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## **Children's Improvement Board (CIB)**

### **Purpose of report**

To update members of the Board on the work of the CIB.

### **Summary**

This report updates the Board on the CIB's work programme with a particular focus on work planned for 2013-14.

### **Recommendation**

That the report is noted.

### **Action**

That staff from the CIB team and the LGA take forward the work programme in the light of the Executive's comments.

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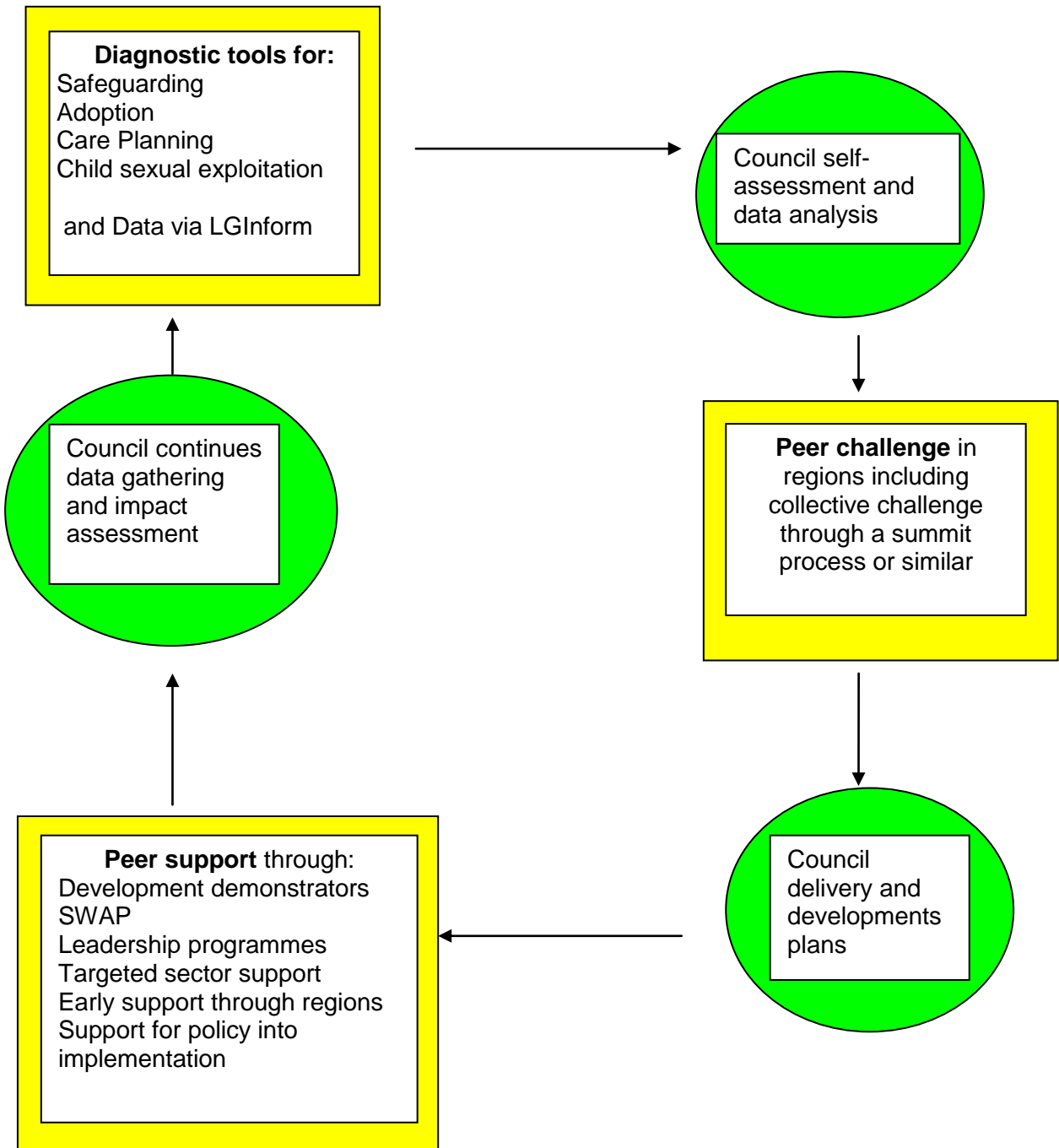
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1. The budget for the Children's Improvement Board has been confirmed as £8.5 million for 2013-14. Sector-led improvement depends on the active involvement of councils and a great deal of their time and effort. Nonetheless, the CIB budget allows for a significant range of challenge and support to be made available to councils and for sector-led improvement to be supported at regional level. The agreement of the budget at around the same level for the current year is also a welcome endorsement by government of sector-led improvement as an effective way of supporting better performance in councils.
2. Cllrs David Simmonds and Rita Krishna represent the Children and Young People Board on the Children's Improvement Board. The CIB discussed the programme for 2013-14 at its November and December meetings and has also consulted with the CIB regional leads (one lead member, one Director of Children's Services and one chief executive for each of the nine regions). It has now agreed its work programme for 2013-14 and more detailed planning will be carried out by the CIB programme team between January and March.
3. A summary of the work programme is attached as **Appendix A**. The main changes for 2013-14 are:
  - 3.1. The introduction of a programme to support the secondment of social work team leaders into councils which need to improve their frontline practice (SWAP).
  - 3.2. An increase in the overall amount of funding allocated to regions but a significant part of this to be allocated to the SWAP scheme.
  - 3.3. A programme to support councils as they implement the changes to provision for special educational needs and disability.
  - 3.4. Continued "targeted sector support" to councils in intervention, but the automatic allocation of funding to the council to be replaced by a fund to be disbursed as necessary to support improvement needs.
4. A summary of the current 2012-13 work programme is available in the form of an A-Z guide to CIB: <http://bit.ly/UbYwOK>.
5. The Children's Improvement Board is working on the assumption that central government funding will not be available in the long term and that it is crucial that local government moves from an externally funded programme to a self-sustaining learning system. On this basis the national team and regions will need to plan for a reduction in resources.
6. In the context of future sustainability, one way of thinking about the work programme is to see it as a part of a council's improvement cycle. In the **diagram below**, the green circles are tasks for the council and the yellow rectangles show where sector-led

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improvement tools can be used. So, diagnostic tools can contribute to councils' self-assessments. Peer challenge (organised through regions) comes into play to challenge the robustness of the council's self-assessment. Peer support projects and programmes are drawn in if the council has improvement needs to address.



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7. In this sense the work of CIB is aiming to develop a *learning system*, owned by the sector rather than a series of processes which are *done to* councils.

**Financial implications**

8. Funding for the programme is provided by DfE. The programme is being hosted by the LGA which claims part of this funding as payment for services provided by the organisation. In addition to this, the LGA provides staff time to contribute to the CIB's work, in support of the LGA's business plan priority to deliver an effective approach to sector-based support in children's services.

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Appendix A

**CIB work programme 2013-14**

**\*NOTE**

The programme also includes a series of **diagnostic tools** on adoption, safeguarding, care planning and child sexual exploitation which will be available on an open access basis by councils or groups of councils or as part of a “call off contract” with a delivery partner. These are not funded directly but it is open to regions to fund their use if they wish.

Task / Activity	Outputs	Dates of Activity	Indicative Costs
<b>1. Leadership of the Programme</b>			
Leadership of the Programme	<p>Director for Children’s Services Self Improvement and a small central team which will undertake programme and project management of the sector-led programme, monitor delivery and report regularly to the CIB. CIB will in turn report to DfE Ministers quarterly. The team will prepare for the formal mid-year review of progress for Ministers.</p> <p>Service monthly grant monitoring meetings with DfE.</p> <p>LGA Accountable Body to deliver finance, IT, HR, knowledge hub, communications, legal and procurement support for the work of CIB plus other fees and charges</p>	Apr ‘13 to Mar ‘14	£656,000
<b>Sub-Total for Leadership of the Programme</b>			<b>£656,000</b>

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<b>Task / Activity</b>	<b>Outputs</b>	<b>Dates of Activity</b>	<b>Indicative Costs</b>
<b>2. Regional Grants</b>			
Regional Grants	Devolved funds for regions to deliver peer challenge, early support & policy implementation, including an element of regional programme management.  CIB will subsidise this with other funds, making the total allocated to regions £2,250,400. See Appendix 3 for individual regional grants.	Apr '13 to Mar '14	£1,800,400
	<u>Social Work Associate Practice</u> Provide a regionally based, and flexible, resource of experienced senior social workers to support other local authorities in improving front line practice. See Appendix 4	Apr '13 to Mar '14	£3,184,300
<b>Sub-Total for Regional Grants</b>			<b>£4,984,700</b>
<b>3. National Support Activity</b>			
Leadership Development	<u>Leadership Academy</u> Delivery of four Leadership Academy events for new and existing children's services lead members.  <u>Regional Conferences</u> Delivery of three regional conferences for regional CIB leads to encourage the sharing of good practice, share learning and build a collaborative improvement culture.	Jul, Sep, Nov '13 & Jan '14  At appropriate intervals in '13/14	£65,000

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<b>Task / Activity</b>	<b>Outputs</b>	<b>Dates of Activity</b>	<b>Indicative Costs</b>
Safeguarding*	<p><u>Safeguarding Peer Reviews</u> We will offer to the sector of up to 20 Safeguarding Peer Reviews, working with regions to priorities the availability of the Reviews across the country.</p> <p>We will also examine options to ensure compatibility with new multi-agency inspections as part of a national early support offer</p> <p><u>Child Sexual Exploitation*</u> Broker effective support for local authorities dealing with child sexual exploitation. The programme of work will be developed to be flexible and responsive to the needs of the sector.</p>	<p>Apr '13 to Mar '14</p> <p>Apr '13 to Mar '14</p>	<p>£647,700</p>
Targeted Sector Support	To provide a level of experienced Children's Improvement Advisor support for targeted sector support local authorities supported by a national contingency fund for use in exceptional circumstances.	Apr '13 to Mar '14	£690,900
Impact and Improvement Evaluation	To undertake a structured impact evaluation of the work of CIB and regional CIBs. This will be a full scale evaluation and timed so that the findings can contribute to any DfE mid-year review.	Concludes Nov '13	£80,000
<b>Sub-Total for National Support Activity</b>			<b>£1,403,600</b>

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<b>Task / Activity</b>	<b>Outputs</b>	<b>Dates of Activity</b>	<b>Indicative Costs</b>
<b>3. Policy to Implementation</b>			
Adoption* and Family Justice	<u>Care Planning*</u> Supporting councils with improvements to the placement and stability of children in care. We will ensure that there is a focus on adoption and the learning from the 12/13 programme is taken forward.	Apr '13 to Mar '14	£312,900
	<u>Family Justice</u> Working with councils, courts and other agencies to make improvements to the family justice system that benefit children	Apr '13 to Mar '14	
Data & Information	Develop the use of LG Inform as source of data for children's services; provide a range of data analysis to support improvement and peer review; and improve the sustainability of data experts within in regions.	Apr '13 to Mar '14	£104,100
Whole Systems Improvement	<u>Early and Foundation Years Development Demonstrators</u> Continue to deliver the programme of Early and Foundation Years Development Demonstrators with existing authorities that will provide 60 learning opportunities throughout the course of the year to help local authorities improve early and foundation year services	Apr '13 to Mar '14	£738,700
	<u>Munro Development Demonstrators</u> Continue to deliver the programme of Munro Development Demonstrators with existing authorities that will provide 90 learning opportunities throughout the course of the year to help local authorities with whole systems improvements	Apr '13 to Mar '14	



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Task / Activity	Outputs	Dates of Activity	Indicative Costs
	<p><u>Special Educational Needs and Disability Development</u> Deliver a programme to help authorities with the requirements of the Children's &amp; Families Bill and whole systems improvements. Working closely with the DfE's SEND pilots to maximise the learning opportunities from CIBs and DfE's work in this area</p> <p><u>Local Safeguarding Children's Boards</u> Working with the LSCB Chairs network to promote a strong understanding of good safeguarding practice; raising awareness of the expectations on LSCBs in the new inspection framework and supporting effective learning from serious case reviews</p>	<p>Jun '13 to Mar '14</p> <p>Apr '13 to Mar '14</p>	
Other Activity	<p><u>Payments by Results</u> Provide oversight and programme management leadership to the DfE's payment by results pilot programme</p> <p>Note: This cost is subject to DfE confirmation of the numbers involved and the scope of the programme – Ministerial decision awaited</p> <p><u>Commissioning &amp; Productivity</u> To ensure that CIB programmes mainstream issues relating to commissioning and productivity</p>	<p>Apr '13 to Mar '14</p> <p>Apr '13 to Mar '14</p>	<p>£300,000</p>
<b>Sub-Total Policy to Implementation</b>			<b>£1,455,700</b>
<b>PROGRAMME TOTAL</b>			<b>£8,500,000</b>