

Children and Young People Programme Board

Agenda

Thursday 20 October 2011

2.10pm

Capital 2/3/4,
ICC London ExCel,
One Western Gateway,
Royal Victoria Dock,
London,
E16 1XL

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

LG Group Children and Young People Programme Board

20 October 2011

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

2.10pm on Thursday 20 October 2011, in the Capital rooms 2/3/4, ICC London ExCel, One Western Gateway, Royal Victoria Dock, London, E16 1XL

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
Conservative: Angela Page: 020 7664 3264 email: angela.page@local.gov.uk
Liberal Democrat: Evelyn Mark: 020 7664 3235 email: libdem@local.gov.uk
Independent: Group Office: 020 7664 3224 email: independent.group@local.gov.uk

Location

A map showing the location of ICC London ExCel 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

Carers' Allowance: As part of the LGA Members' Allowances Scheme a Carer's Allowance of up to £5.93 per hour is available to cover the cost of dependants (i.e. children, elderly people or people with disabilities) incurred as a result of attending this meeting.

Hotels: The LG Group has negotiated preferential rates with two hotels close to Local Government House – the Novotel (020 7793 1010), which is just across Lambeth Bridge and the Riverbank Park Plaza (020 7958 8000), which is along the Albert Embankment. When making a booking, please quote the LGA and ask for the government rate.

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

Date: 6.10.11

Children and Young People Programme Board - Membership 2011/2012

Councillor	Authority
Conservative (6)	
David Simmonds [Chairman]	Hillingdon LB
Paul Carter	Kent CC
David Pugh	Isle of Wight Council
Baroness Shireen Ritchie	Kensington & Chelsea RB
Derrick Murphy	Norfolk CC
Robert Light	Kirklees MBC
Substitutes:	
Susie Charles	Lancashire CC
Roy Perry	Hampshire CC
John Osman	Somerset CC
Labour (5)	
Rita Krishna	Hackney LB
John Merry CBE [Vice Chair]	Salford City
Catharine Grundy	Birmingham City
Paul Lakin	Rotherham MBC
Anne Burns	Cumbria CC
Substitutes:	
Ebrahim Adia	Bolton MBC
Catherine McDonald	Southwark LB
Liberal Democrat (2)	
David Bellotti	Bath & NE Somerset Council
Liz Green [Deputy Chair]	Kingston upon Thames RB
Kath Pinnock	Kirklees MBC
Substitutes:	
Peter Downes	Huntingdonshire DC
Independent (1)	
Apu Bagchi [Deputy Chair]	Bedford BC

LG Group Children and Young People Programme Board Attendance 2011-2012

Councillors	6.9.11	20.10.11	25.01.12	28.03.12	21.05.12	16.07.12
Conservative Group						
David Simmonds	Yes					
Paul Carter	No					
David Pugh	Yes					
Shireen Ritchie	Yes					
Derrick Murphy	No					
Robert Light	Yes					
Labour Group						
Rita Krishna	Yes					
John Merry	No					
Catharine Grundy	Yes					
Paul Lakin	Yes					
Anne Burns	No					
Lib Dem Group						
David Bellotti	Yes					
Liz Green	Yes					
Kath Pinnock	Yes					
Independent						
Apu Bagchi	Yes					
Substitutes						
Susie Charles	Yes					
Roy Perry	Yes					
Catherine McDonald	Yes					
Peter Downes						
Ebrahim Adia						
John Osman						

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Date of Next Meeting: 25 January 2012, 11.00am, Local Government House, Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ

Education reform and schools funding

Purpose of report

To provide background information for the discussion between Rt Hon Michael Gove MP, Secretary of State for Education, and the CYP Board and Lead Members for Children's Services attending the National Children and Adults Services Conference.

Summary

This report provides an update on LG Group work and recent developments in education policy and schools funding. It covers: the council role in education in a system with more autonomous schools; the future role of new Education Funding Agency (EFA); and the recent consultations on schools revenue and capital funding and on the funding of academies' central functions.

Recommendation

This report is intended to inform the debate with the Secretary of State.

Action

Officers to take account of any comments and any actions arising out of the discussion.

Contact officers: Helen Johnston/Ian Keating
Position: Head of Programmes/Senior Adviser (Children and Young People)
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Education reform and schools funding

Background

1. Since the General Election, schools and education policy in England has been the focus of much debate and significant Government activity. The Academies Act 2010, which makes it easier for schools to become academies, was fast-tracked through Parliament immediately after the election. A Schools White Paper was published in December and was followed by an Education Bill, currently before Parliament, to implement proposals on school discipline and to reduce the number of education quangos.
2. The number of academies – schools directly funded and overseen by central government and the Young People’s Learning Agency (YPLA) - has risen from 200 before the General Election to more than 1300, with 575 more in the pipeline. This means that more than 40 per cent of all secondary schools are now open or in the process of opening as academies. Twenty-nine authorities have reached the point where they no longer maintain the majority of secondary schools in their area.
3. The White Paper promised a radical reform of the system for funding schools to make it fairer and more transparent and detailed proposals are now out to consultation. The funding of the central costs of academies that no longer require council support has become a significant issue for councils. Twenty-three authorities sought a judicial review of the initial government proposals for top slicing this funding from revenue grant. In response, the Government decided to run a fresh consultation on this subject.
4. The LG Group has raised very significant concerns about the revised proposals for funding academies’ central costs issued by the government in late July, arguing that they breach the Government’s own New Burdens doctrine, which says that the funding transfer should be made on the basis of savings to councils, rather than the additional costs to the Government of directly maintaining academy schools. Our concerns echo similar points made across the whole range our member authorities potentially significantly affected by these proposals.

The future council role in education

5. Much of the LG Group lobbying since the election has focussed on securing a strong, continuing role for local councils in education. We have welcomed the move to greater school autonomy, but have pointed out that councils no longer control schools and that the weight of central direction and control in recent years means that schools need to be freed from central, not local control.

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6. We set out our vision for a future strong, but more strategic council education role in our report *Local freedom or central control?*, which was aimed at influencing the education white paper. So we welcomed the Schools White Paper's proposals for a strong, strategic role for councils in local education "as champions for parents and families, for vulnerable pupils and of educational excellence".
7. Work since the publication of the White Paper has focussed on fleshing out what this new role will mean in practice, taking account of councils' statutory education duties (which the Government is not proposing to change) - for example to secure sufficient school places and "promote high standards and the fulfilment of potential" of local pupils. Our most recent policy report, *Local freedom or central control II*, launched at this year's LG Group Annual Conference, suggested the following broad elements:
 - 7.1. Supporting school improvement
 - 7.2. Bringing forward new provision
 - 7.3. Championing educational excellence
 - 7.4. Championing the needs of vulnerable pupils
 - 7.5. Ensuring every child has access to a place at a good school
8. Work is already underway in a number of areas to identify the key issues facing councils in fulfilling these roles, including piloting a new approach to school exclusions, in which schools take greater responsibility for arranging alternative provision for pupils they exclude and remain responsible for their attainment.
9. On school improvement, the DfE has raised the floor for acceptable levels of pupil attainment in primary and secondary schools and in March asked councils to submit improvement plans for turning around the schools in their area below the floor. The Department is also working with the council in each region that has the most schools below the floor, to tackle underperformance.
10. The DfE is also carrying out a piece of rapid 'action learning research' involving a small group of councils with significant numbers of academies in their area, to explore the issues facing councils as they approach the position where the majority of the schools in their areas become academies. This work is being overseen by a small steering group of representatives from councils, schools and the DfE and will report to the Ministerial Advisory Group on the council role in education established by the Education Secretary Michael Gove. Cllr Stephen Castle from Essex County Council will represent the LG Group on the steering group.

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The Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA) and the Education Funding Agency (EFA)

11. The YPLA is responsible for establishing and funding academies and Free Schools and for oversight of their performance and intervention to tackle underperformance. It also funds post-16 education provision in school Sixth Forms, Further Education colleges and Sixth Form colleges. In the run up to the publication of the Schools White Paper the LG Group lobbied intensively for the abolition of the YPLA, with its functions devolved to councils or taken on by DfE without the need for an additional bureaucratic tier.
12. The government announced in the Schools White Paper that the YPLA will be abolished but many of its functions (and staff) will simply be transferred to a new Education Funding Agency (EFA), which is an Executive Agency, rather than an arm's length body. The EFA will have a wider remit than the YPLA because it will be responsible for channelling schools funding to councils - this flows directly from the DfE to councils at present, without the need for an additional bureaucratic tier. It will also have a role in allocating schools capital funding, with the staff of the disbanded Partnership for Schools, responsible for the Building Schools for the Future programme, also transferred.
13. The CYP Board is continuing to press the case for the outright abolition of the YPLA, with most of its functions devolved to councils as part of their new strategic role in education. It cannot be a good use of public money for a national agency to duplicate the functions of councils in relation to academies – for example applying the locally agreed funding formula to academies, rather than letting councils do the calculation for all local schools. And if councils are to fulfil the role proposed for them in the White Paper “as champions for parents and families, for vulnerable pupils and of educational excellence”, they should have the same powers in relation to academies as maintained schools, rather than having to raise issues about local academies with the EFA and the Secretary of State.

Schools funding consultations and the academies top slice

14. At the end of July the Government launched a number of consultations on education funding, covering: schools capital funding; schools revenue funding; and the transfer from formula grant to take account of academies' central functions.
15. The LG Group has been lobbying hard on schools capital and revenue funding in recent months, to ensure that any new funding system retains a council role in reflecting local needs and priorities in allocating schools funding. The proposals in the consultation papers contain a number of welcome concessions to our arguments including: a clear recognition of the continuing need for an element of local authority discretion in allocating revenue funding; and a proposal that schools capital funding should move towards being allocated through a single flexible budget in local areas as opposed to tightly controlled central ring-fenced budgets. This consultation closed on 11 October and the LG Group submitted a joint response with the Association of Directors of Children's Services.

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16. The academies funding consultation was restricted to 4 weeks, ending on 16 August. The LG Group response highlighted our serious concerns about the methodology the Government proposes to adopt, which is not in accordance with its own New Burdens Doctrine. This is because it proposes to calculate the top slice to be removed from local government on the basis of the additional amounts to be paid to academies as opposed to the actual savings in local government, which are substantially lower. Our response provided clear and compelling evidence that any savings to be made in local authorities when schools transfer to academy status are far less than the figures suggested by the Department for Education.
17. The Government's response to the academies funding consultation was still awaited at the time of writing this report.

Financial Implications

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

Children's Improvement Board Update

Purpose of report

For discussion and direction.

Summary

This report provides Members with an update on the work of the Children's Improvement Board.

Recommendation

That Members note the report.

Action

LG Group officers to action as necessary.

Contact officer: Liz Hobson
Position: Senior Adviser
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E-mail: liz.hobson@local.gov.uk

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Children's Improvement Board Update

Background

1. As reported to the September meeting of the Board, the Children's Improvement Board (CIB) commissioned an independent review of governance arrangements intended to maximise the effectiveness of the organisation of the CIB and its relationships in delivering an effective improvement system. The review which was carried out by Dr Clive Grace and CIB accepted the following recommendations:
 - 1.1. CIB will be established by way of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Local Government Group (LG Group), the Association of Directors of Children's Services (ADCS) the Society of Local Authority Chief Executives (SOLACE) and the Department of Education (DfE). The mission of CIB will be settled in the MOU and will cover the three objectives of the general improvement of the system of children's services in striving for excellence and efficiency; support and intervention in the case of material weakness or potential failure of children's services; and a channel for the delivery of policy initiatives and innovations in pursuit of excellence and better outcomes.
 - 1.2. LG Group, ADCS and SOLACE will be the core members of the Board itself, with a DfE official and an LG Group officer as active and engaged observers.
 - 1.3. Each core member of CIB will nominate representatives at their discretion but having regard to the need to avoid that person having appreciable conflicts of interest. There will be two elected members nominated by LG Group to CIB, the Chair and Vice Chair of the Children and Young People Programme Board both of whom will represent the LG Group on a cross-party basis. ADCS will nominate one member in addition to the Chair (see below). SOLACE will nominate one member. All nominees will be able to be substituted from time to time by a named alternate.
 - 1.4. There will be an independent Chair appointed by the four principal parties jointly, and CIB will work towards appointing that person, in addition to one other independent member on the Board. In the interim ADCS will retain the Chair but the Chair will not represent the position of ADCS and hence there will be an additional ADCS nominee as referred to above.
 - 1.5. The MOU will, *inter alia*, connect CIB staff appropriately into the LG Group's wider internal sector-led improvement machinery and also the wider internal machinery of all partners which is directed to improvement work such as ADCS' Standards, Performance & Inspection Policy

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Committee.

- 1.6. CIB will produce an Annual Business Plan against which DfE grant would be made to the Accountable Body, the Business Plan to cover the whole business of CIB and not solely business related to DfE. The Plan will be reported to constituent bodies as well as DfE
- 1.7. LG Group will be the Accountable Body and will be charged through the DfE grant letter to disburse it in accordance with the CIB Annual Business Plan and according to CIB choices and changes. The DfE grant letter will provide for liaison and monitoring between itself, LG Group, and CIB.
- 1.8. The governance of CIB will be reviewed in late spring/early summer 2012
2. Further discussion is taking place within CIB in order to pursue recommendations on a reference group and devolution to localities.
3. Arrangements will be made for CIB to consult with key stakeholders about the development of the system but the detailed arrangements for reference group activity are under discussion.
4. CIB has agreed on the arrangements through which some responsibilities and resources for improvement work will be devolved to regions and localities. Detailed communications on this are being prepared.

Universal engagement with self assessment & improvement planning

5. From April to end October 2011, in order to provide continuity of support, CIB has retained existing sector delivery partners, C4EO and SERCO, to provide a number of services and products, including work on developing data profiles for local authorities and to support the ongoing development of Children's Centres.
6. A framework contract has now been established and CIB has re-specified these services and subjected them to competitive tender.
7. Delivery partners have been sought for the following four Lots under the framework:
 - 7.1. Provision and development of data profiles and expand the supply of sector data specialists to support self assessment, improvement planning and peer challenge work.
 - 7.2. Further development of the use of children's services specialists from within the children's services sector to provide targeted support and expertise to support improvement on a bespoke basis.

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- 7.3. Provision of a proactive, innovative and cost-effective approach to identifying and encouraging sharing and take-up of best practice to add to the body of knowledge on what works to inform improvement planning and policy implementation.
- 7.4. Support for payment by results Sure Start Children's Centres trial areas in their development of financial and project plans and ensure value for money from development funding and appropriate links with other initiatives (particularly on health).
8. Contracts will be awarded for work to commence on 1 November 2011 to 31 March 2012. Contracts may be extended from 1 April 2012 – 31 March 2013, subject to Ministerial approval of further funding.

Early Adopters and Peer Challenge

9. All the councils that have volunteered to be Early Adopters of the new system have had contact from CIB's interim delivery team. The majority of early adopters have discussed how they plan to engage with the system in the light of their particular circumstances. For those councils experiencing considerable performance risks or subject to an improvement notice, comprehensive packages of sector-led support are being scoped and implemented. For those councils that are interested in working with the process of peer challenge, discussions are taking place about the focus of the challenge and the identification of the peer challenger.
10. A number of Early Adopters and potential peer challengers attended a workshop organised by CIB on 15 September in Birmingham. This was an opportunity to have an update on the progress of the model and to hear from Directors of Children's Services who have been on the receiving end of challenge or have experience of peer reviews and other existing challenge mechanisms. The workshop also offered an opportunity for councils to work with CIB's interim delivery team to begin to co-develop the ways in which peer challenge will operate across the country and to think about the skills, knowledge and experience required to be an effective and credible peer challenger.

Safeguarding Peer Reviews

11. Safeguarding peer reviews are now on offer as part of the new sector-led improvement arrangements. Funding from the CIB means that there is now no charge to individual councils. 18 reviews have been scheduled so far in 11/12 and bookings are being taken for November onwards.

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Brokerage of Improvement Support

12. A small interim team of 'brokers' is already working with a number of 'at risk' councils subject to intervention. The brokerage service is being developed by CIB in order to support the work of early adopters and in particular local authorities with high levels of need and those authorities that are in intervention.

Policy implementation

13. The main thrust of the CIB's policy implementation work has been on Sure Start Children's Centres and the development of the payment by results trial areas.
14. There has been a short term piece of work to provide support with local decision making on the provision of sufficient Sure Start Children's Centres in local areas. Thirty seven local authorities took up the offer initially to access a range of tailored support and work is currently in progress with twenty six authorities.
15. It has been announced that a further 18 local authorities will trial payment by results for Sure Start children's centres. Together with the first wave announced in July, twenty-seven local authorities will be testing rewards for reaching the most vulnerable families, improving family health and wellbeing and raising attainment of children at age five. As part of wider reforms to the core purpose of children's centres, the Government wants to see a clearer focus on reaching the most disadvantaged families and more work to help narrow the attainment gap between wealthier and poorer children that is evident from as early as 22 months. (Support for this initiative is being sought under the CIB framework as outlined in paragraph 7. above).
16. The Government will be consulting on changes to Sure Start statutory guidance and changes to governance arrangements for children's centres later in the year.
17. Discussion is continuing on how the planned DfE support offer on Families with Multiple Problems (in the context of Community Budget initiatives) can be fully integrated within the sector support model. Further discussions are also taking place on how a number of other policy implementation issues, including productivity work and a youth offer and the implementation of the Munro Review recommendations can be delivered through the sector led work. This is likely to drive further requirements for support products and services.

Inspection

18. The CIB met officials at Ofsted on 8 September to discuss how inspection can add value to and draw on the sector led approach to improvement. It is essential that there are links between the new inspection framework and sector-

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led improvement .Ofsted have responded positively to the emphasis given to this point by Munro. A number of meetings have been held between the Children's Improvement Board and senior Ofsted officials and further discussions are planned. These are focusing on the following issues:

- 18.1. evidence from the sector that can be taken into account when Ofsted considers the inspection intervals that are proportionate to the performance profile of individual councils
- 18.2. evidence from the sector that can be taken into account as part of Ofsted's judgements about capacity to improve
- 18.3. agreement with Ofsted about when the sector will lead monitoring reviews for councils subject to intervention

Financial Implications

19. There are no financial implications from this report.

What does the LG Group do for councils?

Purpose of report

For discussion.

Summary

This report sets out the main areas of the Children and Young People Programme Board's joint improvement and policy offer for councils.

Recommendation

That Members discuss the LG Group offer to councils.

Action

Officers to take into account any comments made.

Contact officer: Caroline Bosdet
Position: Senior Adviser
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What does the LG Group do for councils?

Background

1. The LG Group's Children and Young People Programme Board aims to support councils with sector led improvement, lobby for councils continuing role in education and represent the views of councils at a national level through policy and lobbying priorities. This report summarises the main ways in which councils can access and get involved in our work.

Board Priorities

2. The Board has set clear priorities and established a work programme.

Achieving greater devolution for local government through:

- 2.1. Education reforms – lobbying for the powers and funding that councils need to support their strategic role in education
- 2.2. Ensuring children's health is a priority in the planned change to the health service
- 2.3. Working with the Youth Justice Board to support the council role in reducing youth offending and the use of custody

Helping councils tackle their challenges through:

- 2.4. Developing a sector-led improvement programme
- 2.5. Influencing the implementation of the Munro Review of Child Protection
- 2.6. Supporting councils with a strategic role in education
- 2.7. Supporting councils to achieve increased productivity.

Lobbying and policy work

3. At a national level the Children and Young People Programme Board has been actively lobbying on behalf of the sector to ensure that councils have a continuing and strong role in the Government's education and children's services reforms. Highlights include:
 - 3.1. The Schools White Paper set out a 'strong strategic role' for councils in education, as champions of children, parents and the most vulnerable children and young people. We are working through the Ministerial

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- Advisory Group on the council role in education chaired by the Rt Hon Michael Gove MP to influence government education policy.
- 3.2. The Children's Improvement Board has been set up with £10.5m funding from the Department for Education (DfE) to lead a sector-led programme of children's services improvement.
 - 3.3. We have been helping to implement the findings of the Munro Review by working on revised statutory guidance which Board members have fed into the proposed revisions to the guidance on the role of lead members
 - 3.4. The Children and Young People Programme Board are pressing to ensure that Ofsted's changes to inspection regime are proportionate and linked to the sector-led improvement programme.

Improvement offer

4. We have developed the Safeguarding Children peer challenge, which will be a part of our core offer on improvement to councils as well as a part of the sector-led improvement programme. Peer challenges are fully funded and offered to all authorities at no cost. So far twenty-six challenges have been delivered this year, a further fifteen are booked and feedback from the programme continues to be excellent.
5. There are 153 officer and 25 member peers delivering the programme currently, and to meet the demand for challenges there is schedule of free Peer Assessment and Evaluation (PEA) events for directors and senior officers in social care and health who want to be part of peer challenge team. Undertaking a peer review or challenge is widely regarded as an important personal professional development opportunity. It gives potential peers a chance to share learning and good practice across the sector. These events are a comprehensive two day residential training course combined with an assessment of peer competencies.

Support to lead members

6. We offer support to councillors through a variety of events and activities. Most recently we held an induction session for new lead members, led by the Chairman of the Children and Young People Programme Board with input from other Board members and member peers. This offered new lead members a chance to gain further knowledge on the work of the Children and Young People Programme Board, an introduction to the work of the Children's Improvement Board and the opportunity to discuss the key issues for lead members in children's services. Feedback from this member led event was very positive and it is planned to offer this on an annual basis.

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7. A number of events will run throughout the rest of the year including a combined Leadership Academy aimed at lead members in children's, adults and health and wellbeing services. We are currently developing a series of master classes for children's services lead members on the key challenges they are experiencing and will be delivering these in the New Year, free of charge.
8. 'Must Knows' for lead members are a comprehensive web based resource that provide information on the new policy landscape and we constantly refresh these.

Support to regional lead member networks

9. The importance of the regional networks has been discussed at the Children and Young People Programme Board, and the Board is working on developing strong links with the regional lead member networks to create a two-way conversation with them. This could include the opportunity for Board members to attend the regional networks and for the chairs or vice chairs of regional networks to have a standing invitation to attend and contribute to Board meetings in a non-voting capacity.
10. The Children and Young People Programme Team has assigned a lead officer to liaise with each regional network. Contact has been made with all nine networks and the team will continue to work to support the links with the networks and the Board by:
 - 10.1. Providing updates on key policy issues, LGA activity and highlighting the support available to lead members; and
 - 10.2. Listening to the key issues being discussed by the networks and communicating these to the Board.
11. So far, officers have attended meetings of the networks in the East of England, East Midlands and South West. All regional networks have been offered a free corporate parenting workshop as part of a project with the National Children's Bureau to update the current toolkit for members.
12. The table in **Appendix A** lists the lead member for each network, date of when they last met, if known, and future meeting dates.

Direct support

13. The LG Group has Principal Advisers working out in the regions who are the key contacts for councils. They provide a contact point with the strategic leadership of an authority and can signpost authorities to support and advice.

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They can commission direct support for councils, such as mentoring for members delivered by a member peer.

14. Member peers and our partners also deliver safeguarding on a paid for basis. This training can be targeting to members and as well as tailored to different types of council's needs.
15. The Principal Advisers are responsible for the following areas:
 - 15.1. Howard Davis – South West and West Midlands
(Howard.Davis@local.gov.uk)
 - 15.2. Rachel Litherland – London and East of England
(Rachel.Litherland@local.gov.uk)
 - 15.3. Mark Edgell – Yorkshire & Humber, North East and East Midlands
(Mark.Edgell@local.gov.uk)
 - 15.4. Marianne Abley – South East (Marianne.Abley@local.gov.uk)
 - 15.5. Gill Taylor - North West (Gill.Taylor@local.gov.uk)

Councillors' Forum

16. The Councillors' Forum meets monthly and it has been proposed that it should be opened up to all interested Councillors. Past agendas have included Ministers, or shadow cabinet members as well as updates from each Programme Board on their activities in the past month and a report from the LG Group Chief Executive.

Communication and web based resources

17. The full children and young peoples web content will be available on the new LG Group website from the end of October. Our web-based resources are being revised and new areas of work such as the developing productivity work stream will be included. Updated member workbooks, and other free downloadable resources, on a range of topics and skills will be available on the new website. This is complimented by our various Communities of Practice (CoPs) on such diverse topics as children's safeguarding; the council role in education; child poverty; additional educational needs; youth services and careers. These are all free to join and provide access to publications, guidance and events and an electronic discussion forum.
18. LG Inform provides electronic access to a comprehensive bank of key data sets to enable benchmarking within the sector. The ESD Toolkit is also provided as well as other costing tools to drive service improvement. The ESD Toolkit is a framework of tried and tested tools, guidance and practical examples to support innovation in public service delivery and deliver 'better for less'.

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19. On the 27 October the Knowledge Hub will be launched and will provide a single access point for LG Inform, CoPs, blogs, twitter and other electronic media.
20. To inform you of our work in this area a new electronic Children and Young People Bulletin was launched in September and will be issued monthly to a wide audience of nearly 18,000 subscribers, including both officers and members. If you have not already done so you can sign up to it via the www.local.gov.uk website.

Financial Implications

21. All activities outlined are within identified budget.

Appendix A Children and Young People's Services – Regional Member Network Chairs and Meeting Dates

Region	Network Chair	Last Network Meeting	Next Network Meeting/s
North West	Cllr John Lamb (Trafford MBC) John.Lamb@trafford.gov.uk	7 October 2011	To be confirmed
North East	Cllr Patricia Smith (Sunderland City Council) cllr.patricia.smith@sunderland.gov.uk		29 November 2011
Yorkshire and the Humber	Cllr Linda Burgess (Barnsley MBC) CllrLindaBurgess@barnsley.gov.uk	9 September 2011	4 November 2011
West Midlands	Cllr Ken Meeson (Solihull MBC) Kmeeson@solihull.gov.uk	11 October 2011	To be confirmed
East Midlands	Cllr Ivan Ould (Leicestershire CC) ivan.ould@leics.gov.uk	14 September 2011	October / November 2011 To be confirmed
East of England	Cllr David Brown (Cambridgeshire CC) david.brown@cambridgeshire.gov.uk	8 September 2011	8 December 2011 7 March 2012
South West	Cllr Toni Coombs (Dorset CC) T.B.Coombs@dorsetcc.gov.uk	19 September 2011	January 2012 To be confirmed
London	Cllr Steve Reed (Lambeth) - sreed@lambeth.gov.uk		
South East	Cllr Roy Perry (Hampshire CC) roy.perry@hants.gov.uk	6 September 2011	<i>Special meeting November 2011</i> 30 March 2012, 20 July 2012 23 November 2012

Destination ExCeL London

With 3 dedicated DLR (Docklands Light Railway) stations, parking for 3,700 cars and London City Airport just 5 minutes away, getting to ExCeL London couldn't be easier.

By Air

ExCeL London is easily accessible from all London airports via National Rail and London Underground. London City Airport is only a 5-minute taxi ride from the venue.

Connections between airports and mainline stations

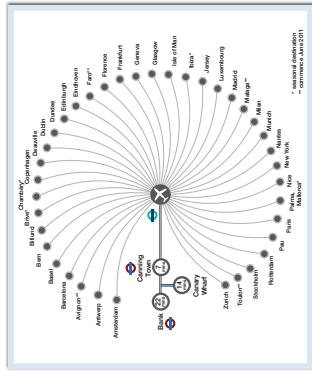
- **15 mins** from Paddington to Heathrow (using Heathrow Express)
- **30 mins** from Victoria to Gatwick (using Gatwick Express)
- **41 mins** from Liverpool Street to Stansted (using Stansted Express)

London City Airport

Tel: +44 (0)207646 0088

www.londoncityairport.com

London City Airport (LCY) is just 5-minutes away by car or taxi, offering 350 flights a day and providing access from 30 destinations including Amsterdam, Barcelona, Dublin, Dundee, Edinburgh, Frankfurt, Geneva, Glasgow, Madrid, Milan, Munich, New York, Nice, Paris and Zurich.



The Docklands Light Railway (DLR) links the airport and ExCeL London, via Canning Town. Frequent and direct shuttle buses run from Canary Wharf and Canning Town, to and from the airport.

By Road

www.streetmap.co.uk

Follow signs for Royal Docks, City Airport and ExCeL. There is easy access from the M25, M11, A406, A13 and we offer car parking spaces for 3,700 cars. When using Streetmap please search for ExCeL London by postcode - E16 1XL. For Sat Nav purposes we recommend using postcode - E16 1DR.

By Rail & Tube

Docklands Light Railway (DLR)

- When travelling from Bank on the DLR change at Westferry for a Beckton-bound train, alight at Custom House for ExCeL (West) or Prince Regent for ExCeL (East) and ICC London.
- When travelling from Lewisham take a Stratford train and change at Poplar for a Beckton-bound train. Alternatively, take the first Bank train and change at Westferry.
- Trains from Tower Gateway go direct to Custom House for ExCeL (West) and Prince Regent for ExCeL (East) and ICC London.

London Underground

- If travelling to Canning Town on the Jubilee Line, proceed up the stairs to platform 3 and change for a Beckton-bound DLR train (not Woolwich Arsenal or Stratford International), for the quick 2-stop journey to Custom House for ExCeL (West) or Prince Regent for ExCeL (East) and ICC London.

- London Underground tickets are valid on the DLR. We recommend that you purchase a return ticket or an All-Day Travelcard to avoid queuing on your journey home.

Where to disembark for your hotel

Royal Victoria for the Crowne Plaza, Custom House for ExCeL for the Ibis and Novotel, Prince Regent for the Ramada, the Premier Inn and Aloft, London ExCeL.



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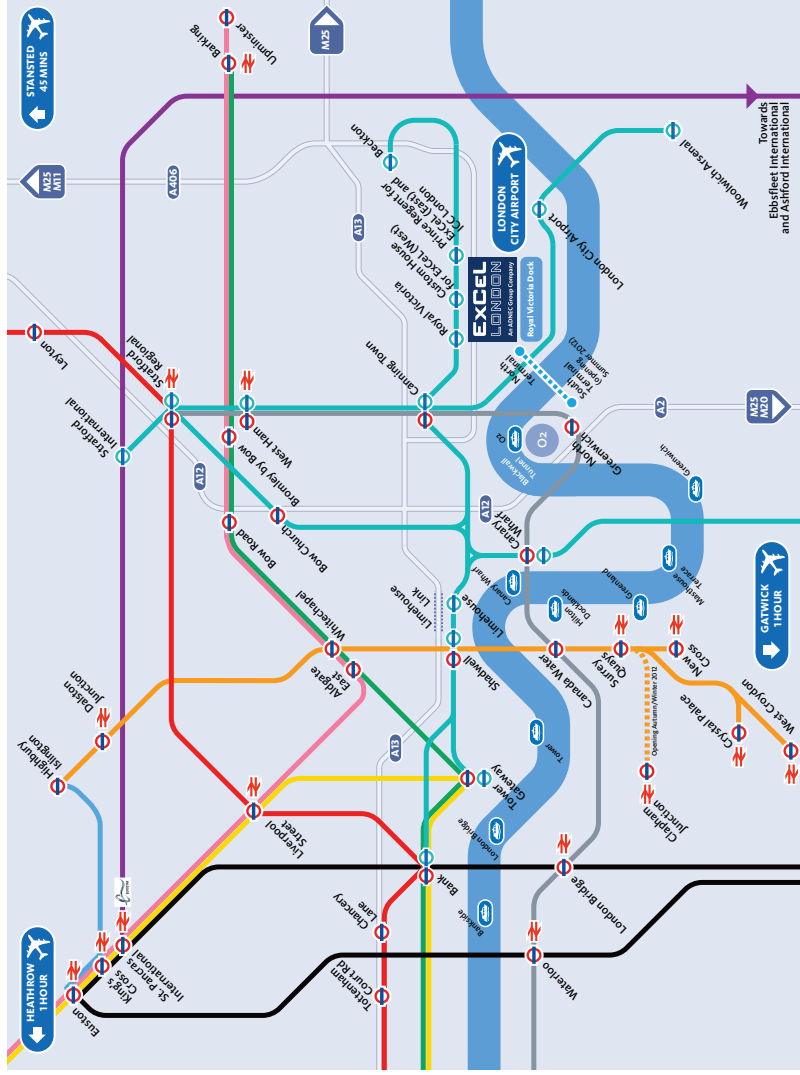
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All information correct at time of print.