

## Note of decisions taken and actions required

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<b>Title:</b>	Children and Young People Board
<b>Date and time:</b>	5 September 2012, 11.00am
<b>Venue:</b>	Westminster Suite, Local Government House, Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ

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### Attendance

Position	Councillor	Council
Chairman	David Simmonds	Hillingdon LB
Deputy chair	Apu Bagchi	Bedford BC
Deputy chair	Liz Green	Kingston upon Thames RB
Members	Paul Carter	Kent CC
	David Pugh	Isle of Wight Council
	Robert Light	Kirklees MBC
	Susie Charles	Lancashire CC
	John Osman	Somerset CC
	Rita Krishna	Hackney LB
	Nick Forbes	Newcastle City
	Jude Robinson	Cornwall CC
	Kath Pinnock	Kirklees MBC
	David Bellotti	Bath & NE Somerset Council
Substitutes	Roy Perry	Hampshire CC
	Peter Evans	West Sussex CC
	Dominic Gilham	Hillingdon LB
	Richard Watts	Islington LB
	Rachel Heywood	Lambeth LB
Apologies	John Merry CBE	Salford City
	Derrick Murphy	Norfolk CC
	Anne Burns	Cumbria CC
	Paul Lakin	Rotherham MBC
	Liz Hackett Pain	Monmouthshire CC

**Officers:** Sally Burlington, Ian Keating, Cassandra Harrison, Liz Hobson, Donald Rae, Alison Miller, Sam Ramanah, Jas Jhas, Mike Heiser, Lucy Ellender

Cllr David Simmonds welcomed returning and new members to the first Board meeting of the new political year.

## **1 Discussion on the year ahead and the Business Plan**

Cllr Simmonds introduced this item saying that it was a chance for members to discuss the Board's priorities for the coming year. It was noted that the high level priorities of the organisation for 2012/13 were:

1. **Public Sector Reform** – councils are at the centre, and are seen to be at the centre, of public sector reform and are delivering more effective services for local people;
2. **Growth, Jobs and Prosperity** – councils are recognised as central to economic growth;
3. **Funding for Local Government** - Reform of the public sector finance system so councils raise more funds locally, have confidence their financing is sustainable and fair, and have greater ability to co-ordinate local public services;
4. **Sector-led improvement** – councils are the most improved part of the public sector. Local politicians and senior managers lead the transformation of local places.

Members discussed the priorities of the LGA and how these feed into the Children and Young People Board's own priorities for the coming year. In particular members felt that the priority around "growth, jobs and prosperity" was closely related to the work the Board was already undertaking on Hidden Talents, skills matching and the council role in education.

Members felt that the transition of public health represented an opportunity for local government. However they were keen that the importance of children's health was recognised and promoted within the transition.

Members were eager that councils should be fully supported to manage the impact of public service reform on children and young people and child poverty in particular. Members were particularly concerned about the impact of welfare reform on families.

Members were also keen to ensure that the importance of attracting further foster carers into the social care system was a continued priority for the Board.

### ***Decision***

*Board members agreed that the Board's priority activities for the coming months would be:*

1. *promoting growth and prosperity, including tackling child poverty;*
2. *ensuring children's health is seen as an important part of the transfer of public health to local government;*
3. *the importance of children's social care;*
4. *ensuring that councils are fully supported to address any issues that come out of public sector reform; and*
5. *supporting councils' role in education.*

### **Action**

Officers to action accordingly.

## **2 The Council role in education**

Members discussed the future of councils' role in education. They felt that one of the key roles for councils in the future would be to hold schools to account for academic achievement. They discussed the role of scrutiny in this area and how schools could be held to account for their use of the pupil premium. Members also discussed using the planning system and existing assets to ensure the best provision of education for their communities and how to address concerns around school transport.

Members discussed the recent events surrounding the GCSE results, and the changing of the grade boundaries in-year, affecting the results of students. The Board agreed that it was crucial for the examinations system to be both fair and consistent, and that by changing the grade boundaries in-year the system had been neither. The option of re-sits for affected students did not provide adequate redress on the issue, with young people potentially being denied places in apprenticeships or post-16 courses as a result of the situation. The Board agreed that the likelihood is that these results will increase the numbers of young people not in education, employment or training, a trend that we are all working to reverse, therefore this unfairness needed to be addressed.

### **Decision**

*Members agreed that the LGA should set out its position on the council role in education.*

*Members agreed to write to Ofqual to raise concerns about the marking of GCSEs this Summer.*

**Action**

LGA Officers to proceed as directed.

Ian Keating

**3 Children's Social Care Policy (3a) and Children's Improvement Board and sector-led improvement for children's services (3b)**

Members were pleased with the progress that had been made on sector-led improvement. However, they were concerned about the level of support within Government for this approach and it was agreed that further work should be done to show the value of sector-led improvement.

**Decision**

*Members noted the report.*

**Action**

The LGA to continue working on this issue, particularly following the appointment of new Ministers in the reshuffle.

Cassi  
Harrison/Alison  
Miller

**4 Special Educational Needs and Disability**

**Decision**

*Members noted the report and agreed to look at this issue in the future once the draft bill had been published.*

**Action**

Officers to bring back to a future meeting.

Liz Hobson

**5 Raising participation in learning and LGA Hidden Talents campaign for wider reform**

Members agreed that councils had an important role in holding the ring on the requirements and expectations of both local employers and education providers to ensure that pupils were being taught relevant skills.

Members felt that it was also important to engage with small and medium sized businesses on this issue as well as with larger employers.

**Decision**

*Members noted the report.*

**Action**

LGA Officers to action as directed.

Jas Jhas

**6 Children and Young People's Health work programme**

Members felt that Children's health was not being sufficiently championed within the transition of public health to local government and this needed addressing. Members welcomed the introduction of Health and Wellbeing Boards and their potential to help local government be the driving force for change.

Members discussed what success would look like for children's health services in the transition.

**Decision**

*Members noted the report.*

**Action**

Members to feedback their own key success criteria for children's health services.

**All**

Officers to report to the meeting again in the future.

**Sam Ramanah**

**7 Schools funding update**

Members were concerned about capital funding and the fact that the Government had still not responded to the James Review. This meant that councils had no access to capital funding.

Members also identified a number of other issues in schools funding including:

- the impact of the changes to the local formulae on schools with high numbers of service children.
- The impact on the viability of small schools.
- How schools were using the pupil premium.

Members were keen to push for further local flexibility around the funding formula. It was noted that authorities with a high proportion of academies had been particularly affected by the changes in LACSEG.

**Decision**

*Members noted the report.*

**Action**

Members to submit to the LGA case studies on the effect of the funding formula in their local areas. **All**

**8 Membership and Terms of Reference**

***Decision***

*Members noted the membership and the terms of reference of the Board for 2012/13.*

**Action**

No actions arising.

**9 Other Business Report**

***Decision***

*Members noted the report.*

**Action**

No actions arising.

**10 Note of the last meeting – 16 July 2012**

Members **agreed** the note of the meeting held on 16 July 2012.