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Outside Bodies Report – 2013/14

Purpose of report

For approval.

Summary

This report details the Local Government Association's (LGA) appointment process for outside bodies and sets out a refreshed list of bodies and LGA structures to which the Children and Young People Board will be asked to appoint to for the 2013/14 meeting cycle.

Recommendations

1. The Board is asked to note the procedure for making appointments to outside bodies as outlined in **Appendix A** and agree the list of bodies/LGA structures set out at **Appendix B** to which the Children and Young People Board will appoint to for the 2013/14 meeting cycle.
2. Members interested in representing the Board on any of the bodies/LGA structures listed in **Appendix B** are asked to put their names forward to the political groups for consideration.

Action

Appointments will be reported to the September Children and Young People Board for their information and to the October Executive for endorsement.

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Appointments to Outside Bodies – 2013/14

Background

1. The Local Government Association (LGA) currently benefits from a wide network of member representatives on outside bodies across a wide range of the LGA member structures.
2. In July 2009, the LGA Executive agreed a procedure for appointments to outside bodies to govern and monitor this network. The procedure, attached at **Appendix A**, sets out that all appointments to outside bodies are reviewed on an annual basis across the organisation to ensure that the aims and activities of those outside bodies remain pertinent to the LGA.

Review and Appointment Process

3. The first stage of this process was undertaken in May 2013. All outside bodies to which the LGA made appointments to in 2012/13 were asked to complete a questionnaire to inform the review process. Likewise, the LGA's representative(s) on each body for 2012/13 were asked to provide their views about future LGA representation on the organisation in question.
4. Using the feedback received from the outside bodies and LGA representatives, individual Boards are required to review their appointments to external organisations to take account of bodies that have been abolished, new organisations that have been created and the LGA's priorities as set out in the 2013/14 Business Plan.
5. For the July meeting cycle, all Boards are required to agree a refreshed list of outside bodies/LGA structures that they will appoint to for the 2013/14 meeting cycle. Appointments to these bodies/LGA structures will then be reported to the Board in September and submitted to the October meeting of Executive for endorsement.

Children and Young People Board Arrangements

6. Using the principles detailed in paragraph 4, Officers have reviewed the list of outside bodies to which the Children and Young People Board appointed members to for the 2012/13 year. As a result of this review, a refreshed list of bodies is attached at **Appendix B** for approval.
7. Members interested in being the Board's representative on any of the named bodies/structures set out in **Appendix B** are asked to put their name forward at the meeting or subsequently in writing to the political groups.
8. Appointments will be made in line with the LGA Political Conventions which state that:

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“Every effort will be made to ensure that all groups recognised by the Association are fairly represented on outside bodies both numerically and in terms of the range/type of appointments made. Each Board or Panel responsible for making appointments should agree the means by which this is achieved ... Appointments to individual outside bodies should reflect political balance where possible, subject to the constraints set by the number of appointments to individual bodies.”

9. The political groups will put forward nominations for the outside bodies for each appointment. These will then be approved by the lead members on the Board for each of the political groups and reported to the September meeting.

Next Steps

10. Following the receipt of nominations and selection process set out in paragraph 9, the September Children and Young People Board will receive a report confirming the nominated members to the refreshed list of outside bodies for the duration of the 2013/14 meeting cycle.
11. This list of Children and Young People Board appointments will be submitted to the October Executive as the body responsible for overseeing all LGA appointments to outside bodies.

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Appendix A

Procedure for LGA appointments to outside bodies

1. List of Outside Bodies

1.1 It is the responsibility of the Boards to review the need for representation on outside bodies as part of their annual appointments process. Boards should:

- Ensure that the list of outside bodies reflects LGA priorities, both by ending appointments where these are not felt to be of value and by actively seeking representation on new organisations;
- Evaluate both the value of the LGA's relationship with the organisation and the level of LGA influence on that body; and
- Have consideration of when it is necessary to appoint a member representative and when an officer appointment would be more appropriate.

1.2 The Boards will submit a report to LGA Executive setting out their current list of outside bodies every year in October.

2. Political Proportionality

2.1 As stated in the LGA Political Conventions:

Every effort will be made to ensure that all groups recognised by the Association are fairly represented on outside bodies both numerically and in terms of the range/type of appointments made. Each Board or Panel responsible for making appointments should agree the means by which this is achieved ... Appointments to individual outside bodies should reflect political balance where possible, subject to the constraints set by the number of appointments to individual bodies.

2.2. While the Boards are responsible for ensuring appointments are made in accordance with the LGA's political proportionality, the political group offices have oversight of this process through:

- a) Considering individual appointments in the context of all appointments to outside bodies across the organisation.
- b) Maintaining lists of members of Boards and other councillors willing to serve on outside bodies, together with details of their particular skills and experience.
- c) Discussing nominations to outside bodies with their members at the political group meetings preceding September Board meetings.
- d) Being kept informed of any additional appointments that arise during the course of the board cycle.
- e) Finding a representative if a Board is unable to secure an appointment.

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3. Appointments

- 3.1 It is the responsibility of each Board to review their current list of Outside Body appointments. In July, each Board must approve an updated list of Outside Bodies for appointment for the forthcoming meeting cycle.
- 3.2 Appointments will be agreed by each Board at their September meeting and will be time limited – set according to the outside body's governance arrangements.
- 3.3 The Member Services PSO will then write to each organisation notifying them of the appointment.
- 3.4 Certain appointments are made centrally and appointments are also made by LGE to negotiating bodies and by the European and International Unit. While the process for making these appointments will be different, this information will be recorded on the central database and the same requirements for review and for support to members apply.

4. Recording information about appointments

- 4.1 A database of existing outside body appointments will be maintained centrally by the member support team, to include:
- Councillor details, including political party;
 - Term of Office;
 - A key contact at the organisation;
 - Any allowances or expenses paid by the outside body; and
 - Named LGA link officer.
- 4.2 The Member Services team will add details of the appointment to the notes on the appointed councillor's CRM entry and on the organisation's CRM entry.
- 4.3 The list of Outside Bodies, broken down by Board, will be published on the LGA website and details will also be added to each member's web profile. The Member Services team has responsibility for ensuring this is kept up to date.
- 4.4 This list will also include any 'member champions' – board members appointed to hold a particular portfolio area of responsibility within the LGA, for example the European and International Champions on each Board.

5. LGA support for members appointed to Outside Bodies

- 5.1 Members appointed to outside bodies must receive support from LGA officers in order to maximise their contributions to outside bodies, including being kept informed of key LGA lobbying messages. Support will therefore be provided in line with the following Scrutiny Panel recommendations, agreed by the LGA in 2003:

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- For each Board making appointments to outside bodies, there should be a designated LGA member of staff to oversee the appointment process for that executive, including the provision of introductory briefing for new appointees.
 - A named member of staff should be appointed as the liaison person for each outside body.
 - Each Board should consider the need for induction support for appointees in relation to particular outside bodies.
 - Where deputies or substitute representatives are appointed, they should also be made aware of arrangements for support and report back.
 - Details of any financial support from either the LGA or the outside body should be provided for all appointees.
- 5.2 Member Services PSO will oversee the appointment process and in most cases will be the liaison officer for outside bodies linked to their Boards; however, in certain cases it may be more appropriate for a Policy Adviser to act as the liaison.
- 5.3 Member Services PSOs will ensure that appointees receive a letter setting out the details of the appointment, term of office, future meeting dates, arrangements for expenses and the contact details of both the organisation's named contact and the LGA's link officer.
- 5.4 New appointees will receive an initial briefing on the work of the outside body and relevant LGA lobbying messages from the link officer and will also be kept informed of any arising policy issues and of other LGA contact with the organisation.
- 6. Mechanisms for feedback**
- 6.1 All appointees should be encouraged to provide updates to the link officer following meetings and when important issues arise.
- 6.2 All appointees, including non-board members, should be encouraged to feed into board 'other business' reports every 2 months. Appointees who are not board members may also wish to attend a board meeting to report back.
- 6.3 Towards the end of each year, all appointees will be contacted by the Member Services PSO and invited to feed back their views of the appointment, in preparation for the Boards' annual review of appointments. This should cover how many meetings they have attended, how useful they feel their role has been, whether they wish to continue and whether they have any additional support needs.
- 6.4 The named contact at the outside body should also be contacted annually to confirm details of attendance, provide an update on any changes and details of forthcoming meeting dates.

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Appendix B

Children and Young People Board Outside Bodies for appointment to for 2013/14

Organisation/contact details	Number of places	Background
<u>Membership Forum National Children's Bureau</u>	1 place Current representative: Cllr Richard Watts (Lab)	NCB are one of our strategic partners as members of the children's inter-agency group.
<u>National Foundation of Education Research</u>	1 place Current representative: Cllr Paul Lakin (Lab)	Their overall mission is to contribute to improving education and training nationally and internationally by undertaking research, development and dissemination activities and by providing information services
<u>National Youth Agency</u>	2 places Current representatives: Cllr Ken Meeson (Con) Cllr Apu Bagchi (Ind)	Aim to advance youth work to promote young people's personal and social development, and their voice, influence and place in society
<u>British Agency for Adoption and Fostering</u>	1 place Current representative: Representative stood down	Works for children separated from their birth families. It has four main roles. 1. Supports improvements in practice; 2 Raises public and professional awareness of issues affecting looked after children; 3 Advocacy and influencing policy makers; 4 supports child placements.
<u>Education Forum</u>	2 places Current representatives: Cllr John Merry CBE (Lab) Cllr David Bellotti (Lib Dem)	The purpose of the Education Forum is to engage its members in the implementation of DfE policy, particularly its implications for the school workforce. The Forum discusses the Government's priorities and is a bi-monthly forum for professional organisations representing the school workforce and their employers

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		to work together with DfE.
<p><u>Children's Improvement Board</u></p> <p>Please see future plans under agenda item 3</p>	<p>2 places</p> <p>Current representatives:</p> <p>Cllr David Simmonds (Con)</p> <p>Cllr Rita Krishna (Lab)</p>	<p>The Children's Improvement Board (CIB) is a partnership between the LGA, the Association of Directors of Children's Services (ADCS) and the Society of Local Authority Chief Executives (SOLACE).</p>
<p><u>Social Work Reform Board</u></p>	<p>1 place</p> <p>Current representatives:</p> <p>Cllr Susie Charles (Con)</p>	<p>The Social Work Reform Board is implementing the recommendations made by the Social Work Task Force to improve the quality of social work.</p>
<p><u>Board of Trustees Early Intervention Foundation</u></p>	<p>1 place</p> <p>Current representatives:</p> <p>Cllr David Simmonds (Con)</p>	<p>The Early Intervention Foundation aims to build a strong evidence base on the effectiveness of different programmes of early intervention and to support local commissioners.</p>
<p><u>LA Reference Group</u></p>	<p>1 Place</p> <p>Cllr David Simmonds (Con)</p>	<p>The LA reference group will be a small group of around 10 people also including representatives from ADCS and SOLCACE. Its purpose will be to build good working relationships between local government and ministers. Holding detailed sector led discussions and helping to improve relationships between councils and national government.</p>