

## **The Challenges for the next year - the Association of Directors of Children's Services (ADCS)**

### **Purpose of report**

For information.

### **Summary**

This report provides members with an introduction to the work of the Association of Directors of Children's Services (ADCS). Matt Dunkley, Chair of ADCS will be attending the meeting to discuss their policy priorities as well as areas in which the LG Group and ADCS can work together in the coming months.

### **Recommendation(s)**

That members note the report; comment on and discuss the presentation and consider the areas in which the LG Group and ADCS can work together in the coming year.

### **Action**

LG Group officers to action as necessary.

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## **The Challenges for the next year - the Association of Directors of Children's Services (ADCS)**

### **Background**

1. The Association of Directors of Children's Services Ltd (ADCS) is the national leadership association in England for statutory directors of children's services and their senior management teams.
2. Their members hold leadership roles in children's services departments in local authorities in England. Working in partnership with other public agencies and through the Children's Trust, ADCS's members work to achieve a personalised and joined-up service for children, whatever their identified needs.
3. The Association is led by its members and through the contributions of its members, ADCS provides a collective voice for professionals in children's services leadership roles on policy, practice and resourcing of the wide variety of services available to children, young people and their families.
4. The Association works closely with the LG Group, Ministers, Government officials, the community and voluntary sectors and other professional bodies on designing and delivering integrated services for children and young people, inspection and developing the children's workforce, among other issues.
5. ADCS's work is undertaken through a comprehensive policy committee structure that spans the full remit of the statutory director of children's services and through a welcoming regional branch structure. Through its national network of expert professional leaders, ADCS provides invaluable support and advice to colleagues.

### **Policy Priorities for 2011/12**

6. ADCS's policy priorities for the coming year are:
  - 6.1. Establish and articulate a distinct, coherent and clear role for the local authority in relation to:
    6. 1.1. Special Educational Needs
    6. 1.2. School provision and school improvement

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- 6. 1.3. Child protection (implementing Munro).
- 6.2. Champion the needs and voice of children and young people in the reorganisation of the NHS and the provision of local health services and local government services;
- 6.3. Deliver a rigorous model for sector-led improvement and support in children's services.

**Conclusion and Next Steps**

- 7. Mat Dunkley, Chair of ADCS, will be attending the meeting to discuss their policy priorities for the coming year as well as to examine the areas the LG Group and ADCS can work together more closely in the coming months.

**Financial Implications**

- 8. There are no financial implications from this report.