

Children and Young People Board

Agenda

Monday 21 January 2013
12.00pm

Westminster Suite (8th floor)
Local Government House
Smith Square
London
SW1P 3HZ

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

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LGA Children and Young People Board

21 January 2013

There will be a meeting of the LGA Children and Young People Board at:

12.00pm on Monday 21 January 2013 in the Westminster Suite (8th floor), Local Government House, Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ.

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: Luke Taylor: 020 7664 3264 email: luke.taylor@local.gov.uk
Liberal Democrat: Group Office: 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 Local Government House is printed on the back cover.

LGA Contact

Lucy Ellender Tel: 020 7664 3173 Fax: 020 7664 3232;
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Children and Young People Board

Date: 01.11.12

Children and Young People Board - Membership 2012/2013

Councillor	Authority
Conservative (8)	
David Simmonds [Chairman]	Hillingdon LB
Paul Carter	Kent CC
David Pugh	Isle of Wight Council
Robert Light	Kirklees MBC
Susie Charles	Lancashire CC
Liz Hackett Pain	Monmouthshire CC
John Osman	Somerset CC
Patricia Bradwell	Lincolnshire CC
Substitutes:	
Roy Perry	Hampshire CC
Peter Evans	West Sussex CC
Dominic Gilham	Hillingdon LB
Ann McAllister	Calderdale MBC
Labour (6)	
Rita Krishna	Hackney LB
John Merry CBE [Vice Chair]	Salford City
Paul Lakin	Rotherham MBC
Anne Burns	Cumbria CC
Nick Forbes	Newcastle City
Jude Robinson	Cornwall CC
Substitutes:	
Richard Watts	Islington LB
Liberal Democrat (3)	
David Bellotti	Bath & NE Somerset Council
Liz Green [Deputy Chair]	Kingston upon Thames RB
Kath Pinnock	Kirklees MBC
Substitutes:	
Peter Downes OBE	Cambridgeshire CC
Independent (1)	
Apu Bagchi [Deputy Chair]	Bedford BC
Substitutes	
Gillian Ford	Havering LB
Paul Cullen	Richmondshire DC
Neil Burden	Cornwall Council

LGA Children and Young People Board Attendance 2012-2013

Councillors	05.09.12	25.10.12				
Conservative Group						
David Simmonds	Yes	Yes				
Paul Carter	Yes	No				
David Pugh	Yes	Yes				
Robert Light	Yes	No				
Susie Charles	Yes	Yes				
Liz Hacket Pain	No	No				
John Osman	Yes	Yes				
Patricia Bradwell	NA	NA				
Labour Group						
Rita Krishna	Yes	Yes				
John Merry CBE	No	No				
Paul Lakin	No	Yes				
Anne Burns	No	Yes				
Nick Forbes	Yes	No				
Jude Robinson	Yes	Yes				
Lib Dem Group						
David Bellotti	Yes	Yes				
Liz Green	Yes	No				
Kath Pinnock	Yes	No				
Independent						
Apu Bagchi	Yes	No				
Substitutes						
Roy Perry	Yes					
Peter Evans	Yes					
Dominic Gilham	Yes					
Richard Watts	Yes					
Rachel Heywood	Yes					
Paul Watling		Yes				

Agenda

Children and Young People Board

21 January 2013

12.00pm

Westminster Suite, Local Government House, London, SW1P 3HZ

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	Close	2.00pm

Derbyshire Creative Council

Purpose

For discussion and direction.

Summary

This report updates the Board on progress made by Derbyshire County Council with their Creative Councils project and raises discussion points for consideration by members. Cllr Lewis, (Cabinet Member for Young People) and Ian Thomas, (Director of Children Services) will present Derbyshire's 'Uni-fi' project.

Recommendation

Members are invited to comment on the project update and to discuss points arising from the presentations to be made by Derbyshire County Council.

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.

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Adviser

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Derbyshire Creative Council

Background

1. The Creative Councils programme is a joint programme between NESTA, the independent charity, and the LGA. The ambition is to work with a small group of creative, pioneering councils and their partners throughout England and Wales in developing, implementing and spreading transformational new approaches to meeting some of the biggest medium and long-term challenges facing communities and local services.

Programme Progress to date

2. Six Creative Councils from an initial pool of seventeen in Phase 1 were selected to go forward under Phase 2 of the programme and these are receiving financial and non-financial support to help them progress their work. Derbyshire are attending to present their progress and raise discussion points for consideration by members:
 - 2.1 **Derbyshire** are developing 'Uni-fi', a bespoke package of support aimed at developing aspiration amongst young people in care. This will include a guaranteed entitlement to financial support on leaving care to be spent on the pursuit of self-selected goals, which might include further education or training.
3. **Monmouthshire** and **Cornwall** attended the Improvement Innovation Board on 17 September 2012:
 - 3.1 Monmouthshire is implementing 'Your County Your Way', a cultural transformation programme within the council to listen and respond more creatively to the needs of its communities. Central to this approach is an internal training programme, the Intrapreneurship School, which seeks to introduce council employees to the concept of innovation and what it means for service delivery.
 - 3.2 Cornwall is implementing 'Shaped by Us', a technology platform and open innovation approach which makes it easier for local communities to put forward creative ideas to solve the county's biggest challenges, a number of which will be co-produced with the council.
4. **Rotherham** are attending the Economy and Transport Board's 'Town Hall Debate' meeting on 22 April in Manchester and **Stoke** are to attend a future meeting:
 - 4.1 Rotherham are developing 'Rotherham Ready', a council-backed social enterprise that works with the teachers of students aged 4-19 to engage them and their schools in the development of an enterprise-based curriculum, ensuring young people have skills relevant for the future.

4.2 Stoke are developing their goal to become an energy sufficient 'Great Working City', pushing the boundaries of energy regulation and localism by moving towards local ownership of energy supply and re-imagining the role of the council as a strategic broker of resources.

5. **Wigan** are to attend the Community and Wellbeing Board on 8 May:

5.1 Wigan are creating a new economic model for social care to meet their service and financial challenges, by harnessing underutilised and untapped resources within the local community through volunteering and the development of micro-enterprises.

Progress by Derbyshire

6. Uni-fi was established by Derbyshire County Council in 2012 with the support of the LGA and NESTA as part of the Creative Councils programme. Uni-fi aims to raise aspirations and improve outcomes for children in care. This will be achieved by transforming parenting of children in care, shifting the sense of what it means to be a corporate parent and to fundamentally change the Council and society's sense of their own role.

7. There are approximately 65,000 children in care in the UK. These young people under-achieve academically compared to their peers, and are over-represented in worklessness, criminality and mental ill-health statistics. If rolled out nationally, the estimated potential savings are £190 million per year, rising to £1.9 billion per year after 10 years. Please see **Appendix A** for analysis of potential benefits accruing from Uni-fi.

8. The Uni-fi initiative has emerged from the growth and success of social pedagogy within residential children's homes in Derbyshire, and inspiration from Derbyshire's partnership with a national network of care organisations in Sweden. Social Pedagogy shifts what society thinks about children's upbringing, the relationship between the individual and society, and how society supports its disadvantaged or marginalised individuals. What characterises social pedagogy in practice depends not on 'what' is done but on 'how' it is done and with what rationale. This means that social pedagogy is both a science and an art form – it's not just a skill to learn but needs to be brought to life through the social pedagogue's attitude. Its application in children's homes has been transformation, in terms of staff morale and practice, physical environments and quality of experience for young people.

9. The anticipated outputs that can create the skills and resources to sustain the movement in Derbyshire and beyond, and be scaled across the UK and transferred to other vulnerable groups are:

9.1 Embedding of social pedagogy through creation of a qualification that sets the minimum standard for staff working with young people, and that sets a national precedent, and also through...;

- 9.2 ... establishment of an ethical framework developed with international partners to embed a culture of respect between young people and adults;
 - 9.3 An approach to mentoring and support that awakens ambition;
 - 9.4 An entitlement for children in care that breaks down barriers to achievement and that can be adapted to different groups and areas;
 - 9.5 A technology platform for vulnerable young people, designed by young people that enables achievements and memories to be recorded, kept, shared and celebrated;
 - 9.6 An international learning network driving forward the very best practice and emerging evidence in improving outcomes for vulnerable young people.
10. The initiative is underpinned by key innovation strategies and principles as follows:
- 10.1 A sharing of power and influence with our young people - not just through co-design and creation of the products which will emerge from the Uni-fi journey, but a true framework of respect and ethics between adults and young people through a new working ethos and framework for the role of the Corporate parent in its widest sense.
 - 10.2 An acceptance and embracing of risk and creativity - Uni-fi will take risks and will expose itself to testing, prototyping, challenge and evaluation at every stage. From international exchange and challenge, to performance frameworks of proxy indicators, the initiative is to be shaped according to learning at every point, and where things do not work, this is harnessed as valuable learning.

Points for discussion

- 11. As a result of their journey, Derbyshire have identified the following recommendations that could enable greater improvements in outcomes for children in care, and support the learning from Uni-fi in enabling positive national changes.
- 12. **National Inspection Frameworks could be a catalyst for the cultural changes required.** The embedding of social pedagogy and new ways of working requires a cultural shift for councils and other bodies, such as schools, in terms of their responsibilities and roles with young people. In the context of changes being made to the Ofsted inspection framework this could support such a cultural shift in that councils should be considered 'excellent' and schools 'outstanding' when they are delivering great parenting and good outcomes for children in care. Inspections of council social care and residential units have often over-looked creative and nurturing practice at the expense of process checks.
- 13. **Social pedagogy can change the way we work with young people for the better.** Learning from global partners about what works clearly supports the effectiveness of social pedagogy in changing practice. Applying its principles across the corporate

parent agenda – from elected members assuming an active and nurturing corporate parent role, to transforming relationships and support with and for children in care could transform expectations of young people, both themselves and those of the wider community.

14. **Mobilising the public sector and beyond.** Truly making a difference to the outcomes of our most vulnerable young people cannot be delivered by Councils alone. A shift is required in social norms about responsibility for our most vulnerable young people across the public sector for overall betterment – the benefits of getting this right will be felt across the public sector, from the NHS to the criminal justice system. Derbyshire would like to see the likes of business, central government, the NHS, and community take ownership of outcomes for children in care – creation of more apprenticeships and work experience opportunities, provision of mentors to inspire young people and using the Corporate Social Responsibility agenda to able some of these. Ensuring that support that does exist, such as the pupil premium, is used for the benefit of these young people should also be a priority.

Conclusion

15. This is an exciting and interesting programme that offers many lessons for the local government sector in how best to innovate.

Appendix A

Analysis of potential benefits accruing from Uni-fi - Summary of Analysis

1. Based on 100% achievement of calculated benefits in the areas of crime, health, worklessness and economic contribution, improvements in educational attainment of children in care could result in benefits to the public purse of £0.533 million for Derbyshire, rising to an annual benefit of £5.335 million after 10 years. If this is extrapolated to England, the benefits are projected to be £64 million in the first year, rising to an annual benefit of £640.2 million after 10 years.
2. In addition, if the wider economy implications of the impact of crime and mental health are taken into account, a further £190.7 million of benefits would accrue in year 1, rising to an annual benefit of £1,907.1 million after 10 years.
3. A table showing the anticipated benefits in Derbyshire in year 1 by origin and at alternative levels of achievement is shown below:

Benefit Achievement	50% £k	75% £k	80% £k	90% £k	100% £k
Crime	128.3	192.5	205.3	231.0	256.7
Health	18.8	28.2	30.1	33.8	37.6
Worklessness	15.9	23.9	25.5	28.7	31.9
Economic Contribution	103.7	155.5	165.9	186.6	207.4
Total	266.7	400.1	426.8	480.1	533.5

4. In addition to these benefits that are based on statistical variations between population segments, there are significant costs to the public purse arising from chaotic families. There is evidence and analysis that a chaotic family can cost around £1 million over a lifetime resulting from involvement of various services including significant involvement of local authorities when children have to be removed from the family. Although it has not been possible to confirm this within the time available, it has been shown that these families often have teenage parents at the start of the family life. This project, by raising aspirations, may well prevent or delay parenting until later in life and, whilst parenting skills and engagement are also significant factors in the development of chaotic families, the benefits if just one of these was avoided would be around £1 million.

Method

5. The source of the approach used to estimate benefits is the report *The costs and benefits of educating children in care* which was produced for the Social Exclusion Unit by the Thomas Coram Research Unit (TCRU). This report was produced in 2002 so the figures referred to have been updated but the methodology covered in the report has been broadly followed but from a Derbyshire perspective. Four areas have been considered: crime, worklessness, health and economic contribution

Crime

6. Improved attainment and the associated benefits of working are assumed to reduce the incidence of criminal behaviour.
7. An economic study of the costs of crime in 1999 calculated the total cost to the UK criminal justice system (CJS) as £11.6 billion and the total cost of crime to the economy as £59.9 billion. Inflating the cost of the CJS to current levels and apportioning by the percentage of UK convictions attributable to the Derbyshire population gives an estimate of the cost in response to crime in Derbyshire of £200 million per year. Studies found that 33% of persistent offenders had been in care as children, assuming this percentage applied to all crime it would suggest that the average cost per Looked after Children (LAC) would be approximately £3890 per year compared to £560 per year for the comparable population.
8. Incorporating the wider costs of crime including insurance, value of stolen or damaged goods, the impact on victims and communities would significantly increase these figures giving average costs of £20,100 per LAC and £2,890 for the comparable population.
9. Having identified the annual potential reduction in crime, this would build up over time as fewer of the ex-LAC population engage in criminal activity than previously anticipated.

Health

10. Improved attainment and the associated benefits of working are assumed to improve the incidence of mental health problems and to reduce the tendency to worse physical health than the population as a whole.
11. The information on incidence of mental health problems from the 1958 and 1970 cohort studies indicated an incidence within the ex-LAC population of 25% compared to 14% in the comparable population excluding the effect of LAC.

12. The average cost of mental health problems is estimated at around £12,000 per mentally ill person. This includes lost employment and productivity (37.5%), benefits payments (25%) and NHS costs (12.5%).
13. There is therefore the risk of some overlap in that by including benefits payments within this figure, this is double-counted with the estimates of reducing the overall benefit claimant rate under the Worklessness calculation.
14. Physical health improvements are estimated solely on the savings within NHS costs and are based on estimates of additional use of services due to poorer physical health than the population as a whole.
15. Both these methods are those used in the TCRU report with the unit costs adjusted for inflation. This does not allow for any change in services over the intervening 8-9 years however given the economic situation and the changes in services due to funding reductions and health provision restructuring, this is perhaps of less significance when getting a ball-park figure.

Worklessness

16. Lower levels of attainment are likely to lead to lower chances of employment and therefore a cost to the public purse for the benefits payable.
17. The expected numbers of children leaving care and entering adult life in a single year has been estimated. The potential improvement in the unemployment rate has been applied to this cohort of young people to estimate the number that would not now be dependent on benefits. Three methods have been used to estimate this improvement in the employment rate – the differential between the unemployment rate of the whole UK adult population and the ex-LAC population as measured from the 1958 National Child Development Study (NCDS) and the variation in young people not in education, employment or training (NEET) rates between the whole Derbyshire population and the ex-LAC population. The differential from the NCDS study has been used in Option 1 as an absolute adjustment to the % rate and in Option 2 as a proportionate adjustment in the % rate.
18. There appears to be a lack of research into longer-term outcomes for the ex-LAC population other than the two cohort studies referred to in the report (the second is a 1970 cohort and at the time of the research, individuals would have been around 30 years old). The TCRU report does refer in section 3.3.4 to follow-up studies in the UK and US on care leavers that indicates a benefit claim rate of almost twice that of the general population.

19. Having identified the annual potential reduction in benefit claims, this would build up over time as more of the ex-LAC population achieve employment than previously anticipated.

Economic Contribution

20. Data is available which analyses the increase in median hourly rate according to level of qualification. For this analysis, it is assumed that those ex-LAC that are employed (using UK National employment rate) currently earn on average wages of those with no qualifications. The project is assumed to improve the academic performance of individuals such that 30% achieve A*-C GCSEs, 50% achieve A-levels and 20% got to university. The government will therefore benefit from increases to wages resulting in higher tax and national insurance contributions.

Child poverty

Purpose of Report

For discussion.

Summary

The Board has identified tackling child poverty as a priority. This paper sets out the current national context and suggests ways in which the LGA could work with councils to support them in improving the lives of children living in poverty.

Recommendation

Members are asked to discuss and agree the future direction of the LGA's child poverty work.

Action

Officers to take forward as directed by members.

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Child poverty

Background

1. The Board has previously agreed that tackling child poverty be a Board priority as part of promoting growth and prosperity. At the office-holders' meeting in December, it was agreed that this should be discussed by the full Board.
2. Under the Child Poverty Act 2010, councils and their 'delivery partners' have a legal obligation to cooperate in the bid to reduce and mitigate the effects of child poverty. The act also placed a legal obligation on government to end child poverty in the UK by 2020.
3. In May 2011, the LGA published a report from the National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER) into councils' progress in meeting this new duty. The report recommended a number of ways in which councils could be supported in mitigating the effects of child poverty. Councils particularly called for evidence of "what works" to be shared. This has been echoed by councils in recent conversations.
4. The government is currently consulting on better measures for child poverty: moving from an income-linked to a multi-dimensional measure. The LGA is gathering feedback from councils to inform its response.

Raising awareness of child poverty issues

5. Child poverty is by its nature relevant to many of the LGA's policy areas: housing, skills, health and wellbeing, economy, transport etc. Officers could work with colleagues to raise awareness of child poverty issues in their policy area and support programmes and to maximise the LGA's impact on helping councils tackle child poverty. This is particularly timely as business planning for 2013/14 is underway and relevant programmes such as Community Budgets and the Local Growth campaign look to their second phase.

Opportunities to support the sector

6. Councils are seeking better evidence of the impact of child poverty interventions. This is a potentially huge area of work. To make the best use of LGA resources, it is suggested that the Board might like to consider a focus on improving educational attainment levels for children living in poverty. This would more strongly link tackling child poverty to the wider work on school improvement and increase its impact and visibility.
7. A work programme in this area could take the form of researching, evaluating and sharing existing good practice (such as North Somerset's 'Join Up Join In' programme).

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It could also, or alternatively, support a number of councils facing challenges in this area to develop local solutions and share their learning.

8. There are pros and cons to both approaches. A retrospective, research-based programme could provide quick wins in the way of evidence but might also not reflect councils' current financial circumstances. A more comprehensive support programme would be grounded in current challenges but also carries risks of councils not succeeding in their approaches and the likelihood of a longer time before any successes can be quantified.

Financial Implications

9. Different levels of support to the sector will have different resource implications. Following the Board's steer, officers will prepare a more detailed report.

Education and Children Services Funding

Purpose of report

For discussion.

Summary

This report updates members on the key issues on education and children services funding including:

1. outcome of the replacing Local Authority Central Spend Equivalent Grant (LACSEG) consultation;
2. early Intervention Grant;
3. the new schools funding formula and review;
4. pressures on children's services and the 2015-16 spending review;
5. schools Capital.

Recommendations

That members:

1. Note this report; and
2. Agree to receive further reports on any future developments.

Action

Officers to continue to provide updates to the Board.

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Education and Children Services Funding

Replacing LACSEG consultation outcome

1. The outcome of the Replacing Local Authority Central Spend Equivalent Grant (LACSEG) consultation, which closed on 24 September 2012, was announced on 19 December 2012. Members are reminded that the Department for Education (DfE) proposed to remove £1.22 billion from the baseline for the business rates retention scheme in 2013-14 and £1.19 billion in 2014-15. DfE will pay the amount to authorities and academies as a non-ringfenced grant, to be called the Education Services Grant, proportionate to the number of pupils for which each is responsible.
2. The outcome is that the total amount to be top-sliced has been reduced to £1.04 billion in 2013-14 and £1.03 billion in 2014-15, a gain of £180 million in 2013-14 and £160 million in 2014-15. This is because DfE have agreed to use 2012-13 as opposed to 2011-12 data.
3. However on the amount retained, DfE have confirmed that authorities will receive an additional £15 for every pupil in the local authority area, in maintained schools or academies, for the statutory duties which do not transfer to academies. The LGA had proposed, based on evidence from authorities, that the amount retained should be at least £30 per pupil.
4. That means that for pupils in maintained schools local authorities will get £131 per pupil in the new grant. For pupils in academies they will get £15 per pupil; £116 per pupil will be removed from the authority.
5. The decision of DfE to only give £15 per pupil for those services which authorities have to provide for pupils in academies will cause considerable problems, particularly for councils which have a low spend on central services and which already have large numbers in academies. DfE have provided extra money to protect the position of those academies that lose large amounts but they have not offered the same protection for authorities. In developing its response to the Local Government Finance Settlement, we have included asking for extra protection for those authorities who are spending substantially under £116 per pupil.

Early Intervention Grant

6. The consultation document on business rates retention which came out in July 2012 proposed that Early Intervention Grant (EIG) would no longer be paid as a separate grant from 2013-14 onwards. The following has been confirmed:
 - 6.1. £1.709 billion in 2013-14 and £1.600 billion in 2014-15 is to be incorporated into the start-up funding assessment on which the business rates retention

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arrangements will be based – this will not be ring-fenced. This is lower than the sum originally consulted on; it has been reduced by 1% in 2013-14 and 2% in 2014-15 as a result of the cuts in the 2012 autumn statement;

- 6.2. £525 million in 2013-14 and £760 million in 2014-15 is to be taken into the ring-fenced Dedicated Schools Grant – to be used to expand provision for disadvantaged 2-year olds. The distribution for 2013-14 was announced in November 2012.
7. However the distribution of the £150 million retained by DfE for central purposes in 2013-14 and 2014-15 has not yet been announced. The LGA is pressing for it to be announced as soon as possible. Any updates will be reported verbally to your meeting.
8. The LGA has heard considerable concern from member authorities at both the £150 million holdback and the simultaneous reduction in the non-ring fenced resources at the same time as the increase in the money for the two year old offer which will now be funded through the Dedicated Schools Grant. Directors of Finance have expressed the view that this could well lead to a fall in the number of children’s centres being funded.

Schools’ Funding

9. The Dedicated Schools Grant for 2013-14 was also announced on 19 December. Although the basic schools budget will remain ‘cash flat’ there have been some shifts between authorities. These reflect:
 - 9.1. Three new blocks per authority; a schools block, an early years block (which includes the 2 year old funding) and a high needs block;
 - 9.2. Incorporation of 16-24 Special Educational Needs (SEN) provision within the High Needs Block; for some authorities the Education Funding Agency (EFA) have limited the total resources as they have capped the total number of places being planned for in some authorities; this is of particular concern to these authorities. The LGA is still talking to the DfE and the EFA about finalising the data and funding to take into account the views of individual councils;
 - 9.3. A change to the previous system whereby 90% participation of 3 year olds is assumed; authorities will receive a transitional protection of 50% of the amount they would previously have received.
10. Authorities will have to set their Schools Budget on the basis of the restricted number of factors permitted by DfE, as previously reported to your Board, the new rules will not permit a specific small schools factor or a factor relating to service children and there is a single lump sum for all schools irrespective of phase, currently authorities tend to have different lump sums for primary and secondary.

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11. All schools will receive a minimum funding of -1.5% per annum until the end of the Spending Review; DfE have confirmed that the Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) will continue beyond that but have not confirmed the amount.
12. Following concern expressed by the LGA and a number of authorities, DfE have now established a review of the 2013-14 arrangements; this will be based both on a review of the evidence from the new local authority pro-formas which councils have to return demonstrating how much will allocated on which factor and on fieldwork with a limited number of authorities. The review is expected to lead to changes in 2014-15.

Spending Pressures

13. Following the announcement by the Treasury that there will be a one-year spending review, for 2015-16, which will report in the first half of 2013, the LGA will be discussing with DfE how we can use the evidence we and others such as the Association of Directors of Children's Services (ADCS) have collected to feed into it effectively.

Capital

14. An announcement on schools capital is expected at the end of January. This seems likely to include:
 - 14.1. £1.2 billion for condition and maintenance for councils, academies and the voluntary sector (not distributed through a single capital pot) and £800 million for basic needs funding for councils.
 - 14.2. Allocation of the additional resources announced in the Autumn Statement; almost £1 billion over two years; this is expected to be allocated by a bidding process
 - 14.3. Confirmation of the first batches of the new Priority School Buildings programme and where they will be located and some indication when the rest of the 261 schools included in the programme will have their needs addressed; this is expected to be phased over a number of years.

Financial Implications

15. None specific to this report.

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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.

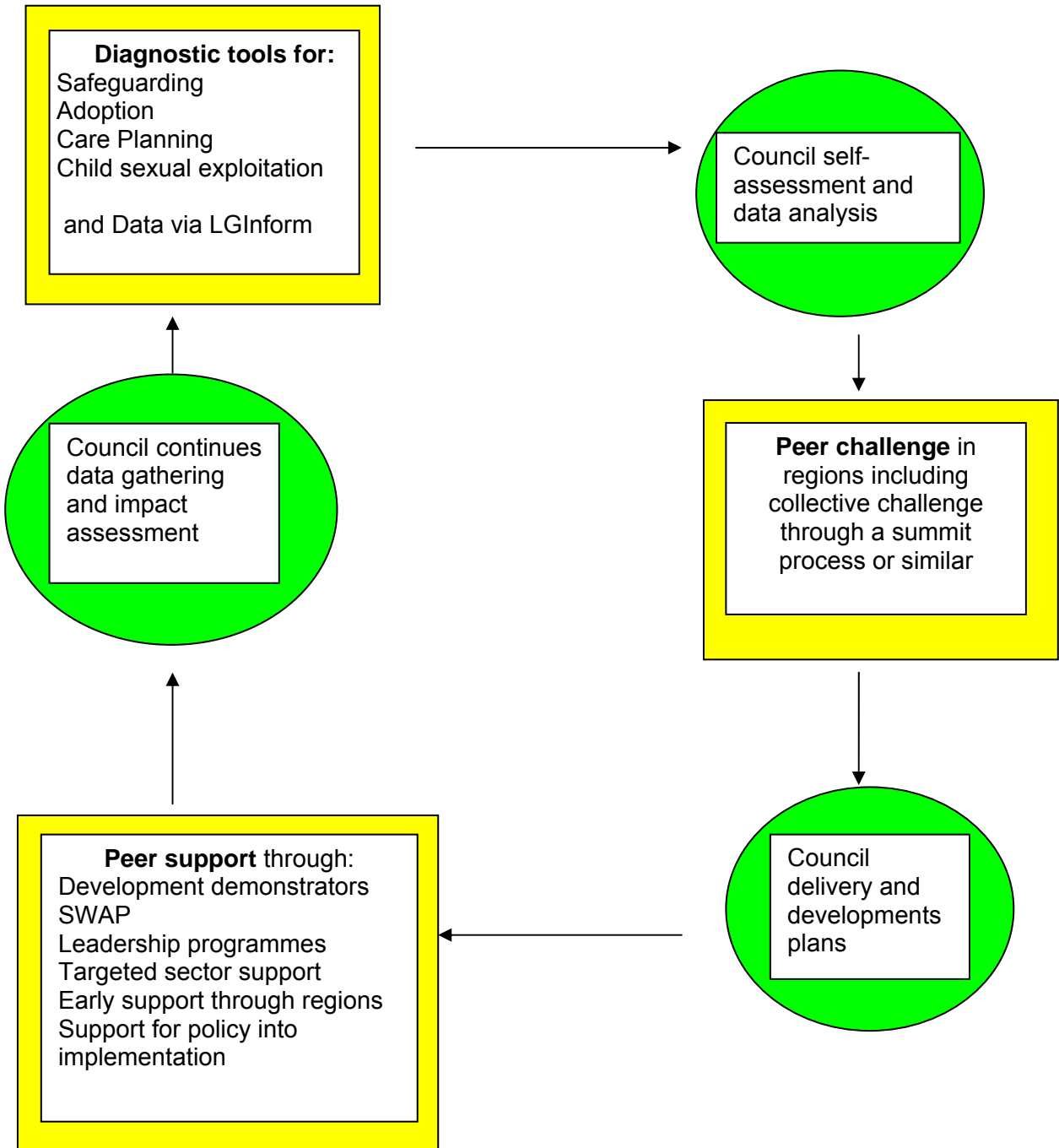
Contact officer: Alison Miller
Position: Adviser, programme team
Phone no: 020 7664 3036
E-mail: alison.miller@local.gov.uk

Children's Improvement Board (CIB)

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 overleaf, the circles are tasks for the council and the rectangles show where sector-led improvement tools can be used. So, diagnostic tools can contribute to councils' self-assessments. Peer challenge (organised through regions) comes into play to challenge

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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
1. Leadership of the Programme			
Leadership of the Programme	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. Service monthly grant monitoring meetings with DfE. 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	Apr ‘13 to Mar ‘14	£656,000
Sub-Total for Leadership of the Programme			£656,000
2. Regional Grants			

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Appendix A

Task / Activity	Outputs	Dates of Activity	Indicative Costs
Regional Grants	<p>Devolved funds for regions to deliver peer challenge, early support & policy implementation, including an element of regional programme management.</p> <p>CIB will subsidise this with other funds, making the total allocated to regions £2,250,400. See Appendix 3 for individual regional grants.</p>	Apr '13 to Mar '14	£1,800,400
	<p><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</p>	Apr '13 to Mar '14	£3,184,300
Sub-Total for Regional Grants			
3. National Support Activity			
Leadership Development	<p><u>Leadership Academy</u> Delivery of four Leadership Academy events for new and existing children's services lead members.</p> <p><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.</p>	<p>Jul, Sep, Nov '13 & Jan '14</p> <p>At appropriate intervals in '13/14</p>	£65,000
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>	Apr '13 to Mar '14	£647,700

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Appendix A

Task / Activity	Outputs	Dates of Activity	Indicative Costs
	We will also examine options to ensure compatibility with new multi-agency inspections as part of a national early support offer		
	<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.	Apr '13 to Mar '14	£690,900
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	£80,000
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	
Sub-Total for National Support Activity			£1,403,600
3. Policy to Implementation			
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

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Appendix A

Task / Activity	Outputs	Dates of Activity	Indicative Costs
	<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	
	<u>Special Educational Needs and Disability Development</u> Deliver a programme to help authorities with the requirements of the Children's & 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	Jun '13 to Mar '14	
	<u>Local Safeguarding Children's Boards</u> Working with the LSCB Chairs network to promote a strong understanding of		

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Appendix A

Task / Activity	Outputs	Dates of Activity	Indicative Costs
	good safeguarding practice; raising awareness of the expectations on LSCBs in the new inspection framework and supporting effective learning from serious case reviews	Apr '13 to Mar '14	
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 & Productivity</u> To ensure that CIB programmes mainstream issues relating to commissioning and productivity</p>	Apr '13 to Mar '14	£300,000
Sub-Total Policy to Implementation			£1,455,700
PROGRAMME TOTAL			£8,500,000

Other business report

Purpose of report

For information.

Summary

This paper provides reports on other business relevant to the Board.

Recommendation

That the Board note the update.

Action

LGA officers to action as necessary.

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Position: Programme Officer
Phone no: 020 7664 3173
E-mail: lucy.ellender@local.gov.uk

Other business report

Residential children's homes

1. The LGA has been represented on two of the Department for Education (DfE)-convened working groups on children's homes which were announced in summer 2012 – on out-of-area placements and quality. The work was informed by DfE market analysis and has drawn out the sheer complexity of the way that the current system operates. A confidential report from the groups was put to Ministers over the Christmas break and the Government is expected to respond early in 2013. The report makes recommendations on areas where improvements need to be made including for example workforce, behaviour management, commissioning, out of area placements, location of homes, the role of inspection. Due to the timescales of the work, the output from the group focused predominantly on what should be improved, rather than the detail of how. It is likely that an implementation group will be formed to maintain momentum in achieving reform. The LGA will seek representation on any such group, to influence the implementation of changes which will affect local government and the young people in its care.
2. In addition and in line with the Board's recommendations, the LGA has contracted with OPM to deliver an action research project to support councils strategic commissioning and market shaping role in relation to children's homes which will run January to June 2013. Cllr Robert Light will be chairing an advisory group comprised of key stakeholders to oversee the project and regular updates on progress will be provided to the Children and Young People Board.

Child Sexual Exploitation

3. The Office of the Children's Commissioner published its interim report on child sexual exploitation in November, highlighting the prevalence of the crime across the country. The second year of the inquiry, to autumn 2013, will focus on what further action needs to be taken.
4. The LGA has produced a range of materials to support councils including an on the day briefing of the report sent to all Leaders, Lead Members and Chief Executives; a 'key questions' document for lead members for children's services to support them have discussions about the issue locally; and an effective practice briefing produced jointly with Barnado's. The Children's Improvement Board is also offering bespoke support to a number of councils who have requested it.
5. Councillor John Osman attended a Ministerial roundtable on child sexual exploitation on 18 December, chaired by Edward Timpson MP. The importance of local political leadership was a key theme in the discussions, as was multi-agency working. Achieving greater awareness of the issues was also agreed as key to effectively tackling the problem. The LGA is organising a national conference on 13 February and planning additional support for councils. If members have ideas about what would be useful or of existing materials that could be shared, please contact Cassandra Harrison. Details of the LGA's work so far can be found on our website at www.local.gov.uk/cse.

Raising the Participation Age

6. This year councils will be responsible for supporting all 16 year olds into some form of compulsory learning, be that full time learning, part time learning with a job, or a formal apprenticeship. This is known as Raising the Participation Age (RPA), and by 2015, this will increase to all 17 year olds. Last November the LGA and Association of Directors of Children's Services held a roundtable, attended by over sixty RPA lead officers. At that event a range of common challenges were identified which are hindering councils' preparatory work on RPA locally. The LGA Chairman highlighted these challenges to Rt Hon David Laws MP at a recent meeting. These include:
 - 6.1. Councils are not afforded the levers to commission sufficient and appropriate learning given the role – this is increasingly the role of the Education Funding Agency. Where provision needs to be commissioned in a specific local area, councils should lead their own procurement exercise based on local intelligence and using a proportionate process rather than it being nationally commissioned. Aligning the Study Programmes with the local partnerships' skills priorities will also be important to ensure future skills address the needs of the local economy.
 - 6.2. National reengagement provision commissioned and deployed in local areas is limiting councils' ability to bring NEET numbers down. We suggest local partnerships, with councils at the heart of them, commission it. This would enable them to identify, plan, target and tailor provision to the needs of young people locally, coordinate it into a single easy to understand offer, and integrate it with RPA.
 - 6.3. Councils are thinking innovatively about alternative solutions to support young people into some form of learning. Some young people employed by large companies receive effective, but non accredited training, which would not count as 'participation' under RPA, and the suggestion would be to flex this thereby increasing young peoples' prospects in participation; councils could offer to quality assure this through a process of robust local accreditation.
 - 6.4. Effective recording and tracking is crucial to establish where young people are at any given time in the education and training system. While councils' financial resources have been significantly squeezed, councils have to develop separate local data sharing agreements with each and every local partner to enable data to be securely shared on the local tracking system. The development of one data sharing agreement at national level would avoid duplication of effort locally. DfE is looking into this.
 - 6.5. Rural areas cite transport as a barrier for many young people to continue into learning despite councils doing a lot to overcome this by subsidising or co-funding local schemes. The LGA is keen to find out from Government what impact the changes to the upcoming 16-19 Bursary Fund will have on local areas' ability to target support at young people who are most in need of financial assistance.

Council role in education

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7. The final meeting of the Ministerial Advisory Group on the council role in education was held on 8 November and at that meeting it was announced that Schools Minister, the Rt. Hon. David Laws MP would Chair a new, much smaller, 'Local Authority Reference Group' to ensure regular dialogue between DfE Ministers and the local government sector. It is envisaged that this will meet every two months and representatives from LGA, the Association of Directors of Children's Services (ADCS) and the Society of Local Authority Chief Executives (SOLACE) have been invited to attend. The Minister has invited one 'standing' representative to attend from each organisation and an additional representative as required. He has signalled his intention to limit the numbers attending each meeting to 10, including DfE representatives.
8. The Children and Young People Board Office Holders have identified the council role in driving school improvement as a key area for focus this year and have asked officers to collect examples of best practice by councils in this area which demonstrate the range of models that are being developed. The members of the Board are asked to identify any councils they feel should be included in the evidence-gathering exercise.

Children and Young People's Health

9. Children's health services have traditionally received a 'disproportionately low priority' with international comparisons of outcomes suggesting that the NHS in England does not do as well as it should for children and young people¹. The Health and Social Care Act 2012 offers an opportunity for children and young people's health services to be prioritised in the new public health system.
10. Children's health is a Board priority for the Children and Young People Board, the work is overseen and co-ordinated jointly by the office holders of the Children and Young People and Community Wellbeing Board. Over the past 18 months the LGA has worked with Government, the health sector and local government during the transition phase to ensure councils and health bodies understand their statutory duties and responsibilities.
11. Since the update given at the September Children and Young People Board meeting a series of conferences to help councils tackle their public health responsibilities has been developed and delivery is underway. To date conferences on the council role for reducing obesity and smoking have been delivered, a resource sheet focusing on each public health issue and looking at the key questions to ask, ideas for success, case studies and policy information have been produced and launched at each conference. Conferences on the council role in tackling drug and alcohol issues, mental health and teenage pregnancy will be delivered between January and April.
12. We are working with SOLACE and ADCS to align and raise our shared concerns with the Department of Health (DH) and DfE.
13. As part of the work with SOLACE and ADCS we are engaging with the DH and DfE on safeguarding issues. In particular we are working with DH to produce a safeguarding accountability document for the health sector and local government to ensure there is

¹ Getting it right for children and young people, Kennedy Review, September 2010:
http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/@dh/@en/@ps/documents/digitalasset/dh_119446.pdf

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clarity about roles and responsibilities for safeguarding and that there is a shared understanding about how safeguarding will operate in the new health system.

14. We are working with SOLACE, ADCS, DH, NHS Commissioning Board (NHS CB) and other relevant stakeholders to address the key transitional issues facing children and young people's health services. For example we are working with DH and the NHS CB to mitigate the risks of fragmentation of commissioning services for 0-5 year olds which will transfer from the NHS CB to local authorities in 2015.
15. The Government is due to publish its response to the Children and Young People's Health Outcomes Forum report. The Government has committed itself to providing a system wide response to the Forum's recommendations. The strategy will detail what each body in the new health system will do to address the Forum's recommendations. We are working with the DH to ensure the Government's response adequately reflects the role of local government.
16. We are continuing to share knowledge and information about children's health issues on the Knowledge Hub for Health and Wellbeing Boards. We are also continuing to use the dedicated children's health webpage on the LGA's website to host children's health related resources from across the LGA.

Special Educational Needs

17. A Children and Families Bill is expected to be published later this month which will set out the biggest programme of reform to special educational needs and disabilities support for over thirty years. The Government paved the way for these proposals in its 2011 Green Paper, followed by the Next Steps document in May 2012 and draft legislation which was published in September 2012 for pre-legislative scrutiny by the House of Commons Education Select Committee. The Committee received written and oral evidence and published its recommendations on the draft legislation in December 2012. The reforms are being tested in twenty pathfinder areas, covering 31 local authorities and their health partners.
18. In our submission on the draft clauses we welcomed the proposed single system for 0 – 25, to bring about a real change in the way that the needs of children and young people with disabilities and learning difficulties are addressed but we highlighted a number of concerns. We therefore support the following recommendations of the Select Committee:
 - 18.1. We are pleased that the Committee recognises that the active involvement of the NHS—in commissioning, delivery and redress—is critical to the success of the legislation and welcome their recommendation that the Government must ensure that the NHS is obliged to participate fully.
 - 18.2. We share the view that the entitlement to education health and care provision should include all disabled children, not just those with special educational needs.
 - 18.3. We welcome the Committee's recommendation that the responsibilities of Free Schools and Academies for pupils with SEN need to be spelled out more clearly in the legislation.

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- 18.4. We agree with the Committee that it is vital that the responsibility, funding and, where appropriate, access to advocacy for young people aged 19-25 is clarified so that all those involved know what they can expect from the new provisions and who is accountable for providing it. If the purpose of the legislation is to extend education as a right to 25, then the Government needs to make that clear and fund that; if not, then that should also be made clear.
- 18.5. We welcome their recommendation that young people not in education, employment or training and those in apprenticeships should be entitled to Education Health and Care (EHC) Plans.
- 18.6. We agree with the Committee about the importance of getting the Local Offer right and that the Pathfinders should be used to inform what should constitute minimum standards, particularly to address the provision that will need to be made available in schools to support pupils with low to moderate SEN without EHC Plans.
19. We will be looking in detail at the drafting of the clauses in the forthcoming Children and Families Bill in order to consider the implications for member councils. These are likely to include: the legal duties of health services, the scope of the Local Offer; the rights of parents to appeal and challenge decisions and choice of education provider.

High Needs Funding

20. Ahead of the changes to the legislation (which are not expected to be in place until 2014) new school and college funding for high needs pupils are being brought in from April 2013. The LGA has been discussing with the Education Funding Agency and the Association of Directors of Children's Services proposed changes to the contracting arrangements for both for new and existing high needs learners to reflect the new funding arrangements. Discussions are also underway on financial assurance and the registration of schools and colleges.

National Youth Agency (NYA)

Universal Strand

21. The current membership of the Supporting Services for Young People Knowledge Hub Group stands at 445. It continues to provide resources and materials from the sector free to download for all members.
22. The third annual NYA/LGA free conference took place on 16 January. Speakers included Edward Timpson MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Children and Families, Karen Buck MP, Shadow Children and Families minister and Maggie Atkinson, Children's Commissioner for England. The conference was chaired by Councillor David Bellotti and was attended by over 80 delegates.

Tailored Support strand

23. Of the 40 councils the NYA are working with this year they have now completed work with 15 of them. They are delivering a peer review programme with four councils and five councils are involved in the outcomes/informing investment programme. The

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remaining packages of support will be completed and case studies added to the Knowledge Hub in March.

Emerging Themes strand

24. The NYA have produced a report into the role of youth work in Troubled Families. The report highlights the ways in which youth services are playing a role in this environment and is based on a combination of learning from our Troubled Families conference, a survey of heads of service and illustrated with detailed case studies. The report was launched at their annual conference.
25. Working with Manchester council, the North West Regional Youth Work Unit and the British Chambers of Commerce, the NYA have run a pilot programme designed to produce a strategy for councils for brokering support from businesses into the youth sector. This work will be completed in January.
26. The work with the Young Foundation to test their calculator within Norfolk and Staffordshire councils is now complete. Through the NYA's tailored support programme they have worked with three councils to test practical tools for measuring the impact of their services. A report with case studies was launched at the annual conference.

National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER)

27. In the reporting period August to December, NFER has completed and published their report on the evaluation of the NYA tailored support to local authorities and the careers guidance work which was published and printed ready for the National Children and Adult Services Conference (NCAS) held in Eastbourne. The quarterly analysis of academy schools re-started, after a short period of standstill whilst awaiting a decision from the DfE on whether they could provide the analysis required. The studies looking at safeguarding children peer reviews and the sector-led improvement and support peer challenge programme are now well underway.
28. A new commission in the reporting period provided short (one page) case studies on local authority support to care leavers and fed into LGAs work around care leavers week. In addition, the Winter/Spring 2013 research programme brochure was signed off and published and work including a rapid review of cost spending pressures on children's services, an additional mapping of NEET statistics and analysis of attainment at GCSE by school type were all approved.

Note of decisions taken and actions required

Title: Children and Young People
Date: Thursday 25 October 2012
Venue: Gold Room, Devonshire Park Centre, Eastbourne

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
	David Bellotti	Bath & NE Somerset Council
	Rita Krishna	Hackney LB
	Paul Lakin	Rotherham MBC
	John Osman	Somerset CC
Substitutes		
	Roy Perry	Hampshire CC
	Peter Evans	West Sussex CC
	Richard Watts	Islington LB
	Patricia Bradwell	Lincolnshire CC
Apologies		
	Paul Carter	Kent CC
	Derrick Murphy	Norfolk CC
	Robert Light	Kirklees MBC
	Liz Hackett Pain	Monmouthshire CC
	Nick Forbes	Newcastle City
	Kath Pinnock	Kirklees MBC

Officers: Sally Burlington, Ian Keating, Cassandra Harrison, Jas Jhas, Caroline Bosdet, Frances Marshall

Item	Decisions and actions	Action by
1.	<p>Welcome and Introductions</p> <p>The Chairman welcomed all those present and opened the meeting with a round of introductions.</p> <p>To maximise the opportunity of having a large number of lead members from different parts of the county present, the Chairman asked all those in attendance to take part in a survey using electronic voting pads to ascertain Members' views on key issues. This feedback would then be used to inform the LGA's policy development.</p>	
2.	<p>Questions</p> <p>GENERAL</p> <p>a) What type of authority are you from?</p> <p>12 Two tier – including county/district 11 Metropolitan Borough 12 Unitary 1 Other</p> <p>b) How long have you been a Lead Member?</p> <p>8 Less than a year 30 1 - 4 8 5 – 9 years 7 I'm not a Lead Member</p> <p>SCHOOLS FUNDING</p> <p>c) From the list below please select the key issue causing your authority concern at the moment?</p> <p>6 The new schools funding formula 5 The top slice for academies central functions 17 The changes in Early Intervention Grant 10 Increases in pressures on safeguarding and looked after children 7 Availability of schools capital resources 7 Child poverty</p> <p>d) There are £2.4 million in school balances in England – should councils be able to access some of this funding to deal with some of these issues?</p> <p>35 Yes 15 No</p> <p>e) Which issues on the new local schools funding formula are causing you concern?</p> <p>7 The lump sum 10 The minimum funding guarantee 16 Small schools 1 Service children 18 The new High Needs arrangements</p>	

f) **Has work commenced on any Priority Schools Building projects in your area?**

- 7 Yes
- 38 No
- 8 Don't know

SECTOR-LED IMPROVEMENT

g) **Are you participating in your council's peer challenge process?**

- 39 Yes
- 12 No

h) **Would you welcome an increased role for Ofsted in the improvement agenda?**

- 10 Yes
- 40 No

i) **Are the regional arrangements for the Children's Improvement Board effectively supporting you in your role?**

- 21 Yes
- 28 No

j) **Is the challenge provided by Ofsted to your council:**

- 9 Very useful
- 36 Useful
- 8 Not useful

THE COUNCIL ROLE IN EDUCATION

k) **As a result of academy reforms has your relationship with schools in your local area:**

- 9 Got better
- 30 Stayed the same
- 13 Got worse

l) **Should all schools be given academy freedoms?**

- 30 Yes
- 17 No

OTHER IMPORTANT CHILDREN'S SERVICES ISSUES

m) **Have adoption scorecards helped you to improve adoption services in your council?**

- 12 Yes
- 34 No

n) **What is the biggest challenge your council faces in adoption services:**

- 16 Insufficient numbers of adopters
- 1 Lack of appropriate adopters
- 6 Excessive bureaucratic delays
- 27 Court delays

o) Do you feel that councils have sufficient power and influence to fulfil their statutory duties in respect of:

Safeguarding

34 Yes
15 No

School Improvement

18 Yes
31 No

Children's Homes placements

34 Yes
13 No

Raising the Participation Age

12 Yes
34 No

Provision of school places

17 Yes
32 No

Supporting vulnerable children

27 Yes
22 No

2. Education and Children's Services Funding

The Chairman moved the report without further comment and invited contributions from the floor.

A detailed discussion followed, in which Members made a number of comments, which were responded to by the Chairman, relating to issues including:

- Members strongly opposed the Government's proposal that £150 million of what was formally part of the Early Intervention Grant (EIG) be retained by the Department for Education (DfE) for central purposes in 2013-14 and 2014-15. In discussing a recent announcement from the Department for Education regarding EIG funding, several concerns were expressed regarding the lack transparency around the level of funding local authorities would receive and whether or not this represented a cut in funding. It was agreed that a letter be written to the Secretary of State seeking clarity on this matter.
- In addition to concerns regarding EIG funding, Members also emphasised the significant financial pressure on non-schools funding for local government, with a 28% reduction in real terms over the period of the Spending Review. In doing so, serious concerns were expressed regarding the detrimental impact on service delivery and on vulnerable service users.

- With reference to the Government's consultation on replacing Local Authority Central Spend Equivalent Grant (LACSEG), Members raised serious concerns regarding guidance and communication from central Government.
- A number of Members expressed support for de-ring-fencing the Dedicated Schools Grant to provide councils with the flexibility to target funding based on local need and deliver better local outcomes.
- With reference to the Priority Schools Building programme, concerns were expressed regarding inequalities in the distribution of grants across the country. Members requested that the LGA take this issue forward as an important part of their lobbying work.

Decisions

That the Board:

- i. **noted** the report; and
- ii. **agreed** to write to the Minister of State for Schools seeking clarity on Early Intervention Grant Funding.

Action

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

LGA
officers

3 Sector-Led Improvement

The Chairman moved the report without further comment and invited contributions from the floor.

No comments were made.

Decision

That the Board **noted** the report.

4. The Council Role in Education

The Chairman moved the report without further comment and invited contributions from the floor.

A detailed discussion followed, in which Members made a number of comments, to which the Chairman responded, including:

- Concerns were expressed about councils' ability to fulfil their statutory and moral duties given the inability of local authorities to hold academy schools to account. With reference to the role of local authorities in school improvement, Members indicated that in their view, councils remain best placed to ensure that all schools, including academies, are accountable.
- A Member highlighted the need for there to be a statutory duty on schools to inform the local education authority of exam results in advance of publication.
- A Member advocated that local authorities be given freedoms and responsibilities to bid for new schools and that councils are involved in the overall process.
- Concerns were expressed that there is no requirement to have a local authority representative on all School Governing Bodies.
- Members discussed the importance of more clearly defining the role the council in education. In doing so, the issues of exclusion of Special Educational Need (SEN) students and the uptake of free school meals were highlighted as areas of concern.
- Concerns were expressed regarding the detrimental impact of universal credit on the number of pupils eligible for the Pupil Premium. Similarly, the impact of increasing numbers of low paid international migrants not eligible for state support was highlighted as an issue which councils needed support to address.

Decision

That the Board **approved** the LGA's draft paper on the council role in education and training for submission to the Ministerial Advisory Group.

Action

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

LGA
officers

7. Notes of the last meeting and actions arising

The Board **agreed** the note of the last meeting.

8. Matters arising

Councillor Judith Blake provided an update on the legal challenge against Ofqual and the Examination Boards regarding the recent discrepancies in GCSE marking. She invited Members who wanted to sign up in support of the legal challenge to contact her. The Chairman informed Members that a breakdown of who is participating in the legal challenge had been requested and would be shared with members of the Board.

Action

Share the breakdown of the legal challenge with Board Members.

LGA
officers

LGA location map

Local Government Association

Local Government House
Smith Square
London SW1P 3HZ

Tel: 020 7664 3131

Fax: 020 7664 3030

Email: info@local.gov.uk

Website: www.local.gov.uk

Public transport

Local Government House is well served by public transport. The nearest mainline stations are:

50 Victoria and Waterloo: the local underground stations are

St James's Park (Circle and District Lines), **Westminster** (Circle, District and Jubilee Lines), and **Pimlico** (Victoria Line) - all about 10 minutes walk away.

Buses 3 and 87 travel along Millbank, and the 507 between Victoria and Waterloo stops in Horseferry Road close to Dean Bradley Street.

Bus routes – Horseferry Road

507 Waterloo - Victoria

C10 Canada Water - Pimlico - Victoria

88 Camden Town - Whitehall - Westminster - Pimlico - Clapham Common

Bus routes – Millbank

87 Wandsworth - Aldwych

3 Crystal Palace - Brixton - Oxford Circus

For further information, visit the Transport for London website at www.tfl.gov.uk

Cycling facilities

The nearest Barclays cycle hire racks are in Smith Square. Cycle racks are also available at Local Government House. Please telephone the LGA on 020 7664 3131.

Central London Congestion Charging Zone

Local Government House is located within the congestion charging zone.

For further details, please call 0845 900 1234 or visit the website at www.cclondon.com

Car parks

Abingdon Street Car Park (off Great College Street)

Horseferry Road Car Park
Horseferry Road/Arneway Street. Visit the website at www.westminster.gov.uk/parking

