

## Note of decisions taken and actions required

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**Title:** Children and Young People Board  
**Date and time:** 25 January 2012, 11.00am  
**Venue:** Local Government House

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### Attendance

Position	Councillor	Council
Chairman	David Simmonds	Hillingdon LB
Deputy chair	Liz Green	Kingston upon Thames RB
Members	David Pugh	Isle of Wight Council
	Baroness Shireen Ritchie	Kensington & Chelsea RB
	Derrick Murphy	Norfolk CC
	Robert Light	Kirklees MBC
	Paul Lakin	Rotherham MBC
	Anne Burns	Cumbria CC
	David Bellotti	Bath & NE Somerset Council
Substitutes	Chris Maines	Lewisham LB
	Catherine McDonald	Southwark LB
	Pete Robbins	Lambeth LB
	Roy Perry	Hampshire CC
In attendance	Sue Rossiter	NFER
	Fiona Walker	NFER
	Cllr Toni Coombs	South West regional network Chair
	Cllr Linda Burgess	Yorkshire and the Humber regional network Chair
Apologies	Rita Krishna	Hackney LB
	John Merry CBE	Salford City
	Catharine Grundy	Birmingham City
	Kath Pinnock	Kirklees MBC
	Apu Bagchi	Bedford BC

**Officers:** Helen Johnston, Ian Keating, Cassandra Harrison, Jasbir Jhas, Caroline Bosdet, David Pye, Lucy Ellender

Item	Decisions and actions	Action by
1	<p><b>Business Plan Priorities 2012/13</b></p> <p>Cllr David Simmonds introduced this item for discussion, saying that this was the Board's opportunity to influence the direction of the LGA's work.</p> <p>Members suggested a number of amendments to the business plan.</p> <p><b>Decision</b> <i>Members agreed:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>that the business plan priorities needed to be focussed in order to make the most of the limited resources available;</i></li> <li>• <i>to submit views on the draft business plan through the group offices.</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Action</b> Officers to proceed as directed.</p>	<p>Helen Johnston</p>
2	<p><b>Review of adoption and care systems</b></p> <p>Cllr Liz Green introduced this item, setting out key issues and outlining the main difficulties councils are facing in this area. Members welcomed the paper and agreed its importance in the current political context.</p> <p>Members discussed the challenges around attracting more foster carers into the care system. This was a particular concern due to the relatively low profile of foster caring and the difficulties posed by a very rigorous selection process. It was noted that some councils were trialling joint-working initiatives in this area. Members also emphasised the importance of special guardianships as sometimes the best option for the child, though this had an impact on the number of adoptions that councils were carrying out.</p> <p><b>Decision</b> <i>Members agreed that there needed to be greater input from young people that had been through the care system in any future work.</i></p>	

**Action**

Officers to proceed as directed and ensure LGA input into Tim Loughton MP's adoption group.

Cassi Harrison

**3 Local authorities and the future of national careers policy**

Cllr Simmonds introduced the paper outlining the significant changes being made to national careers policy. Councils will retain their existing duty to 'encourage, enable and assist the participation of young people in education and training' and the success of the new arrangements will have an important impact on authorities' duty to support the Raising of the Participation Age, which is now one year off.

Members commended the report and agreed the importance of giving young people impartial and expert careers advice in schools. Members raised concerns about the possible effect that budget cuts would have on careers advice in schools. Members also questioned how schools would be engaged in councils' scrutiny processes now fewer schools were under local authority control.

Members felt that the introduction of Raising the Participation Age would mean that it was important to engage with local business communities early on.

**Decision**

*Members noted the report.*

**Action**

Officers to proceed in line with members comments.

Jasbir Jhas

**4 National Foundation for Educational Research Work Programme**

Cllr Paul Lakin introduced this item giving members an overview of the key programme activities being undertaken by the NFER. He emphasised that the Board owned the research agenda and this was an opportunity to shape the work NFER would be doing in the future.

**Decision**

*Members agreed further meetings should take place with the NFER to discuss their future research areas.*

**Action**

Officers to send members a list of their current research activities.

David Pye

**5 Schools funding update**

Cllr Simmonds introduced this item updating members on his meeting with the Chairman of the LGA and Lord Hill. It was noted that the Ministerial Advisory Group was continuing to work on a national funding formula on capital. The intention was to make it simpler and more transparent.

Members discussed the role of councils and School Forums on capital.

**Decision**

*Members agreed that while Schools Forum's might be given a consultative role on capital, any final decisions on capital allocations should remain with councils.*

**Action**

Officers to proceed as directed.

Helen Johnston

**6/7 Lead Member for Children's Services Regional Network Update and Children's improvement Board update**

It was noted that there had been mixed engagement with the regions on the Children's Improvement Board (CIB). Members also raised concerns about a lack of information and communication with the CIB. Members agreed that sector-led improvement will require a culture change in order to foster improvement across the sector.

**Decision**

*Members noted the report.*

**Action**

Officers to proceed in line with members comments.

Alison Miller

**8 Other Business Report**

Members highlighted the importance of lead members for Children's Services being involved in the Health and Wellbeing Boards in the transition of public health to local government.

- 9 Note of the last meeting – 20 October 2011**  
Members **agreed** the note of the meeting held on 20 October 2011.
  
- 10 Note of the last meeting – 6 September 2011**  
Members **agreed** the note of the meeting held on 6 September 2011.