

# Children and Young People Board

## Agenda

Wednesday 29 May 2013  
11.00 am

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

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

## **Guidance notes for visitors**

### **Local Government House, Smith Square, London SW1P 3HZ**

#### **Welcome!**

Please read these notes for your own safety and that of all visitors, staff and tenants.

#### **Security**

All visitors (who do not already have an LGA ID badge), are requested to report to the Reception desk where they will be asked to sign in and will be handed a visitor's badge to be worn at all times whilst in the building.

#### **Fire instructions**

In the event of the fire alarm sounding, vacate the building immediately following the green Fire Exit signs. Go straight to the assembly point in Tufon Street via Dean Trench Street (off Smith Square).

DO NOT USE THE LIFTS.

DO NOT STOP TO COLLECT PERSONAL BELONGINGS.

DO NOT RE-ENTER BUILDING UNTIL AUTHORISED TO DO SO.

#### **Members' facilities on the 7th floor**

The Terrace Lounge (Members' Room) has refreshments available and also access to the roof terrace, which Members are welcome to use. Work facilities for members, providing workstations, telephone and Internet access, fax and photocopying facilities and staff support are also available.

#### **Open Council**

"Open Council", on the 1st floor of LG House, provides informal meeting and business facilities with refreshments, for local authority members/officers who are in London.



#### **Toilets**

Toilets for people with disabilities are situated on the Basement, Ground, 2nd, 4th, 6th and 7th floors. Female toilets are situated on the basement, ground, 1st, 3rd, 5th, and 7th floors. Male toilets are available on the basement, ground, 2nd, 4th, 6th and 8th floors.

#### **Accessibility**

Every effort has been made to make the building as accessible as possible for people with disabilities. Induction loop systems have been installed in all the larger meeting rooms and at the main reception. There is a parking space for blue badge holders outside the Smith Square entrance and two more blue badge holders' spaces in Dean Stanley Street to the side of the building. There is also a wheelchair lift at the main entrance. For further information please contact the Facilities Management Helpdesk on 020 7664 3015.

#### **Further help**

Please speak either to staff at the main reception on the ground floor, if you require any further help or information. You can find the LGA website at [www.local.gov.uk](http://www.local.gov.uk)

**Please don't forget to sign out at reception and return your badge when you depart.**

**LGA Children and Young People Board**  
29 May 2013

---

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

**11.00am on Wednesday 29 May in the Westminster Suite (8<sup>th</sup> floor), Local Government House, Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ. Lunch will be available at 1:00pm in the Westminster Suite.**

**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](mailto:aicha.less@local.gov.uk)  
**Conservative:** Luke Taylor: 020 7664 3264 email: [luke.taylor@local.gov.uk](mailto:luke.taylor@local.gov.uk)  
**Liberal Democrat:** Group Office: 020 7664 3235 email: [libdem@local.gov.uk](mailto:libdem@local.gov.uk)  
**Independent:** Group Office: 020 7664 3224 email: [independent.group@local.gov.uk](mailto:independent.group@local.gov.uk)

**Location**

A map showing the location of Local Government House is printed on the back cover.

**LGA Contact**

Verity Sinclair Tel: 020 7664 3173, e-mail: [verity.sinclair@local.gov.uk](mailto:verity.sinclair@local.gov.uk)

**Guest WiFi in Local Government House**

This is available in Local Government House for visitors. It can be accessed by enabling "Wireless Network Connection" on your computer and connecting to LGH-guest, the password is Welcome2010LG.

**Carers' Allowance**

As part of the LGA Members' Allowances Scheme a Carer's Allowance of up to £6.19 per hour is available to cover the cost of dependants (i.e. children, elderly people or people with disabilities) incurred as a result of attending this meeting.



## Children and Young People Board

Date: 08.05.13

### Children and Young People Board - Membership 2012/2013

Councillor	Authority
<b>Conservative (8)</b>	
David Simmonds <b>[Chairman]</b>	Hillingdon LB
Paul Carter	Kent CC
Robert Light	Kirklees MBC
Susie Charles	Lancashire CC
Liz Hacket Pain	Monmouthshire CC
John Osman	Somerset CC
Patricia Bradwell	Lincolnshire CC
Vacancy*	
<b>Substitutes:</b>	
Roy Perry	Hampshire CC
Peter Evans	West Sussex CC
Dominic Gilham	Hillingdon LB
Ann McAllister	Calderdale MBC
<b>Labour (6)</b>	
Rita Krishna	Hackney LB
John Merry CBE <b>[Vice Chair]</b>	Salford City
Paul Lakin	Rotherham MBC
Anne Burns	Cumbria CC
Nick Forbes	Newcastle City
Vacancy*	
<b>Substitutes:</b>	
Richard Watts	Islington LB
<b>Liberal Democrat (3)</b>	
David Bellotti	Bath & NE Somerset Council
Liz Green <b>[Deputy Chair]</b>	Kingston upon Thames RB
Kath Pinnock	Kirklees MBC
<b>Substitutes:</b>	
Peter Downes OBE	Cambridgeshire CC
<b>Independent (1)</b>	
Apu Bagchi <b>[Deputy Chair]</b>	Bedford BC
<b>Substitutes</b>	
Gillian Ford	Havering LB
Paul Cullen	Richmondshire DC
Neil Burden	Cornwall Council
<b>*Lost their seats 02.05.13</b>	

Jude Robinson	Cornwall Council (Lab)
David Pugh	Isle of Wight (Con)

## LGA Children and Young People Board Attendance 2012-2013

<b>Councillors</b>	<b>05.09.12</b>	<b>25.10.12</b>	<b>21.01.13</b>	<b>27.03.13</b>		
<b>Conservative Group</b>						
David Simmonds	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		
Paul Carter	Yes	No	No	Yes		
David Pugh	Yes	Yes	Yes	No		
Robert Light	Yes	No	No	No		
Susie Charles	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		
Liz Hackett Pain	No	No	Yes	Yes		
John Osman	Yes	Yes	Yes	No		
Patricia Bradwell	NA	Yes	No	Yes		
<b>Labour Group</b>						
Rita Krishna	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		
John Merry CBE	No	Yes	Yes	Yes		
Paul Lakin	No	Yes	Yes	Yes		
Anne Burns	No	Yes	Yes	Yes		
Nick Forbes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes		
Jude Robinson	Yes	Yes	Yes	No		
<b>Lib Dem Group</b>						
David Bellotti	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		
Liz Green	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		
Kath Pinnock	Yes	No	No	No		
<b>Independent</b>						
Apu Bagchi	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		
<b>Substitutes</b>						
Roy Perry	Yes	Yes		Yes		
Peter Evans	Yes	Yes		Yes		
Dominic Gilham	Yes		Yes	Yes		
Richard Watts	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		
Rachel Heywood	Yes					
Paul Watling		Yes				
Peter Downes OBE				Yes		





## Agenda

---

### **Children and Young People Board**

Wednesday 29 May 2013

11.00am

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

---

<b>Item</b>	<b>Page</b>
<b>1. Report on Recent Ofsted Developments</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>2. Children's Improvement Board – Legacy Programme</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>3. Other Business Report</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>4. Note of the last meeting</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>5. Next Meeting: 17 July 2013</b>	
<b>Close</b>	<b>1:00pm</b>



**Item 1**

## **Recent Ofsted developments**

### **Purpose of report**

To provide background information for the session with Sir Michael Wilshaw, Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Schools in England, who will address the board.

### **Summary**

In recent months Ofsted has proposed the expansion of its remit in a number of areas which impact on councils. This includes a new inspection regime for council school improvement services and revised inspection and improvement roles in children's social care and early years provision. In each of these areas, Ofsted is taking an increasing role in providing and brokering improvement support, as well as being the inspectorate.

### **Recommendation**

This report is for information.

### **Action**

Officers to take action arising out any discussion, as directed by members.

**Contact officers:** Ian Keating / Cassandra Harrison  
**Position:** Senior Advisers, Children and Young People  
**Phone no:** 0207 664 3032 / 020 7665 3878  
**E-mail:** [ian.keating@local.gov.uk](mailto:ian.keating@local.gov.uk) / [Cassandra.Harrison@local.gov.uk](mailto:Cassandra.Harrison@local.gov.uk)



**Item 1**

**Recent Ofsted developments**

**Background**

1. Ofsted's structure has seen significant change in recent months, with the appointment of Regional Directors. This has been accompanied by a widening of Ofsted's remit to inspect council school improvement services and provide improvement support. Last November saw the publication of 'league tables' which purport to compare council performance in school improvement. New proposals will see Regional Directors take on a role in overseeing a revised inspection regime for children's services departments and an enhanced role in providing improvement support to councils. The Department for Education (DfE) is also consulting on proposals to strengthen inspection and give Ofsted a stronger role in driving improvement in Early Years provision.

**The new Ofsted role in the inspection of council school improvement services**

2. There has been a debate about the council role in education since the General Election. The Schools White Paper published in November 2010 outlined a continuing 'strong strategic role' for councils in education, but in the context of increasing school autonomy and sharply increasing numbers of academies. The LGA has undertaken a programme of lobbying and support to councils to help them to adapt to this changing role, including action research with 10 councils, jointly funded with DfE. We have supported a greater role for school-to-school improvement in driving up standards, with councils playing a brokering and accountability role in an increasingly school-led improvement system.
3. The debate about the council role in school improvement was decisively changed by the intervention of the Chief Inspector of Schools, Sir Michael Wilshaw, in his first annual report in November last year. This included 'league tables' purporting to show 'council performance' with reference to the percentage of children in an area attending schools judged 'good' or better by Ofsted. The report included a strong message that such variation in the performance of schools across different areas was unacceptable. Councils were identified as the local bodies responsible for holding all local schools (including academies) to account for their performance and for making sure that they are improving effectively.
4. The report was followed by a series of targeted inspections of schools in Coventry, Portsmouth, Derby and Norfolk, with a specific focus on the support and challenge provided by the council. These were done under Ofsted's existing powers. Ofsted has

**Item 1**

now introduced, from 1 June, a new framework to give it powers for direct inspections of council improvement services.

5. The LGA, in partnership with SOLACE, has objected in strong terms to the mixed messages that DfE and Ofsted appear to be sending about the council role in school improvement. The Chairman of the LGA CYP Board, the LGA Chief Executive and SOLACE representatives met with Sir Michael Wilshaw on two occasions to discuss our concerns:
  - 5.1 They raised the lack of consultation with the local government sector in bringing forward proposals which introduce new inspection burdens on councils and cut across a sector-led approach to improvement.
  - 5.2 They highlighted the conflict of interest in Ofsted both inspecting schools and providing them with improvement support.
6. The LGA/SOLACE response to the consultation called for the proposed new inspection framework to be withdrawn and suggested that a sector-led approach would be the most effective way to help councils to support local schools to improve.
7. The framework which establishes the new Ofsted regime for ‘the inspection of local authority arrangements for supporting school improvement’ was nevertheless published on 15 May. Ofsted does not intend to inspect all local authorities to a regular cycle or interval. Inspections may be triggered where inspections of schools or other providers raise concerns about the effectiveness of a council’s education functions. Inspections can also be triggered if the Secretary of State “requires” one.
8. The inspection will focus on how well a council’s arrangements for supporting school improvement are working and whether they are having sufficient impact in improving standards, progress and the quality of provision in schools and other providers. The overall judgement will be either that the council’s arrangements are “effective” or “ineffective”. Nine areas will be inspected:
  - 8.1 The effectiveness of corporate and strategic leadership of school improvement.
  - 8.2 The clarity and transparency of policy and strategy for supporting schools’ and other providers’ improvement, and how clearly the local authority has defined its monitoring, challenge, support and intervention roles.
  - 8.3 The extent to which the local authority knows schools and other providers, their performance and the standards they achieve and how effectively support is focused on areas of greatest need.
  - 8.4 The effectiveness of the local authority’s identification of, and intervention in, underperforming schools, including the use of formal powers available to the local authority.

**Item 1**

8.5 The impact of local authority support and challenge over time and the rate at which schools and other providers are improving.

8.6 The extent to which the local authority brokers support for schools and other providers.

8.7 The effectiveness of strategies to support highly effective leadership and management in schools and other providers.

8.8 Support and challenge for school governance, where applicable.

8.9 The way the local authority uses any available funding to effect improvement, including how it is focused on areas of greatest need.

9. On the issue of the extent to which councils can be held to account for the performance of academies, the handbook for inspectors says:

“The form of relationship between academies and local authorities is largely for the academies to determine. There is no statutory requirement for them to establish such a relationship beyond that which is required for the delivery of local authority statutory duties, such as the making and reviewing of special educational needs statements, securing sufficient education in an area and provision of home-to-school transport for eligible children.

Despite this, local authorities retain a legal responsibility for performance in the area as a whole, under the 1996 Education Act. In addition, the Secretary of State has made clear the expectation for local authorities to act as strategic commissioners for all schools. Where the local authority has concerns about the performance of an academy, inspectors should explore whether the local authority has, within the confines of its responsibilities, taken reasonable steps to discuss this with the individual establishment, the executive leadership and governance of the chain, and/or the Department for Education, where appropriate.”

**Changes to the inspection regime for safeguarding and looked after children**

10. There have been a number of complex reconfigurations of the inspection regime for safeguarding and looked after children in recent years. In January 2012, Ofsted announced that the combined safeguarding and looked after children (SLAC) inspections, started in 2009, would end in July 2012. Overlapping with that regime, in May 2012 a new inspection for the protection of children was introduced, running for a 12 month period with a purportedly strengthened focus on frontline social work practice and outcomes for children.

**Item 1**

11. However, in April 2013, Sir Michael Wilshaw wrote to the Secretary of State for Education outlining his decision that the safeguarding and looked after children inspections would again be combined, looking at the whole system for vulnerable children. He also announced that proposals for multi-inspectorate arrangements, which the LGA had supported because they recognise the role of local partner agencies such as the police and health in safeguarding, would be 'deferred'.
12. The SLAC inspection regime was intended to establish OFSTED as the prime driver of improvement for safeguarding and children in care. Having completed the full cycle in the summer of 2012 there is no evidence from the subsequent 8 day unannounced inspections over nearly 12 months that such improvement has materialised. Of the last 38 inspections 13 are inadequate ie just over a third, with only 4 good and none outstanding.
13. This raises a question about whether or not judgements are meaningful in measuring quality, as opposed to compliance. It also appears to be somewhat out of kilter with research showing that child-abuse related deaths have never been lower in England and Wales and progress on this front has been greater than the majority of major developed countries.
14. Ofsted is continuing to move into the realm of improvement of councils' safeguarding and care, with the recent recruitment campaign for regional inspectors emphasising this element of their work. This has been done without any notable engagement with the local government sector about this issue and little or no consideration about how this fits with sector-led improvement.
15. However, OFSTED improvement proposals to date amount to evaluating a council's action plan through a round table process, some signposting of national best practice and some monitoring of progress. This is very far from sector led brokerage and support and there are signs that DFE is considering commissioning such support if CIB ceases to support intervention authorities.

**Proposed changes to the inspection of early years provider**

16. Ofsted is currently consulting on raising expectations of quality and driving improvement in early years education and childcare by:
  - 16.1 More frequent re-inspection and monitoring of childcare and early years providers in settings which are not yet rated 'good.'
  - 16.2 Replacing the "satisfactory" judgement with "requires improvement."
  - 16.3 Limiting the timeframe for settings which are not yet good to improve sufficiently or face tougher sanctions such as de-registration; and



**Item 1**

- 16.4 Working directly with providers in a quality improvement role.
17. These Ofsted proposals are made against the backdrop of DfE proposals to change the council role in early education and childcare. A recent consultation stated that councils retain around £160 million a year from Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) for early years and suggested that some of this is spent duplicating Ofsted's work, instead of going to front-line provision. It suggests addressing this alleged duplication by limiting councils' flexibility to make agreements in the Early Years and Schools Forum on locally tailored funding arrangements and to spend DSG on quality improvement activities. As part of this, councils' statutory duty to provide information, advice and support to providers will be repealed.
18. The LGA response to the consultation clarified that councils do not carry out a quality inspection role. Rather they deliver invaluable quality improvement support which is critical in their role as 'champions' of children and in meeting their sufficiency duty to ensure high quality early years provision to meet local needs. We made clear that any savings from removing councils' quality improvement role would be small compared to the adverse impact on local children and providers. We expressed concerns about Ofsted's capacity and expertise to offer this tailored and often intensive support, which many smaller providers require.

**Financial Implications**

19. There are no financial implications for the LGA arising from this report, however the widening of Ofsted's remit in the areas identified is likely to have financial implications for councils.



## **Children's Improvement Board (CIB) – legacy programme**

### **Purpose**

For discussion and direction.

### **Summary**

This report updates the CYP Board on the withdrawal of funding for the Children's Improvement Board (CIB) and seeks the CYP Board's views on the future sector led improvement offer for children's services - the legacy programme - and the future governance arrangements for this.

Views are also being sought from the lead members of the LGA's Improvement and Innovation Board, from chief executives, directors of children's services and lead members for children. All of these views will be reported to the next CIB meeting on 19 June to enable CIB to make informed recommendations to the LGA for the way forward.

### **Recommendation**

That the Board reach a view on priorities for the legacy programme (section 3 below) and governance arrangements (section 4 below) to be communicated to the Children's Improvement Board (CIB).

### **Action**

That staff from the LGA and CIB report the views of the CYP Board to the next CIB meeting on 19 June along with the views of the Improvement and Innovation Board and local councils.

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



**Item 2**

**Background**

1. Members of the Children's Improvement Board (CIB) were informed on 5 April 2013 that DfE was withdrawing its funding to CIB for 2013-14. This news was both extremely unwelcome and completely unexpected and has necessitated some rapid work by the CIB team to deal with existing commitments and exit from grant funding in a managed way.
2. The LGA has a longstanding commitment to sector led improvement, including in children's services and is committed to continuing to offer sector led support to councils.

**Consultation**

3. At its meeting of 18 April 2013, CIB agreed to consult with CIB regional leads (one nominated Director of Children's Services (DCS), one lead member and one chief executive in each region) and key stakeholders on a potential legacy programme for the Children's Improvement Board.
4. The potential legacy programme under discussion was based on five activity strands:
  - 4.1 the facilitation of a peer challenge programme based around self- assessment
  - 4.2 an offer of diagnostics on safeguarding and care
  - 4.3 brokering sector support for improvement
  - 4.4 joint work on leadership and professional development with key organisations;  
and
  - 4.5 development demonstrators for Munro and early years
5. CIB has engaged in a process of discussion and consultation on these proposed activity strands with individual councils, the LGA, Association of DCS and SOLACE and with a meeting of CIB regional leads held in Leeds on 8 May. The LGA has also sought responses from lead members for children. The responses from these consultations are set out in **Appendix A**. In the light of the feedback received, these proposals have been modified and there is a **menu of options set out below**. CIB would now like to hear the views of the LGA's CYP Board and the Improvement and Innovation board before it meets on 19 June when it will make recommendations to the LGA for the way forward.

**Item 2**

**The proposed legacy programme**

6. In the light of the views and feedback received, the CIB team has proposed a number of options for a legacy programme which are set out below. **The Board is asked to give a view on priorities from these options.**
7. **In considering options the Board should be aware of views expressed during the consultation with regional leads and others.**
8. At the regional leads meeting on 8 May, the national representatives, including the LGA Principal Advisors, considered that given councils that might be in need of support were unlikely to fall evenly across regions, brokering improvement support should be handled nationally and involve the regions on each case. Similarly, they felt that a funded programme of safeguarding practice and care practice diagnostics was essential as part of any legacy programme to ensure that the sector as a whole improved and that impact and funding could be maximised.
9. Regional leads expressed a strong view that the presumption should be for devolving as much activity and funding as possible to regions. Equally, there was a need for national support for sector led improvement to advocate for a bottom up approach and to defend local government's interests and reputation in this area.
10. Regions expressed strong support for continuing regionally developed peer challenge and the need to make this more systematic in future. The Leadership Academy was seen as valuable but there was view that in future to should be more closely aligned to other leadership programmes for DCSs and chief executives, such as those run by the VSC and SOLACE. There was clear support for the variety of diagnostic tools, but no consensus as to whether these should be offered free to councils or offered on a charged for basis.
11. While there was a recognition of a continuing need to support shared learning, there was not a great deal of support for continuing the development demonstrators programme in its present form and this option is therefore not included in the list below.

**11.1 Peer challenge and self-assessment coordination**

Peer challenge, based on each council's self-assessment, has developed over the last two years into an essential component of sector led improvement which is valued and supported by councils. Feedback from councils and a recent evaluation by National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER) have demonstrated that the programmes of peer challenge, coordinated in regions, have had a significant impact on building a collective approach to improvement and in helping councils to manage difficult conversations about performance where these are appropriate. All regions have confirmed that they are enthusiastic about continuing peer challenge and that they are actively working to

**Item 2**

draw on experience and refine the process to make it as effective as possible. A small element of funding would allow for a structured management of these challenges which councils feel has been important to the success of the programme, but equally regions have expressed a desire to continue this activity whether or not it receives national funding.

**11.2 Safeguarding and care practice diagnostics and safeguarding peer reviews**

CIB's consultation confirmed that there is clear support from councils for the safeguarding and care practice tools. There would be merits in a funded approach which would allow the offer to be focused on those councils most in need and would be consistent with the other parts of the LGA's sector led improvement offer. It might be possible to offer a core programme at no charge for those councils most in need with the option of other councils or regions purchasing additional diagnostics/reviews.

**11.3 Training and maintaining the list of accredited senior peers**

While some peer support is organised informally in regions, there is also a need for a pool of trained and accredited peers to take part in more formal reviews and diagnostics and to offer support to councils who are in particular difficulty. The LGA already has a mechanism for doing this and it therefore makes sense to retain this element of activity nationally.

**11.4 Early sector support and brokerage**

Following on from peer challenge, regional activity to identify and support councils who need help has also developed significantly. Having a resource to help councils who fall into the "*needs improvement*" category will help them to be clear about what they need to do to improve and enable support to be provided with input from peers in other councils with the aim of preventing formal intervention.

**11.5 Targeted sector support brokerage fund**

Where councils do end up in formal intervention, rapid sector support to help them respond to this situation can enable them to be well prepared for the improvement journey. The proposal is to set aside a fund which could be drawn down by regions, in discussion with the LGA, to ensure five days of sector led support is provided within the first 60 days of receiving an improvement notice and before major engagement with Ofsted and DfE.

**11.6 Leadership academy**

Consultations carried out by CIB have confirmed that support for leadership is valued by councils. The Leadership Academy pre-dates CIB and is the main way that the LGA supports its lead members in their role. This is the main element of the legacy programme in terms of direct support for members and it seems self-evident that the LGA as a politically led organisation should continue to offer it. The proposal is to hold three Leadership Academies (free of charge to participants) rather than four as last year but to maximise attendance at each of these.

**Item 2**

**11.7 Joint focused leadership workshops**

In addition, to support for the Leadership Academy, it was recognised that the LGA should continue the close working that CIB has developed with the Virtual Staff College and SOLACE on leadership for DCSs and chief executives respectively. CIB's work with councils has confirmed that the three way relationship between chief executives, DCSs and lead members is crucial to effective children's services and that it is important to build links between these programmes and the leadership academy in order to support a common understanding of leadership across these roles.

**11.8 Maintenance of information on the Knowledge Hub and LGInform**

Access to good quality up to date information is essential to supporting self-assessment. This element of the legacy programme is to maintain and develop the resources which are available to councils on children's services on the Knowledge Hub and LG Inform.

**11.9 Maintaining the Board, national networks and integration with other sector led programmes**

All the partners on the Board – LGA, ADCS and SOLACE – have committed to continued partnership working for sector led improvement. Similarly, there is support for regional working and for continued, close dialogue between regions and the national Board and resources for support of meetings and workshops, commissioning small scale, one off specialist advice on children's services and for some expert children's services support to principal advisers in their day to day work with councils. The LGA is also involved in a number of sector led programmes in support of services for adults – on social care (TEASC), public health and people with learning disabilities or mental health conditions (Winterbourne View). Programme management support for children's sector led improvement can be linked to these other programmes to build a more coherent offer for councils.

**Governance**

12. The partnership between LGA, ADCS and SOLACE was set up to oversee the sector led improvement programme originally supported by funding from Department for Education. However, the Board has provided a means for these three key stakeholder organisations to work closely together and to debate some of the issues affecting improvement. All three organisations have stated that they are committed to continue to work in partnership to support sector led improvement.
13. The CIB team has developed proposals for future governance arrangements but has suggested that the decision on continuation of CIB really depends on the existence of a legacy programme in the first instance and in the value added by engaging all three partners in its oversight. The consultation with regions provided evidence of a strong desire to build on the work of CIB over the last two years and a clear wish to see stronger engagement between the regional arrangements and national board.



**Item 2**

**Members of a continuing Children's Improvement Board**

14. The current three partners on CIB are all necessary to secure effective improvement action. There is a question whether or not to expand the membership. There are a number of potential candidates. These include:
  - 14.1 the voluntary and social enterprise sector
  - 14.2 the professional development body affecting the key workforce - The College of Social Work
  - 14.3 the Association of Independent LSCB Chairs
15. This does raise the issue around confidentiality and whether it is appropriate to discuss performance issues with stakeholders from outside local government. It might therefore be preferable to engage with voluntary and community sector organisations and others from outside local government on specific occasions rather than include them as full members of a national board.
16. Equally, there seems no rationale for continuing to have a standing DfE presence at Board meetings, given they will no longer be providing funding and more sense in engaging with the Department on an as needed basis.

**Chairing**

17. After some debate the Board has arrived at a process for rotation of the Chair on an annual basis, with SOLACE taking the chair for 2013-14 and LGA for 2014-15. Continuing this model for the remainder of this financial year has practical advantages of stability and consistency whilst a longer term debate is underway on how sector led improvement might be delivered and governed beyond April 2014.

**Board reporting lines**

18. If funding is to be largely derived from LGA in future then the reporting dynamic will change. It should be for the LGA to determine how the CIB grant is commissioned and CIB would need to continue to have a reporting relationship both to the CYP Board and to the Improvement and Innovation Board. It will be important to consider whether CIB is allocated a budget or whether different arrangements are made for allocating funding.
19. Other reporting requirements to ADCS and SOLACE (usually to attend specific meetings or events) can be carried out by the programme manager.

**Item 2**

**Servicing the Board**

20. It is recommended that support for CIB and programme management should continue to be provided by the LGA.
  
21. Subject to decisions by the LGA on the legacy programme and on arrangements for the Board, the CIB team has proposed terms of reference for a national Children's Improvement Board to:
  - 21.1 Hold a national overview of the whole system.
  - 21.2 Facilitate the governance and engagement of regions in the development of a coherent and integrated approach to sector led improvement.
  - 21.3 Work at a national level with DFE Improvement and Intervention Team and with OFSTED in establishing agreed roles and boundaries in relation to the improvement of children's services.
  - 21.4 Maintain a national draw down fund for authorities receiving an inadequate OFSTED judgement to enable them to commission five days initial sector support (targeted sector support).
  - 21.5 Provide an active and readily available platform through LGA Knowledge Hub, web site or LG Inform as appropriate which supports regional activity and the flow of information on best or innovative practice, effective dissemination, added value and cost management, performance intelligence and horizon scanning. This should allow easy signposting and access to other relevant web based resources from partner organisations
  - 21.6 Co-ordinate work between LGA, SOLACE, VSC and LSCB Chairs on integrated leadership development for members and officers. To include formal training, facilitated observation and mentoring delivered in a flexible and modular manner. The emphasis to be placed on applied leadership for whole system improvement and quality assurance.
  - 21.7 Provide nationally accredited and quality assured courses for practitioners and associates engaging in peer review, challenge or diagnostic activity and maintaining a register of the same.
  - 21.8 Develop, where need is evident, a flexible and responsive offer through the LGA to provide a range of bespoke diagnostic or review tools either to individual authorities or as part of a regional offer or as may be commissioned by DfE for authorities in intervention.

**Financial implications**

22. The Children's Improvement Board was supported by a grant from the Department for Education and was due to receive £8.5m for its work in 2013/14. Following the announcement to close down the programme, this amount was reduced to £2m to cover contractual obligations and to close the programme in an orderly manner. Included within that sum are grants to regions, equivalent to around 25 per cent of their proposed full year grant, to meet their contractual obligations.

**Item 2**

23. **The recommendations from CIB to this Board include the costs of various options. These proposed arrangements for sector led improvement for children's services can be funded from CIB and LGA resources in 2013-14 and 2014-15 depending on the mix of the offer.**



**Item 2 Appendix A**

**Appendix A – Consultation responses**

**Comments from the Local Government Association**

1. The legacy programme from CIB needs to be complementary to other sector led improvement offers co-ordinated by the Local Government Association in order to achieve the greatest level of improvement across the sector and local government more widely.
2. The LGA has in place a national system for selecting and placing peers that has operated successfully over a number of years. We would strongly support the continuation of such an approach as it has been demonstrated as an effective mechanism to achieve that achieves robust and credible results and an efficient way of achieving this.
3. The Safeguarding and Care Practice Diagnostics are widely seen as very effective tools that quickly enable local authorities to get to the heart of these issues. As initially agreed by CIB at its meeting on 18 April, these should be provided with funds from CIB money and provided free of charge to authorities who are in most need of this work. Such an approach would complement the LGA existing free corporate peer challenge offer and that in health and fire. Such an approach, working with regions and Principal Advisers, would ensure that the limited resources could be directed to those most in need on an annual basis.
4. Brokerage and targeted sector support has also been seen to be an effective activity. We would support the continuation of this work, linked to the work of Principal Advisers and nationally co-ordinated, to ensure effective use of resources.

**Comments from lead members for children**

5. Responses from lead members expressed to the LGA include concerns about:
  - 5.1 the potential withdrawal of direct CIB support to councils in difficulty
  - 5.2 what will happen to the development demonstrator programme which was about to start its first full year
  - 5.3 the continuation of support for lead members including the leadership academy
  - 5.4 the continuation of safeguarding peer reviews
  - 5.5 the implications for councils of inadequate Ofsted judgements

**Item 2 Appendix A**

**Comments from 8 May 2013 meeting with regional leads**

6. Peer challenge

- 6.1 There was strong support for continuing peer challenge.
- 6.2 Regions were aiming to make peer challenge more systematic and to take more of a collective approach for example through peer challenge summits.
- 6.3 They were also looking for opportunities to draw in people from outside the region and to share learning between regions.
- 6.4 While the commitment to peer challenge remained regardless of funding, programme management capacity in regions to support peer challenge would be extremely helpful.
- 6.5 Regions were committed to various different ways of offering support to councils at risk.

7. Development demonstrators

- 7.1 Development demonstrators had different levels of visibility in different regions with some being very prominent features of regional programmes and others less so.
- 7.2 The label of development demonstrator was not felt to be helpful.
- 7.3 The important outcomes of the programme were opportunities to share both practice and innovation.
- 7.4 The work of the development demonstrators needed to be better integrated with regional programmes.
- 7.5 Leadership which explicitly supported and allowed time for sharing learning was critical.

8. Leadership

- 8.1 There was a feeling that the current leadership offers were disparate and fragmented.
- 8.2 Leadership programmes (particularly LGA, SOLACE and the Virtual Staff College) should be better coordinated, perhaps with some joint elements, and could take a modular approach. Some of this coordination was already happening regionally.
- 8.3 There should be a "common language" used through leadership programmes (the development of a common language is a key feature of DCS leadership programmes and is valued by participants).
- 8.4 The lead member offer needs to continue and should link to peer mentoring, coaching, and regional networks for learning and development. The offer should be flexible and led by participants.
- 8.5 There were some arguments for mandatory training for lead members.
- 8.6 Leadership programmes needed to get the right balance between theory and practice; programmes for DCSs were felt to put too much emphasis on the theoretical.

**Item 2 Appendix A**

9. Diagnostic tools

- 9.1 There was a consensus that the variety of diagnostic tools proposed was helpful.
- 9.2 Some products – notably the safeguarding and care practice diagnostics - are new and councils are just beginning to think about which ones might be most useful to them.
- 9.3 Tools should be flexible and responsive.
- 9.4 There was not a clear consensus about who should pay for diagnostics, but the view tended towards a combination of individual councils and regions paying, rather than holding funding nationally (and offering the diagnostics free to councils).
- 9.5 At the moment regions took the view that a national resource for recruiting and training peers was necessary but that this could potentially move, in due course, to regions.
- 9.6 Some regions were developing their own diagnostic models and would want to continue this.





## **Other Business Report**

### **Purpose of report**

For information.

### **Summary**

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

### **Recommendation**

That the Board note the update.

### **Action**

LGA officers to action as necessary.

**Contact officer:** Verity Sinclair  
**Position:** Programme Officer  
**Phone no:** 020 7664 3173  
**E-mail:** [verity.sinclair@local.gov.uk](mailto:verity.sinclair@local.gov.uk)



## **Other business report**

### **Children and Young People Research and Support Commissioning**

1. At the last meeting the Board discussed the priorities for CYP research and support commissioning. Subsequently, the LGA was informed by DCLG of a £2 million cut to its RSG funding and the funding to CIB has been withdrawn by DfE. A commitment of £100,000 has already been made to fund further tailored support work by the National Youth Agency. However, beyond that commitment, any new request for additional funding for CYP research or improvement support will have to be considered within the LGA's overall priorities from within a reduced budget, including the funding of any CIB legacy projects. A separate CYP research and commissioning budget is no longer available.

### **Children and Young People's Health update**

#### **Children's Partnership:**

2. A Children's Partnership has been set up to replace several Department of Health (DH) Programme Boards for children and young people. This has resulted in a single, co-produced partnership arrangement spanning all key local government, NHS and DH bodies. The Children's Partnership Board will meet on a bi-monthly basis.
3. The core purpose of the Children's Partnership will be "to bring together key national organisations accountable for policy; commissioning and delivery to improve children and young people's health outcomes and to consider and agree system priorities; design resolutions for improvement, working jointly to commission the resources to deliver these".
4. Membership of the Children's Partnership includes: the LGA, the Association of Directors of Children's Services (ADCS), Association of Directors of Public Health, DH, Health Education England, Healthwatch England, NHS England, Public Health England, and Society of Local Authority Chief Executives. Representation is being sought from other departments and a voluntary sector strategic partner.
5. The new Department of Health Director General Jon Rouse has expressed an interest in chairing the Children's Partnership which signals strong leadership from the DH. Discussions about a local government sector co-chair are taking place between local government sector led bodies.
6. A scoping meeting took place on 24 April to identify key priorities. At the meeting members agreed that the following priorities would be taken forward:

**Item 3**

- 6.1 **Timely/Early prevention, identification and intervention:** developing a shared cross government early intervention strategy. This work will also include the wider public health and prevention agenda.
- 6.2 **Integration:** ensuring that children and young people's health is integral within the work to define and enable integrated care and disseminate a shared narrative.
- 6.3 **Good transitions for children and young people throughout the life course:** this will primarily focus on vulnerable children - e.g. those with special educational needs and/or a disability, mental health and emotional wellbeing needs.
- 6.4 **Operating the new system and ensuring "safe transfers":** Understanding how best to make it work by providing a national and local link; understanding national plans and priorities; feeding back what issues are coming up locally; and developing a common narrative; and planning holistically for the safe transfer of 0-5s commissioning from the NHS to local government in 2015 (the Healthy Child Programme).
7. The Children's Partnership will commission task and finish groups to take forward work on the above priorities. Within this, a number of cross cutting themes and common set of principles have been identified. The next meeting will be held in June and will focus on identifying the key pieces of work to be taken forward by task and finish groups.
8. Other ongoing work on children's health includes:
  - 8.1 Delivery of two public health events and resource sheets on the councils' role in tackling mental health (March) and teenage pregnancy (April).
  - 8.2 Publishing a joint LGA and Public Health England briefing for elected members on the National Child Measurement Programme.
  - 8.3 Publishing a joint LGA and DH briefing for Lead Members for Children's Services on the School Nursing Offer; and
  - 8.4 Continuing to share knowledge and information about children's health issues on the Knowledge Hub for Health and Wellbeing Boards and on the LGA's dedicated webpage for children's health.

**Child Poverty**

9. The Child Poverty Needs Assessment Toolkit has been refreshed and will be available on the CYP web pages shortly. Under the Child Poverty Act 2010, local authorities have a duty to prepare and publish child poverty needs assessments. The toolkit helps child poverty leads in providing the underpinning information and insights to develop strategies that can reduce and mitigate against child poverty.
10. The Government's support to councils through the Child Poverty Unit (CPU) is to be scaled back. The CPU will no longer attend regional child poverty network meetings, or

**Item 3**

convene the Core Offer of Support and Local Delivery Advisory Groups. It will continue to maintain and publish the Core Offer of Support to councils, and to provide councils with data through the local basket of indicators. The CPU will focus instead on national strategies on child poverty and strengthening and refreshing the data offer. Council officers have expressed concern about losing an avenue through which to reach national policy-makers. LGA officers are looking at how the Knowledge Hub and existing LGA networks could be used as communications channels.

11. The LGA's welfare reform programme will include elements addressing child poverty. A research project has been commissioned that will look at impact and typologies for those most affected (including children and families), and potential local responses. It will be used as a basis for further work on how councils are responding to the reforms in the short, medium and long terms and will contribute to an developing evidence base for future lobbying / policy work. A specific event on poverty in the context of welfare reforms is also being considered and members' input to the shape and content would be welcome.

**Children and Families Bill**

12. The Children and Families Bill has completed its commons Committee Stage and will progress to Report Stage in early June. The Bill is then expected in the House of Lords at the end of the summer sitting.
13. Councils want the very best for children and young people and will have a central role to play in implementing many of the provisions in the Bill. We therefore want to make sure the Bill secures the best outcomes for all our children and young people. Whilst the LGA welcomes many of the provisions in the Bill, we still have a number of concerns about measures in the legislation. In particular:
  - 13.1 We think that the provisions in clause 3 which could allow the Secretary of State for Education to remove councils from the recruitment and assessment of adopters are unnecessary, heavy-handed and risky.
  - 13.2 We are also concerned that the Bill may not maximise the opportunity to reform the Special Educational Needs (SEN) system because it does not put measures for sufficient accountability in place. As it stands, the Bill means that local authorities will be held to account for organisations over which they have no control, particularly health bodies. We also want to ensure that provision surrounding the local SEN offer remain flexible without an increase in central prescription by Whitehall, which would stifle innovation and responsiveness. To make the local SEN offer as effective as possible, we want areas to be free to include the full range of services that help children and young people, including those offered by voluntary and community sector organisations.
14. The Government has already listened to the concerns of the LGA and many other organisations and introduced some duties on health bodies. However, we are concerned that these do not go far enough, particularly in relation to SEN tribunals. The LGA has been working extensively with MPs and other stakeholders to ensure that our

**Item 3**

concerns are addressed and will continue to do so as the legislation progresses. We are seeking amendments to a number of clauses, which we will continue to press in the House of Lords.

**Changes to the local authority role in early years education and childcare**

15. The Department for Education (DfE) has consulted on proposed changes to the local authority role in early years education and childcare, including limiting councils' role in quality improvement and their ability to make local funding arrangements. In the LGA's response to the consultation we outlined a number of concerns including the adverse impact of removing councils' ability to work with providers to drive up quality and reducing their ability to carry out a market enabling role to ensure sufficient childcare to meet local needs.
16. As part of our lobbying work we held a joint roundtable with the National Day Nursery Association to discuss the proposed changes. The roundtable was well attended with representation from the Department for Education (DfE), Cabinet Office, ADCS, think tanks, local authorities and providers. There was widespread agreement that councils play a valuable quality improvement role in working with providers. There were real concerns from both providers and councils that removing this role would adversely affect quality and sufficiency of provision, especially with smaller or weaker providers.
17. Providers and local authorities shared concerns around the capacity of Ofsted and their ability to offer on-going quality improvement support, especially without the on-going relationship that councils currently have with providers. There was a debate about funding and it was clear that a simple system was favoured by all, with varied views on whether to achieve this locally or nationally. Providers were very clear that they need to be funded at higher rates; coupled with potentially removing councils' support to them, they are concerned smaller organisations may well be untenable as a business.
18. The LGA also responded to Ofsted's current "good early years for all" consultation which set out proposals to strengthen inspection in early years and give Ofsted a stronger role in driving improvement in Early Years provision. We clarified that councils do not carry out an inspection role but work with providers to drive up quality. We set out our concerns around Ofsted's capacity and experience to deliver both a new inspection framework and cycle, as well as taking over new responsibilities for working with providers on quality improvement. Furthermore, if local funding arrangements are to become so heavily linked to funding as proposed, we made clear the importance of Ofsted strengthening their dialogue with councils in their role as local commissioner.

**. National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER)**

19. Since the last report to the Board, the National Foundation for Educational Research reported on projects including: an analysis of Academy schools by local authority; GCSE analysis of Academy and other school types; local authority use of intervention powers; how Ofsted measures relate to academic progress between key stage 2 and

**Item 3**

key stage 4 in English schools; a review on the longer term impact on life chances for looked after children; and the evaluation of sector-led improvement and support peer challenge. It continues to work on the local impact of EFA 16-19 commissioning which is due to report in the autumn and will begin work on the 2013 Councillor Census in August 2013. The longitudinal study exploring the longer term impact of safeguarding children peer reviews, jointly funded by LGA and CIB, will draw to an early close at the end of May with the closure of the CIB.

**National Youth Agency (NYA)**

20. The NYA is delivering eight packages of consultancy through the extension of the Routes to Success programme. Areas involved are: Cornwall; Blackburn; Bury; Enfield; Oldham; Kirklees; Isle of Wight and the North West Region. Local authorities have indicated that they want assistance in a number of areas including evidencing the impact of services, the involvement of young people in commissioning as well as assistance in a review of services offered. It continues to maintain the Supporting Services for Young People community on the Knowledge Hub which has over 550 members.
21. In the light of changes to the funding arrangements with the LGA, the NYA is exploring ways in which it can continue to maintain the strategic relationship. Two LGA-nominated trustees continue to sit on the NYA Executive Board and discussions are in progress about how the excellent relationship, built over two decades, can continue.

**Adopter recruitment**

22. In January the Government published 'Further Action on Adoption: Finding more loving homes'. This set out the adopter shortage challenge and the Government's proposed solution: removing adopter recruitment, assessment and approval from local government. The paper called on the sector to present alternative proposals. However, in parallel a clause has been included in the Children and Families Bill giving the Secretary of State the power to remove adopter recruitment from an individual authority or all of local government. The LGA is also lobbying strongly against the clause in the Bill as it progresses through Parliament
23. The LGA, in partnership with the Society of Local Authority Chief Executives (SOLACE) and ADCS, developed a set of actions to remove disincentives in the system and support councils to improve adopter recruitment. This includes encouraging councils to raise the inter-authority adoption fee to the same as the fee paid to voluntary adoption agencies, in order that councils can better recover their costs when recruiting adopters that are then used by another authority. The LGA has also committed to a series of actions to support elected members.
24. In April the ADCS has published the results of a survey of its members which provided more up-to-date information than that held by the Department for Education. This

**Item 3**

showed that the number of children placed for adoption has nearly doubled in the last year, demonstrating the progress being made by local authorities..

**Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)**

25. CSE remains a high profile issue, with further cases coming to court receiving a lot of media and public attention. The LGA has provided support to the sector, including briefings, an effective practice publication and a 'key questions' document for lead members for children's services. In February, we ran a successful conference on CSE, at which we launched a 'National Conversation'. This invited councils, voluntary organisations and others to feed in views about how councils could best raise awareness of CSE. This is informing an online resource for councils, which will be launched at the LGA Annual Conference in July. It will share and signpost existing materials to help raise awareness, such as training packs and leaflets alongside new case studies.

**Commissioning of children's homes**

26. The LGA has commissioned the Office of Public Management (OPM) to carry out action research to help councils understand how to achieve more effective commissioning of children's homes. OPM will work with a group of local authorities to identify the challenges around analysing need, matching need and supply, and quality assurance and monitoring and then provide them with support to develop solutions.
27. The local authorities involved represent a range of types of authority including different types of market place and those who are net exporters and importers. They are: Bradford, Darlington, Derbyshire, Shropshire, Lincolnshire, Kent, Haringey, Hertfordshire, Salford and Bury. A final report and analysis of findings will be launched late Summer.

**Schools' Funding**

28. As previously reported to the Board, following concern expressed by the LGA and a number of authorities about the new schools funding formula, DfE published a review document on 12th February; the closing date for which was 26th March. We understand from DfE that a response is due to be published end of May or the beginning of June. This is expected to focus on more flexibility, such as changes to the factors on prior attainment; pupil mobility, the lump sum and the possible inclusion of sparsity measures which may give more flexibility, for example on small schools.
29. We have also been in touch with DfE with reference to the 2012/13 LACSEG refund; this follows the court case on the 2011/12 top-slice. Members will recall that a refund of £58m was paid in July 2012; with the DfE promising to pay a refund for 2012/13 once pupil numbers for January 2013 were available. Officers understand that DfE do now have the information that they require and that an announcement is expected soon. If there is an update on these items by the time of the meeting, it will be given verbally.



## **High Needs Funding**

30. New figures for the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) include over £46 million<sup>1</sup> additional funding for councils for post-16 high needs students, which from 2013/14 brings together the post-16 SEN Block Grant, funding for specialist placements and the costs of high cost students in Further Education.
31. The LGA voiced strong concerns that councils should not face a shortfall because of the changes and kept up the pressure for councils to be allowed to submit bids for funding for high needs students and we stressed the need for the data to be accurate and up to date. The DfE has said that that 124 out of 152 local authorities will see an increase in funding for young people resident in their area compared with 2011/12, and no authority will see a reduction over 2011/12.
32. The High Needs Block is a single block for local authorities high needs pupils/students aged 0-24. For 2013-14, the Block has been calculated in two parts, pre-16 and 16-24 (those aged 19-24 are the responsibility, for funding, of the home local authority where the student has a Learning Difficulty Assessment, or an Education and Healthcare Plan).
33. The pre-16 calculation is based on the amounts agreed in the 2012-13 baseline exercise and reflects the cross-border changes made in order to end inter-authority recoupmnt. It also includes the funding identified as hospital education. We have added the amount for growth in High Needs places in 2013-14 as certified by each local authority.
34. For pre-16 provision, the DSG allocations include all place based funding for maintained schools, academies and Non-Maintained Special Schools (NMSS) . Place funding for special academies, new mainstream academies (those opening from April 2013) and NMSS will be paid direct to the institutions by the EFA from April 2013. Existing mainstream academies will not start on the new placed based system until September 2013. Adjustments have been made to DSG for the places to be funded direct by the EFA as follows:
  - 34.1 £3,333 per place in special academies and resourced provision/ special units in academies for April 2013-July 2013.
  - 34.2 £6,667 per non-post 16 place in special academies and resourced provision/ special units in academies for August 2013-March 2014.
  - 34.3 £8,000 per place in PRU and AP academies; and
  - 34.4 Hospital place budget for hospital places in academies.

---

<sup>1</sup> \*£46,401,716 – (£28,730,298 for data revisions and £17,671,419 for bids)

### **16-24 High Needs Provision**

35. The new system for funding high needs pupils will not be introduced for post-16 students until August 2013. As such, the funding has been added in two parts:
- 35.1 SEN Block Grant for the period April - July 2013. This reflects 1/3rd of the 2012/13 academic year funding for post-16 high needs in schools, currently paid via the SEN Block grant to local authorities. This will enable local authorities to continue funding for these students for the remainder of the academic year.
- 35.2 Funding for the period August 2013 - March 2014. The place led funding (calculated using the post-16 national funding formula plus £6,000) for all institutions will be paid direct by the EFA as part of the post-16 formula. For maintained schools it will form part of the post-16 allocations made to local authorities for their schools. Therefore, this element of the DSG is intended to cover top up funding for ALL 16-24 high needs student placements commissioned by local authorities in maintained schools, academies, NMSS, Colleges of Further Education and Independent Specialist Providers (ISPs). The local authority will also need to fund the full costs of any places it commissions from independent schools or any other provider not directly funded by the EFA.
36. The DSG table of allocations and operational guidance are now available at:  
<http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/adminandfinance/financialmanagement/schoolsvenuefunding/a00218077/funding-settlement-2013-14>

**Item 4**

**Note of decisions taken and actions required**

---

**Title:** Children and Young People  
**Date:** Wednesday 27 March 2013  
**Venue:** Westminster Room, Local Government House, Smith Square, London SW1P 3HZ

---

**Attendance**

<b>Position</b>	<b>Councillor</b>	<b>Council / Representing</b>
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**

Paul Carter	Kent CC
Susie Charles	Lancashire CC
Patricia Bradwell	Lincolnshire CC
Anne Burns	Cumbria 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**

Roy Perry	Hampshire CC
Peter Evans	West Sussex CC
Dominic Gillham	Hillingdon LB
Richard Watts	Islington LB
Peter Downes OBE	Cambridgeshire CC

**Apologies**

John Osman	Somerset CC
David Pugh	Isle of Wight Council
Jude Robinson	Cornwall CC
Robert Light	Kirklees MBC
Kath Pinnock	Kirklees MBC

**Officers:** Sally Burlington, Mike Heiser, Justine Wharton, Verity Sinclair

**Item 4**

Item	Decisions and actions	Action by
------	-----------------------	-----------

The Chairman welcomed all those present and opened the meeting with introductions.

**1. LGA work on a new model for local government – Children and Adult Social Care proposals**

Cllr David Simmonds introduced the report and asked members for their comments on the draft children’s safeguarding and social care paper.

Members discussed the importance of developing a grown up relationship between local and central government and emphasised that the paper should speak about national government empowering local government. Members felt that a more integrated system is needed with councils having greater influence over partners.

In discussion members made a number of other points including:

- Keeping children safe should be included in the list of key requirements in the paper.
- Differing council standards making devolution more complicated as government tends to legislate for the lowest common denominator. The importance of sector-led improvement was highlighted.
- The reduction in central grants and the prevention of local government raising its own funds lead to a mismatch between government expectation and funding.
- The extent to which Health and Wellbeing Boards have children’s health on their agenda.
- The importance of focusing on vital preventative and early intervention in order to improve outcomes and reduce future demand on services. The impact of reduction in the Early Intervention Grant was noted and community budget approaches were discussed as a way of improving services at a time of less resources
- The need to demonstrate the value of local delivery of services and recognise that there will be different solutions in different areas.

**Decision**

Members noted the report.

**Action**

Officers to incorporate comments from members into the next draft of the Children’s safeguarding and social care paper.

Sally  
Burlington/Liz  
Hobson/  
Cassandra  
Harrison

**Item 4**

**2. Early Years and childcare: a changing landscape**

Cllr David Simmonds introduced the report explaining there were many challenges to childcare and the LGA is looking for members' views on a number of points. These included, how councils could encourage schools to provide wrap around care, the challenges faced by councils in providing childcare to children with Special Educational Needs and disabilities, how to make childcare more affordable, whether councils had experienced issues getting the funding from the dedicated schools grant and what the effects of removing councils market enabling role would be on quality and sufficiency.

Members discussed a number of issues including:

- The importance of making a business case to school governors of the potential increased revenue from opening up their provision for wrap around childcare. It was felt the LGA could best add value in helping share good practice where schools are providing wrap around childcare with National Governor's Association.
- A number of members were concerned that Ofsted's proposed new role in the improvement of schools alongside inspection would mean they could no longer be seen as independent arbitrators.
- The market role in childcare was discussed; with many members feeling local government need to continue to provide a market enabling role to ensure sufficiency and quality especially in rural areas.
- Government funding for childcare was considered, with members debating whether more funding was needed or local government should be spending the current amounts of funding differently.
- Affordability of childcare was mentioned, with some members commenting the current system felt as if it was inversely means tested as the more you spent the more money off you received. It was also raised that the LGA need to make sure the details of the childcare offer for those on Universal Credit is fit for purpose.
- There was a discussion on children's centres with varying perspectives on whether they are most effective in supporting the most vulnerable as a universal offer or targeting on the most needy. Good practice approaches from various councils were highlighted and will feed into the LGA's good practice publication on children's centres.
- The merits of the Scandinavian system of childcare were discussed with particular focus on children's learning. It was suggested that this may be an interesting model for potential research.

**Decision**

Members noted the report.

**Action**

Officers to action as directed.

Justine  
Wharton

**Item 4**

**3. Children and Young People Research and Commissioning**

Cllr David Simmonds explained that in light of the new agreement by the LGA Leadership Board to replace grants funded by the Revenue Support Grant (RSG) topslice, to the National Youth Agency (NYA) and the National Foundation for Education Research (NFER) with a fully commissioned model, the board was being asked to put forward possible ideas for priority areas for funding.

Members suggested a number of potential research areas including:

- The longer term impact of fostering and adoption.
- The Swedish Childcare model.
- How to provide careers advice to improve upon the shortage of skills.
- The social inclusion of looked after children, looking at national best practice.
- The impact of being born in the summer months on children.
- Troubled families and early intervention.

There were a number of discussions held about the best way to spend the commissioning money. Concerns were raised that all the money would be spent on research alone and it was suggested that grassroots work done directly with councils, such as that done by the NYA is also of significant value. Another view put forward was that the LGA's lobbying and policy work would benefit from stronger research, perhaps focusing on a small number of issues in depth.

Some members raised the risk of duplicating studies already being done in the voluntary sector and suggested the LGA worked closely with charities and universities when commissioning this work.

It was noted that the research and support commissioning budget may be subject to change in light of wider LGA budgetary considerations.

Cllr David Simmonds proposed that rather than coming up with too many ideas it might be best to only commission in 3 or 4 broad areas which would be based on the priorities of the board. Which projects to commission would be discussed at the office holders meeting and 3 or 4 ideas would be brought back to the board for approval.

**Decision**

Members agreed to refer the decision on research commissioning topics to the office holders meeting.

**Action**

Officers to action as directed.

Ian Keating

**Item 4**

**4. Education and Children's Services Funding**

The LGA's response to the Review of 2013-14 school funding arrangements was circulated at the meeting.

Members voiced their agreement with the submission with many noting that the main problem was the government restricting local government freedom and the cuts to funding.

There were also concerns raised that despite the rhetoric that there was no financial advantage to being an academy, academies were getting more funding per pupil. Academies running at less than full capacity was also mentioned, along with reductions in the top slice funding for local authorities.

Delays to the PFI programme were discussed with a number of members stating their dissatisfaction with the slowness of the government's school building and repair programme.

**Decision**

Members noted the report

**Action**

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

Mike Heiser

**5. Other Business Report**

Members discussed the leadership academy and were encouraged to go if they had not yet attended.

Members also discussed the NYA report and there was further discussion on how to spend the research money.

**Decision**

Members noted the report

**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

# 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](mailto:info@local.gov.uk)

Website: [www.local.gov.uk](http://www.local.gov.uk)

## Public transport

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

- 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](http://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](http://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](http://www.westminster.gov.uk/parking)

