools (PfS) will be wound up and its functions transferred to the DfE policy directorates and the new Education Funding Agency (EFA), in April 2012. In making the announcement Education Secretary Michael Gove said:

"Following Sebastian James's proposals for a new system for managing capital expenditure and the wider reform of arms length bodies, I have decided the time is right to bring together, in a single agency, the allocation and management of revenue and capital funding, including the delivery of capital programmes."

12. The Secretary of State also announced the appointment of Peter Lauener, the current Chief Executive of the Young People's Learning Agency, as the Chief Executive of the EFA once it comes into existence.

**School Teacher Industrial Action: 30 June 2011**

13. On 30 June school teachers from two unions, the National Union of Teachers (NUT) and the Association of Teachers and Lecturers (ATL), took part in industrial action to defend the current Teachers' Pension Scheme. They joined forces with the Public and Commercial Services (civil service) union (PCS) to undertake co-ordinated action.
14. The source of the current dispute is the Government's proposals for the reform of public service pension schemes and it is therefore with the Government, not schools or employers (including local authorities). The Government has been clear about this in its communications with schools and local authorities.
15. In response to the threat of industrial action by school teachers, the National Employers' Organisation for School Teachers (NEOST) produced guidance for

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local authorities in managing the workforce implications of the action. It was emailed to councils as well as being placed on the workforce pages of the LG Group website. In drafting this guidance, NEOST sought to produce a generic document that would apply to nearly all instances of industrial action by teachers, rather than simply the specific action proposed on 30 June. Whilst the guidance seeks to cover the more 'teacher specific' issues, it also includes a link to the more comprehensive guide to industrial action that can be found on the website.

16. The other large teacher union, the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers (NASUWT) is continuing to engage in the negotiations with Government about changes to public sector pension schemes, but retains the option of balloting for industrial action later in the year if no agreement is reached. The National Association of Head Teachers (NAHT) has voted to ballot its members and the Association of School and College Leaders' (ASCL) ruling executive has said that it will "take every action necessary to defend a fair pension entitlement" with a possible ballot for strike action being held some time after June.

**Careers Guidance**

17. Under the Education Bill currently before Parliament, councils' role in relation to careers advice and guidance will change. Although their formal statutory powers will not change, councils will no longer be responsible for providing universal careers advice to all young people through Connexions. Instead, DfE has made it clear in guidance that they will have a particular role in supporting vulnerable young people to obtain the information, advice and guidance that they need. Responsibility for general careers guidance passes to schools from September 2012, subject to the passage of the Bill. A new, Government-funded all age Careers Service will be established from April 2012 and schools will be free to use this service, but will not be required to do so.
18. The LG Group is working with DfE and BIS on the Careers Guidance Transition Summit on 15 July in London, designed for local authorities to share information with one another about how best adapt to their changing role when the Education Bill becomes law. It aims to share practice by councils for councils' role in supporting vulnerable young people, working with schools and academies, working with outside partners such as Job Centre Plus. The event, advertised through the Career Community of Practice (CoP), is fully booked with 70 local authorities attending. A summary will be provided on the CoP for those authorities unable to attend.

**Financial Implications**

19. This programme of work is a key business plan priority for the LG Group and will be resourced from within existing budgets.



**Item 4**

**Community Budgets**

**Purpose of report**

For information

**Summary**

This report provides a brief outline of the key aspects of Community Budgets as background to a presentation by Paul Martin, Chief Executive of London Borough of Wandsworth.

**Recommendation(s)**

That the Board note the report.

**Action**

Officers to follow up on any actions.

**Contact officer:** Phillip Mind  
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## Item 4

# Community Budgets

## Background

1. In the Spending Review the government announced the first sixteen areas<sup>1</sup> which will set up pooled budgets across different government departments (“community budgets”) to improve the lives of families with complex needs, and stated its intention that this model of accountability will be rolled out across the country by the end of the Spending Review period.
2. In parallel, the Prime Minister launched a campaign to improve the lives of these families with an ambition to improve the lives of all 120,000 families with complex needs by 2015.
3. At the recent LG Group Annual Conference, the Deputy Prime Minister (DPM)<sup>2</sup> announced the extension of community budgets for families with complex needs to around 50 further areas this year and a further 60 areas in 2012-13.
4. Having made the case for community budgets, and made them happen in 16 areas, this announcement illustrates the momentum councils have built and the plans they have put in place to help 10,000 families with complex needs improve their lives.
5. This is consistent with meeting the Prime Minister’s ambition although there is some variation on how areas have defined the families they intend to work with. Typically places are undertaking pilot work with a number of families (except where places were already working on family intervention and are therefore further forward), following which there will be service transformation at a greater scale.
6. The DPM announced<sup>3</sup> that two areas will be selected to co-design:

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<sup>1</sup> The first sixteen areas are Greater Manchester, Leicestershire, Croydon, Blackpool, Islington, Hull, Kent, Blackburn with Darwen, Bradford, Swindon, a group of Westminster, Kensington and Chelsea, Hammersmith and Fulham and Wandsworth, Barnet, Lewisham, Essex, Lincolnshire and Birmingham.

<sup>2</sup> Baroness Hanham CBE, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at DCLG, provides the day to day political leadership for community budgets. Lord Bichard chairs a cross-Whitehall group of senior officials and 4 local authority chief executives.

<sup>3</sup> Community budgets to be rolled out countrywide, Communities and Local Government press release 29 June 2011

**Item 4**

- 6.1 neighbourhood level Community Budgets “giving residents the opportunity to say what services they want, how they should work and whether they want to run them.”;
  - 6.2 a Community Budget “bringing all funding on local public services from the area into a single pot to test how to create the right local financial set up to deliver better services that people want.”
7. We have agreed 4 community budget objectives for the LG Group:
- 7.1 Supporting the sixteen areas to make a success of the first phase of community budgets delivering savings, transforming services and delivering better outcomes for families;
  - 7.2 Moving from 16 to a wider coverage of community budgets for families with complex needs;
  - 7.3 Widening the coverage of the community budget framework to other policy/spend areas and bringing more coherence to the different strands of community budgets, including Local Integrated Service pilots and Total Environment;
  - 7.4 Linking community budgets to wider public sector reform including new ways of funding public services such as payment by results.
8. A recent review of community budgets showed that places have strongly welcomed the opportunity and believe community budgets offer a framework for transforming services, making cashable savings across the public sector and delivering better services for vulnerable families.
9. But places would like to see more progress on the pooling of budgets although there is a growing recognition of the different forms of pooling (for example, non-cash, aligning) and the connection to be made to new funding mechanisms.
10. We expect the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government to write to council leaders soon with more detail on the announcements made at the LG Group Annual Conference, including an invitation to participate in the next phase.

**Item 5**

**Other business report**

**Purpose of report**

For discussion and direction.

**Summary**

This section provides reports on other business relevant to the Board.

**Recommendation**

That the Board note the update.

**Action**

LG Group officers to action as necessary.

**Contact officer:** Lucy Ellender  
**Position:** Programme Officer  
**Phone no:** 020 7664 3173  
**E-mail:** [lucy.ellender@local.gov.uk](mailto:lucy.ellender@local.gov.uk)



**Item 5**

**NFER and NYA update**

1. Over the last two months NYA and NFER have continued delivering activity to support the Board's priorities.
2. For NYA, the 'routes to success' package of work to support youth services commissioned by the LG Group is ongoing and the Supporting Services for Young People Community of Practice continues to grow in terms of numbers of members and resources and information held on it.
3. NYA held its first Hot Seat event, with CEO, Fiona Blacke responding to online questions from local authority children's services officers. There are commitments from Tony Gallagher, National Advisor (Youth) HMI OFSTED, and Peter Mucklow, Deputy Director, Young People, Department for Education to lead further hot seat events from July 2011 onwards.
4. NYA held the first of their Master Classes in London in late June focused on commissioning. The Education and Training Standards Committee (composed of academics, voluntary sector representatives, unions and the joint negotiating committee for youth and community work) met this month and approved 5 undergraduate and 5 postgraduate youth and community work programmes for professional validation.
5. NYA have selected the first round of local authorities that will benefit from the tailored support offer - West Berkshire; Surrey; Solihull; North Tyneside; Merton; Leeds; and Dorset. NYA will be providing free consultancy support to these authorities in areas including helping in redesign of services and workforce issues. They will also be providing consultancy on commissioning issues to Southwark; Tower Hamlets; Sefton and Nottinghamshire County Council. The tailored support programmes have been heavily oversubscribed and there will be two further opportunities to bid for support in August and October 2011.
6. All individual work areas within the 'Emerging Themes' strand have started and these include: Peer-to-Peer Assessment, Engagement of the Private Sector in resourcing services for young people; development of a scrutiny network; and commissioning services for young people. For more information on the LG Group commissioned NYA work programme please contact Alex Stutz, National Policy Manager, [alexs@nya.org.uk](mailto:alexs@nya.org.uk).
7. For NFER, reporting activity has been a primary focus of the programme in May and June with ten projects all in the final stages of report writing or publication including Experiences of Young People with Special Educational Needs (SEN), Learning Difficulties and Disabilities (LDD) Transition to Adult Services; Local

12 July 2011

**Item 5**

Authority Perceptions of how Parents of Children with SEN will be Affected by the Green paper; and Views of Young People and their Parents on Different Approaches to SEN/LDD Residential Care Provision. In addition, a short project was commissioned in June, mapping national information, advice and guidance sources for CYP professionals, local government officers and elected members. The aim of the work is to identify the national sources of CYP data and policy, practice and research knowledge available to the local government sector. NFER are pleased to be working with Councillor Paul Lakin, the interim CYP Programme Board Champion for NFER, on this piece of work. For more information on the NFER programme please contact Fiona Walker, Head of Centre for tailored projects and consultancy: [f.walker@nfer.ac.uk](mailto:f.walker@nfer.ac.uk).

**Children's health**

8. In January 2011 the Board made children's health a priority, agreeing to coordinate work with the Community Wellbeing Programme Board. As a result of the joint office holders meeting on 19 May which agreed to set lobbying positions and identify support opportunities for councils, a children's health roundtable has been organised for 25 July 2011.
9. The children's health roundtable will build on the one held on 21 December 2010, which identified the need to develop a programme of support for local authorities and their partners and to identify lobbying activities to influence NHS reform to ensure the needs of children are fully represented in the new health structure.
10. The roundtable on 25 July will bring together the chairs of the joint Children and Young People and Community Wellbeing Programme Board and senior officers from stakeholder organisations at the forefront of the health reforms and children and young people's agenda. The aim of the roundtable is to:
  - 10.2 Identify key Local Government Group lobbying activities on children's health;
  - 10.3 Develop a support offer and implementation plan to ensure local authorities, clinical commissioning groups and other key stakeholders in children's health and wellbeing are fully supported;
  - 10.4 Identify key partners and resources;
  - 10.5 Identify two or three specific work streams with partners to take the agenda forward;
  - 10.6 Produce a paper for the Children and Young People and Community Wellbeing Programme Boards to discuss proposed activity.
11. For further information please contact [Samantha.Ramanah@local.gov.uk](mailto:Samantha.Ramanah@local.gov.uk).

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**Family Justice Review**

12. The interim report of the Family Justice Review, chaired by David Norgrove, was published for consultation on 31 March, with the final report due in the autumn. Baroness Ritchie is a member of the Review panel, alongside John Coughlan CBE from ADCS and other stakeholders.
13. The interim report identified that the system is under huge strain; the average case took 53 weeks in 2010 and this is likely to rise significantly. Such lengthy delays are not only financially costly, but also extremely detrimental to the well-being of children and young people. The number of cases has risen in recent years, but this is not the sole reason for delays. The way the system operates also has an impact and the interim report makes a series of recommendations designed to address this. They include, amongst others: the creation of a new Family Justice Service and Local Family Justice Boards; specialist judges to hear cases from start to finish; reducing the courts' focus on care plans; less reliance on unnecessary expert reports; a timetable for the child with a maximum allowed time limit for all cases; and measures to simplify processes and help manage cases better.
14. Baroness Ritchie wrote to David Norgrove on behalf of the Board to endorse the consultation response submitted by ADCS. The letter specifically welcomed the focus on the needs of children in the system and proposals to reduce delays and their associated harm. It highlighted that the courts have an essential role to play in safeguarding children and that it is vital to get reform right for children, young people and families.

**Tough times, good decisions - The National Children and Adult Services Conference**

15. The National Children and Adult Services Conference and exhibition will take place at the International Convention Centre (ICC) London ExCel on 19 to 21 October 2011. The title this year is 'Tough times, good decisions'.
16. The conference has been organised by the LG Group, Association of Directors of Social Services and ADCS and is this year titled and is very important opportunity for Councillors, directors, senior officers, policymakers and service managers with responsibilities for education, children's services and adult care in the statutory, voluntary and private sectors to learn, network and hear from a wide range of speakers.
17. The Board has a session to meet with portfolio holders for Children and Young People which the Secretary of State for Education has been invited to attend. The rest of the programme will give attendees the opportunity to hear keynote

**Item 5**

ministerial addresses and take part in plenary sessions. There will be a variety of participatory breakouts and networking sessions.

**Munro Review Implementation**

18. Baroness Ritchie wrote to Tim Loughton MP in June to welcome the Munro Review's emphasis on increasing the scope for professional judgment and reducing overly burdensome central prescription and bureaucracy. The letter also reinforced a message the Board had made to Professor Munro at a previous meeting: that ensuring that reforms to the health system maximise opportunities to strengthen links with children's health and social care is vital. The letter went on to state that the Board is keen to continue its engagement through implementation of the recommendations and requested that the Minister consider a member sitting on the Implementation Panel. The Government is expected to publish its response to the Review by the summer.

**Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Bill**

19. The Bill was published on the 21 June and covers a wide range of reforms to the justice system, some of which have received considerable media attention. The Bill includes several elements relevant to youth justice, including paving the way for transfer of funding responsibility for all young people held on remand to be transferred to local authorities. In response to the Breaking the Cycle Green Paper, the LG Group supported the devolution of youth custody budgets in order that local authorities have an incentive to reduce numbers in custody and invest in prevention. It will be essential, however, to ensure that the full, true costs are transferred to local authority budgets and we will be liaising with the Youth Justice Board and the ADCS on financial modelling. Related provisions in the Bill are aimed at reducing the number of young people remanded to custody, for example where there is no real prospect that a custodial sentence would be given on conviction.

20. The Bill also gives young people remanded in youth detention accommodation 'looked after' status. This would have resource implications for local authorities that need to be fully explored and understood, including in relation to leaving care entitlements. There are also processes associated with looked after status, which may not always be proportionate, for example if a child is remanded for one week.

21. Other changes include:

- 21.1 Removing the limit on number of referral orders;
- 21.2 Unlimited number of further supervision periods for breach of Detention and Training Orders;



**Item 5**

21.3 Court power to impose conditions on a child remanded to a local authority accommodation and to impose requirements on a local authority to secure compliance with those conditions.

22. The Bill had its second reading on 29 June. It is now at committee stage.

**LG Group Annual Conference**

23. The LG Group Annual Conference, “Localism works”, took place in Birmingham on the 28 – 30 June. The Board had three sessions at the conference covering children’s services improvement and self-regulation activities and the Children’s Improvement Board; the Family Justice Review and the Schools White Paper.

24. The workshop exploring self regulation and improvement and the support the LG Group has made available to councils, looked at the overall approach to these issues with a particular focus on the practicalities and benefits to be gained from sharing and comparing key performance data, how the approach is being applied in children’s services and the contribution peer challenge and support can make to improvement. It gave delegates the opportunity to explore this new approach in more detail and to delve deeper into the practicalities of two key elements on offer from the LG Group – comparative performance data and peer challenge, as exemplified in children’s services.

25. The final report of the Family Justice Review, chaired by David Norgrove, is due to be published in Autumn 2011. The panel session at the conference provided a chance for the delegates to discuss the Review's emerging recommendations, particularly those that will have an impact on the work of family justice workers at the frontline.

26. In the Schools White paper session speakers representing governors, head teachers and councils gave their view about what the new council role in the future of education will involve. Delegates had the opportunity to debate the key issues in this area and explain how things were developing on the ground in their areas.



**Item 6**

## Note of decisions taken and actions required

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

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### Attendance

<b>Position</b>	<b>Councillor</b>	<b>Council</b>
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

<b>Item</b>	<b>Decisions and actions</b>	<b>Action by</b>
<b>1.</b>	<b>Children's Improvement Board (CIB)</b>	

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.

Members were pleased to hear that, given the potentially very broad remit, the CIB would be responsive to the priorities of the sector.

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).

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.

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.

**Action:**

Children's Improvement Board business plan to be presented to the Board once drafted.

**Liz Railton**

CIB update to be a standing agenda item for this Board for the next six months.

**Lucy Ellender**

A copy of the letter inviting lead member involvement in the programme to be circulated to the Board.

**Helen  
Johnston /  
Alison Miller**

**2. Finance update**

A report giving an update on schools funding, capital funding, Academies funding and the Standards fund was considered by Members.

Continuing frustration over the creation of the Schools Funding Agency and the breadth of its remit was expressed by Members.

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 **Ian Keating** Members.

**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.

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**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 Members of the Board.

**Samantha  
Ramanah**

**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

**George Moody**

thanks to be passed on directly.

**National Children and Adult Services Conference**

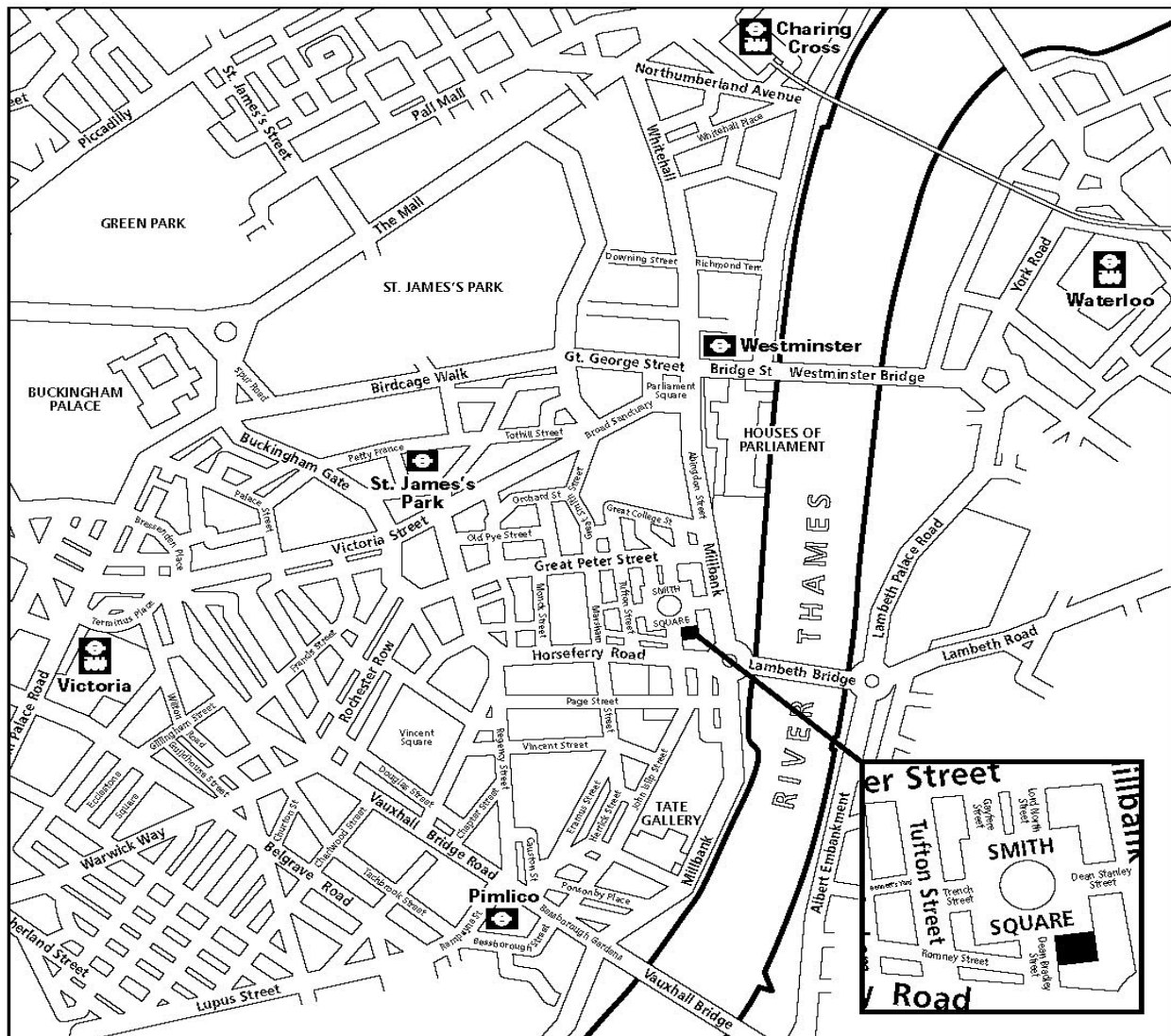
Members warmly endorsed plans to hold a Board meeting at the conference again this year, feeling last year's experiment with this had been very successful.

**7. Note of 29 March Board**

Agreed

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

## Local Government House Location Map



### Local Government Association

Local Government House  
Smith Square, London SW1P 3HZ  
Tel: 020 7664 3131  
Fax: 020 7664 3030  
Email: [info@lga.gov.uk](mailto:info@lga.gov.uk)  
Website: [www.lga.gov.uk](http://www.lga.gov.uk)

### Public transport

**Local Government House** is well served by public transport. The nearest mainline stations are;

#### Victoria

and **Waterloo**; the local underground stations are

**St James's Park** (District and Circle Lines);

**Westminster** (District, Circle 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 goes close by at the end of **Dean Bradley Street**.

#### Bus routes - Millbank

**87** Wandsworth - Aldwych **N87**  
**3** Crystal Palace - Brixton - Oxford Circus

### Bus routes - Horseferry Road

**507** Waterloo - Victoria  
**C10** Elephant and Castle - Pimlico - Victoria  
**88** Camden Town - Whitehall - Westminster - Pimlico - Clapham Common

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### Car Parks

**Abingdon Street Car Park**  
Great College Street  
**Horseferry Road Car Park**  
Horseferry Road/Arneway Street