

## Note of decisions taken and actions required

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**Title:** Children and Young People  
**Date:** Monday 21 January 2013  
**Venue:** Westminster Room, Local Government House, Smith Square, London SW1P 3HZ

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### Attendance

Position	Councillor	Council / Representing
Chairman	David Simmonds	Hillingdon LB
Vice-Chairman	John Merry CBE	Salford City
Deputy-Chairman	Liz Green	Kingston upon Thames RB
Deputy-Chairman	Apu Bagchi	Bedford BC

### Members

David Pugh	Isle of Wight Council
Susie Charles	Lancashire CC
John Osman	Somerset CC
Anne Burns	Cumbria CC
Jude Robinson	Cornwall CC
Paul Lakin	Rotherham MBC
Rita Krishna	Hackney LB
David Bellotti	Bath & NE Somerset Council
Liz Hackett Pain	Monmouthshire CC
Nick Forbes	Newcastle City

### Substitutes

Dominic Gillham	Hillingdon LB
Richard Watts	Islington LB

### Apologies

Paul Carter	Kent CC
Patricia Bradwell	Lincolnshire CC
Robert Light	Kirklees MBC
Kath Pinnock	Kirklees MBC

**Officers:** Sally Burlington, Mike Heiser, Rebecca Cox, Lucy Ellender

Item	Decisions and actions	Action by
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| 1. | <p>The Chairman welcomed all those present and opened the meeting with introductions.</p> <p><b>Derbyshire County Council</b></p> |  |
|----|---|--|

Cllr Barry Lewis, Cabinet Member for Young People, and Ian Thomas, Director of Children Services, presented Derbyshire's 'Uni-fi' project to the Board. The project aimed at improving outcomes for children and young people in care. It was noted that this was an issue across different areas of the country, and that there were widespread consequences to not improving outcomes. Derbyshire had used a social pedagogy approach, bringing together both education officers and social workers as well as using a variety of corporate mentors to help ensure positive outcomes for children in care. It was noted that Derbyshire were continuing to monitor and support young people who had been in the care system and were developing the use of a personal budget for children in their care.

Members discussed the importance of getting local schools as well as different parts of the council involved in the corporate parenting agenda. Members felt that an approach incorporating different aspects of council work would be useful.

Members asked a number of questions in discussion including:

- what benefits and savings this approach would have for the council. Ian Thomas said that the benefits of the approach would be visible across the public sector.
- how they engaged effectively with young people. Ian outlined the work they had been doing to make the council more accessible to young people in care.
- what work Derbyshire had undertaken with council staff to implement the changes. Ian outlined the work they had done to change attitudes within the council.
- how they engaged with young people in care who were sometimes difficult to reach. Ian said that they felt it was important for the council to be accessible to young people, and that they had worked to make themselves more so.

In discussion members also made a number of other comments including:

- the use of a virtual school in relation to the Derbyshire work and how this had been used to monitor the progress of pupils who were in care;
- what data was available on a local and national school for councils';
- the importance of attitudes towards attainment for children in care.

### ***Decision***

*Members agreed that these issues had an impact across the country and should not only be limited to the Creative Councils programme.*

### **Action**

Officers to reflect Members' suggestions in the design and delivery of future support to councils, communications and lobbying activity derived from the Creative Councils programme and further.

## 2. Child Poverty

This work would form part of the Board's work around growth and prosperity as well as welfare reform. Members agreed that child poverty is a complex, cross-cutting issue which exists across the country, manifesting itself in many different ways, across a wide range of services and over many years. This was an issues that would affect different work areas across the LGA, as well as across councils.

Members discussed the definition of child poverty, discussing the key importance of family income in child poverty as well as a number of other issues affecting child poverty including:

- Increases in the cost of living
- Educational attainment
- Fuel poverty
- Petrol prices
- Child care costs
- Safeguarding
- Provision of services
- Welfare reform
- School's awareness
- Public transport costs

### **Decision**

*Members agreed to have a further discussion on this item at a future meeting bringing together the key issues on child poverty.*

*Members agreed to look further at the usefulness of the proposed Government measures currently out for consultation as well as the levers that councils have to address some of these issues.*

### **Action**

LGA Officers to proceed as directed.

Rebecca  
Cox

## 3. Education and Children's Services Funding

Mike Heiser, Senior Adviser for Finance, introduced this item updating members on developments in education and children's services funding. Members discussed the need for capital to be flexible according to local priorities rather than ring fenced to academies and free schools. Members agreed to officers' proposal for further research around schools capital.

Members also discussed the role of the Educational Funding Agency and the problems facing small schools.

### **Decision**

*Members agreed the LGA should carry out further survey work around schools capital.*

### **Action**

Officers to proceed as directed.

Mike Heiser

**4. Children's Improvement Board**

***Decision***

*The Board **noted** the report.*

**5. Other Business Report**

Members discussed the changes to the LGA's relationship with the National Youth Agency.

***Decision***

*Members agreed to have a further report on the National Youth Agency at the March meeting of the Board.*

*Members agreed to have discussions at future meetings on:*

- *The National Youth Parliament and invite a member of the organising body to the meeting.*

**Action**

Officers to take forward this work in light of Members' comments.

LGA  
officers

**6. Notes of the last meeting and actions arising**

The Board **agreed** the note of the last meeting subject to changes to the attendance register.