

Note of decisions taken and actions required

Title:	Children and Young People Programme Board
Date and time:	12 July 2011, 11.00am
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
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
	Ivan Ould	Leicestershire CC
	David Simmonds	Hillingdon LB
	Paul Carter	Kent CC
Substitutes	Gillian Ford	Havering LB
Observers	Anne Burns	Cumbria CC
	Ebrahim Adia	Bolton
Apologies	Chris Townsend	Mole Valley DC / Surrey CC

Item	Decisions and actions	Action by
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1. Children’s Improvement Board (CIB)

Helen Johnston introduced the report and set out the work of the ‘Early Adopter’ authorities that will test specific components of the model, including the effectiveness of sector led improvement support in councils subject to Improvement Notices as a result of DfE intervention.

Cllr David Simmonds, who attends the CIB on behalf of the Board, discussed the future governance arrangements for the CIB and the proposal for a single narrative joining up the improvement work for both Adult’s Services and Children’s Services through the “Taking the Lead” programme.

Members agreed that it was important for the Children and Young People Programme Board to have a strong cross party presence on the CIB and approved of the joint approach through “Taking the Lead”.

Members felt that a transparent process was needed for the appointments to regional leads as it was key that the lead was well known within their area. Members also raised concerns over the political balance of the current regional leads. It was noted that the original source of the leads were the old IDeA member networks and that this would be looked at again.

The LG Group would be the accountable body for auditing purposes. The CIB would be subject to the same audit procedures as other grant funded programmes.

Action:

The work programme for the CIB would be included in the next update to the Board at the September meeting.

Lucy Ellender

2. Finance update

The report gave an update on schools, capital and Academies funding.

It was noted that there would be a second stage of consultation on schools funding soon. Members questioned the amount of local flexibility that councils would have in the proposed new system in relation to schools funding saying that it was key to producing an effective service.

Members discussed Schools Forums and their effectiveness and proposed that they should be retained in any reformed school finance system.

Action:

Officers to coordinate the LG Group's response to the Schools Funding Consultation and report back to the Board.

Mike Heiser

3 Education Update

Members raised the issue of the new rules on Published Admission Number (PAN) proposed in the government consultation of the schools admissions codes. The proposals within the paper to give schools not under local authority control the power to change their PAN without the approval of the council. They felt that a proper process for agreeing the expansion or reduction in a schools' size should be applied to all schools including academies. Concerns were also raised about how this could disproportionately affect vulnerable children.

Members discussed the proposed provisions for the establishment of new schools and the possible issues this created for school reorganisation.

Members agreed that careers guidance needed to be impartial in order to be of maximum benefit to pupils. It was confirmed that there was currently an amendment proposed to the Bill that reflected these comments.

Action:

Officers to liaise with Officer Holders on the LG Group response to the consultation on schools admission codes.

Ian Keating

Officers to get clarification around the provision of new schools from DfE for the September meeting

Ian Keating

4. Other Business Report

NFER and NYA update

Members agreed that they would like to have a more detailed presentation about the NFER and NYA work in the future.

National Children and Adult Services Conference

The session for the Children and Young People Programme Board to meet the Secretary of State for Education would be taking place on Thursday 20 October.

Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Bill

Cllr David Simmonds sought the views of the Board on the proposals in the Bill to have all young people on remand automatically being given “looked after” status. Members discussed the new proposals and agreed that the full implications of “looked after” status needed to be understood by the Commons Committee considering the Bill. Any additional costs to councils would need to be fully funded.

LG Group Annual Conference

Baroness Ritchie thanked all Board members who had chaired or attended sessions at the conference for making them successful.

Actions:

NFER and NYA to be invited to attend a future Board meeting to discuss their work plans. **Lucy Ellender**

5. Note of the last meeting: 31 May 2011

Agreed.

6. Community Budgets

Paul Martin, the Chief Executive of the London Borough of Wandsworth attended the meeting to give members an introduction in to the work that Wandsworth was currently undertaking on community budgets for families with complex needs.

Members discussed the budgetary issues currently facing local government and the possible benefits that community budgets can offer in this climate, as well as the potential difficulties involved in pooling budgets across different agencies.

Members thanked Mr Martin for his presentation.

7. Children’s Commissioner for England

Dr Maggie Atkinson, the Children’s Commissioner for England, and Ross Hendy the Commissioner’s Director of Policy



introduced the Members to their work, including the Inquiry into School Exclusions, Youth justice, child protection and safeguarding and looking at barriers and encouraging uptake of the available support.

Members agreed that many of the Commissioner's priorities reflected the main priorities of the Board.

Members thanked Dr Atkinson and Mr Hendry for attending the meeting.

Date of Next Meeting: 6 September 2011, 11.00 am