

Children and Young People Board

Agenda

Wednesday 17 July 2013
11.00 am

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

www.local.gov.uk

This meeting is



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LGA Children and Young People Board

16 July 2013

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

11.00am on Wednesday 17 July in the Westminster Suite (8th floor), Local Government House, Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ. Lunch will be available at 12pm 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
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

Verity Sinclair Tel: 020 7664 3173, e-mail: verity.sinclair@local.gov.uk

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Children and Young People Board

Date: 08.05.13

Children and Young People Board - Membership 2012/2013

Councillor	Authority
Conservative (8)	
David Simmonds [Chairman]	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*	
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
Vacancy*	
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
*Lost their seats 02.05.13	

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

LGA Children and Young People Board Attendance 2012-2013

Councillors	05.09.12	25.10.12	21.01.13	27.03.13	28.05.13	
Conservative Group						
David Simmonds	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Paul Carter	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	
David Pugh	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	N/a	
Robert Light	Yes	No	No	No	No	
Susie Charles	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Liz Hacket Pain	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	
John Osman	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	
Patricia Bradwell	NA	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	
Labour Group						
Rita Krishna	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
John Merry CBE	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Paul Lakin	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Anne Burns	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Nick Forbes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	
Jude Robinson	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	N/a	
Lib Dem Group						
David Bellotti	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Liz Green	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Kath Pinnock	Yes	No	No	No	No	
Independent						
Apu Bagchi	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Substitutes						
Roy Perry	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	
Peter Evans	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	
Dominic Gilham	Yes		Yes	Yes		
Richard Watts	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		
Rachel Heywood	Yes					
Paul Watling		Yes				
Peter Downes OBE				Yes		
Neil Burden					Yes	

Agenda

Children and Young People Board

Wednesday 17 July 2013

11.00am

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

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As part of an all-day induction event, Members new to a portfolio in Children's Services have been invited to observe this board meeting and to attend group meetings. To facilitate the induction session, the Board meeting will be shorter than usual and new portfolio holders are invited to attend lunch with Board members from 12 until 12.40.	
1. Presentation by Dr Maggie Atkinson, Children's Commissioner for England	3
Dr Maggie Atkinson will be speaking to the board about her role as the Children's Commissioner, mainly focusing on her current/ recent inquiries on topics including Child Sexual Exploitation and School Exclusions. This will be followed by a question and answer session.	
2. End of year review 2012/13	7
3. Future arrangements to sector-led improvement for Children's Services	11
4. Appointments to Outside Bodies 2013/14	17
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6. Note of the last meeting	37
7. Next Meeting: 10 September 2013, Local Government House	

Close

12:00pm

Presentation by Dr Maggie Atkinson, Children's Commissioner for England

Purpose of report

To provide background information for the session with Dr Maggie Atkinson, the Children's Commissioner for England, who will address the board followed by questions and a discussion.

Summary

Maggie Atkinson is the Children's Commissioner for England, a post established by the Children Act 2004. She is the second post holder in this role, which enables her to promote and protect the rights of the child, and to encourage children and young people, families, opinion shapers, policy makers and practitioners to do the same. The Office of the Children's Commissioner (OCC) is England's only statutory independent champion for children and young people.

Recommendation

This report is for information.

Action

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

Contact officers: Ian Keating
Position: Senior Adviser, Children and Young People
Phone no: 0207 664 3032
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Dr Maggie Atkinson speaking to the Board

Background

1. Dr Maggie Atkinson has been Children's Commissioner for England since March 2010. As Children's Commissioner she has a duty to promote the views and interests of all children in England, in particular those whose voices are least likely to be heard, to the people who make decisions about their lives. She also has a duty to speak on behalf of all children in the UK on non-devolved issues which include immigration, for the whole of the UK, and youth justice, for England and Wales.
2. Her office's team has helped to prompt policy and practice changes for asylum seeking and refugee children, children in contact with social care, the family courts and other vital services, those excluded from school, in conflict with the law, or struggling with mental and emotional health difficulties.
3. She is now leading the Office of the Children's Commissioner through the strengthening of its role and remit that will follow from legislative change being made during 2013-14. The proposed legislation brings together the current Office of the Children's Commissioner and Office of the Children's Rights Director into a new single body. This will build on the strengths and impact of the work of both organisations to ensure all children - particularly the most vulnerable and marginalised - are treated in accordance with domestic law, the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, and other international instruments and conventions.

Key Functions of the Children's Commissioner

4. Maggie has led the Office of the Children's Commissioner in a period when its influence has continued to increase, leading to positive changes in the life chances of England's children and young people, especially the most vulnerable and marginalised among them.
5. One of the Children's Commissioner's key functions is encouraging organisations that provide services for children always to operate from the child's perspective. Under the Children Act 2004, the Children's Commissioner is required both to publish what she finds from talking and listening to children and young people, and to draw national policymakers' and agencies' attention to the particular circumstances of a child or small group of children which should inform both policy and practice.
6. The Children's Commissioner has a statutory duty to highlight where she believes vulnerable children are not being treated appropriately and in line with duties established under international and domestic legislation. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) underpins and frames all of her work.

Current Inquiries of the Office of the Children's Commissioner

7. The Office of the Children's Commissioner is currently leading two national inquiries:

The School Exclusions Inquiry

- 7.1 The School Exclusions Inquiry has now published three reports on: the entirety of the exclusions system and how it can be improved; reducing inequalities in exclusions; and on illegal school exclusions. It has also produced a film explaining children's rights around exclusions to them and their families. This is available on the front page of the Children's Commissioner website:

<http://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/>

The Inquiry into the sexual exploitation of children and young people in gangs and groups

- 7.2 The Inquiry into the sexual exploitation of children and young people in gangs and groups has published four reports: an accelerated report for the Secretary of State for Education on emerging findings from the Inquiry with a focus on children in care; the interim report of the Inquiry which provided the most accurate and up-to-date figures on the number of children being sexually exploited in groups and gangs and those at risk of sexual exploitation; interim findings from research being undertaken for the Inquiry into what it is like for children being raised in gang involved neighbourhoods; and also research on the impact on young people of viewing pornography. The final report of the Inquiry is scheduled for publication in November.
8. In addition to the above Inquiries, over the past year the Office of the Children's Commissioner has worked and reported on: children in the asylum and immigration system; children in the youth justice and mental health systems; children in care; safeguarding issues; children's complaints systems; more general children's rights issues and in particular children's rights impact assessments of key government Bills.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications for the LGA arising from this report

Item 2

End of year review 2012/13

Purpose of report

For information.

Summary

All Boards have been asked to take an end of year report to their July meeting, looking at the key Board achievements of the year and reflecting on the big issues ahead. The report will also be considered by the LGA Executive Committee on 18 July.

Recommendation

That the report be noted.

Action

No further action is required.

Contact officer: Ian Keating
Position: Senior Advisor, Children and Young People
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Item 2

CYP end of year review

Introduction

Below is an outline of the key areas of activity and success by the CYP Board over the year and a look to the future priorities for next year.

Education

1. The year saw continued progress on clarifying and fleshing out the council role in an education system with greater school autonomy and increasing numbers of academies. DfE/LGA action research on the council role in education was launched at Annual Conference last year and has strongly influenced debate about the need for a continuing strong, strategic council role in education.
2. We held expert seminars on the council role in school place planning, admissions and school improvement. Case study reports on council support for school improvement and supporting early intervention through children's centres were published for this year's Annual Conference. We are providing sector led support for 24 councils to improve their tracking and recording of young people in post 16 learning in preparation for the raising of the age of participation in education this year.
3. Our work on the unfair 'academies top slice' from councils to fund over-generous payments to academies for central services resulted in a £94m refund in 2012/13, shared by 101 authorities. This is on top of a £58m refund for 2011/12. LGA lobbying to ensure that councils did not face a financial shortfall due to significant changes to funding for high needs students resulted in £46m additional DfE funding for councils for 2013/14.
4. Significant reform to school funding continued, with the LGA response to the review of last years' funding changes highlighting the volatility they had caused and their effect on small rural schools. In response, the DfE agreed to introduce a new sparsity factor and changes to the 'lump sum' for primary and secondary schools to help address these concerns
5. We continued to lobby for additional capital resources to meet sharply increasing demand for school places and to fix the growing backlog of school repairs. An additional £1bn of capital for school places was announced in this year's Budget, bringing the total commitment over this Spending Review period to £5bn. The recent Spending Review announced investment of more than £21 billion of capital for schools over the next Parliament, including a promise to rebuild 150 schools two years earlier than planned by 2017 as part of the Priority School Building Programme. Following LGA lobbying, DfE announced £100m capital funding for early years places in September 2012.
6. The Spending Review also announced that the Education Services Grant, which pays for central services to schools, will be cut by 20 % and that a fair national funding formula for schools will be introduced in 2015-16, following a consultation period in the autumn. Lobbying on these two issues to is likely to be the focus of LGA work on Education in the coming year.

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Children's services

7. Child sexual exploitation has become increasingly high profile in the last year. The LGA held a successful conference on tackling child sexual exploitation in February, at which we launched a 'National Conversation' consultation exercise, which was supported by major national charities. This informed the development of resources to help councils to raise awareness of this abuse, including briefings, training materials, case studies and communications advice. Assessing its impact and providing further support to councils, along with influencing the policy, political and media debate on this issue will be a continued priority into next year.
8. The LGA influenced the DfE's proposals for reform of residential children's homes, including a greater council role in decisions about where new homes can be located. We also began an action research project with 10 councils to help improve strategic commissioning of children's homes. Feedback from councils has been very positive and a final report sharing learning and recommendations with the wider sector and stakeholders will be published at an event in September.
9. Adoption has remained a key focus and the LGA produced a sector-led plan for improving adopter recruitment in partnership with ADCS and SOLACE. We have lobbied strongly in partnership with the voluntary sector against provisions in the Children and Families Bill which would enable councils to be removed from adopter recruitment and assessment. Our concerns were referenced during the Parliamentary process to date and securing amendments will be a priority in the next year as the Bill moves into the House of Lords.
10. Other work has included securing, as part of a consortium, £3.5 million to establish an Early Intervention Foundation to provide support to councils; running a Corporate Parenting Week, highlighting how councils help children in care; helping set up a Children and Young People's Health and Wellbeing Partnership to make sure that children's health is given a high priority in the new public health duties transferred to councils this year; influenced the Children and Young People's Health Outcomes Forum's report; and held monthly conferences and toolkits focusing on how councils can tackle key public health issues for children, young people and adults including teenage pregnancy and mental health.

Children's Improvement Board (CIB)

11. The CIB programme provided support of some kind to all children's services authorities over the last year. Leadership academies for Lead Members got high satisfaction ratings; timely support to councils at risk had a positive impact on inspection findings and prevented them falling into formal intervention; and evaluation of sector-led improvement by LGA showed high levels of confidence among DCSs and lead members.
12. DfE announced in April that it would cease to fund CIB and its £9 million allocation to the programme was withdrawn. A transitional allocation of one quarter's funding was agreed following LGA lobbying and CIB is now consulting on a legacy programme, to be financed by LGA in future years.

Financial Implications

13. All work programmes are met from existing budgets and resources.

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Future arrangements for sector-led improvement for children's services

Summary

The Children's Improvement Board (CIB), which has been leading sector-led improvement for children's services, had its DfE funding withdrawn in April this year. This report seeks the Board's agreement to the future sector-led improvement programme for children's services and future partnership arrangements between LGA, ADCS and SOLACE. CIB will meet on 12 July and an oral update on discussions at that meeting will be given to the CYP Board.

Recommendation

That the Board agree the proposals for a sector-led offer for children's services and the arrangements for future partnership working.

Action

That LGA staff deliver the future sector-led offer in partnership with ADCS and SOLACE.

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Item 3

Future arrangements for sector-led improvement for children's services

Background

1. In April 2013, the Department for Education announced it would terminate its grant funding to CIB within 3 months. CIB agreed a close down plan and budget for this. The majority of CIB activity will have ceased by the end of July and either be stopped, passed to others or delivered in a reduced format without the need for funding. The programme management functions for CIB have been scaled back and will cease altogether at the end of August. The LGA will take over the programme management arrangements for sector-led improvement for children's services.
2. Regional grants, amounting to about 25 per cent of their proposed 2013-14 allocations, have been paid to all regions in order to cover their own contractual obligations and close down plans. All regions have confirmed their desire to continue with a joint ADCS, LGA and SOLACE approach to regional children's improvement and have developed their own plans to achieve this. In many cases, regions have taken forward existing plans for self-assessment and peer challenge along with the opportunity to link these to other areas of work in the region.

The proposed sector-led offer

3. Since the announcement of the withdrawal of funding, the CIB team and the LGA have consulted with individual local authorities, regions and with ADCS and SOLACE about the future sector-led offer. This has produced consensus around the priorities for a sector-led programme linking to the products already offered by the LGA.
4. In the light of views received, the following key components are recommended to the CYP Board as a sector-led offer to councils from the LGA. These proposals seek to take sector-led improvement forward in a way that is integrated with other national, peer based tools and with the role of LGA Principal Advisers in being the first point of contact with councils on improvement.

Components of the proposed offer

Leadership academy

5. The Leadership Academy pre-dates CIB and is the main way that the LGA supports lead members for children and young people in their crucial and challenging role. Given the importance of the programme to elected members, and the need for sufficient time to plan and market these events, the continuation of the Leadership Academies, free of charge to participants, *has been confirmed* for 2013-14. There will

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be three academies in September, November and January and an event for 'alumni', who have attended previous academies.

Peer challenge and diagnostic tools

6. Regions have re-stated their commitment to peer challenge as a key tool for sector-led improvement and will continue to operate peer challenge programmes and foster robust approaches to self-assessment, drawing on data from LGInform.
7. Two focused diagnostic tools for safeguarding and care have been developed through the CIB programme and can be delivered by the LGA's peer support team. These will replace the current safeguarding peer reviews. The diagnostics are shorter exercises than the safeguarding peer reviews and more focused on front line practice. Diagnostics will be offered free of charge to councils, on the basis of the need identified by the LGA's Principal Advisers. (An adoption diagnostic is also available to councils on a paid for basis; eleven councils have so far decided to purchase this product).

Joint work on leadership

8. It was clear from CIB's discussions with councils that the quality of leadership is fundamental to sector-led improvement. There was concern however that leadership support is delivered separately for the three "constituencies" of DCSs (by the Virtual Staff College, VSC), lead members (by the LGA) and chief executives (by SOLACE) and is not brought together in a coherent way which builds the relationship between these groups. At its meeting on 12 July, CIB will be discussing options for a joint approach to leadership work and an oral update will be given to the board.

Targeted sector support for councils in intervention

9. 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 make provision for specialist advice and support on children's services to councils where Principal Advisers feel this is necessary. The nature of this support will depend in part on continuing discussion with Ofsted about their future role in improvement.

Relationships with regions

10. Establishing and fostering a regional infrastructure has been an important part of CIB's work. This has provided a link between national organisations and individual councils, enabled more efficient use of resources by drawing together different regional programmes and supported stronger relationships both between councils and between DCSs, lead members and chief executives in each region.
11. In the light of this experience, it is proposed that the LGA continues to actively support regional networks of lead members, to maintain a two-way relationship with

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regional programme managers, or their equivalent and to convene meetings of key players from regions as needed.

Future partnership working

12. This will be the subject of discussions at the CIB meeting on 12 July and any further developments will be reported at the meeting.
13. CIB has provided a valuable forum for discussion between LGA, ADCS and SOLACE on improvement. CIB's funding has been withdrawn at a time when the challenges facing local government in delivering high quality services for young people are increasing rather than diminishing and when Ofsted is seeking to extend its role in improvement. LGA, ADCS and SOLACE are committed to continuing to work together to support sector-led improvement and to discuss joint approaches to the improvement of children's services and the role of Ofsted.
14. It is proposed that the LGA support 3 or 4 further CIB meetings during the course of 2013-14 to facilitate these important discussions.

Financial implications

15. The recommended future sector-led offer for 2013-14 and 2014-15 set out in this report can be delivered within the LGA's resources.

Item 4

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.

Contact officer: Verity Sinclair
Position: Programme Officer, Member Services
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Item 4

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>

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

Other business report

Transfer of Public Health commissioning responsibilities for 0-5 year olds to local authorities in 2015.

1. The Children's Health and Wellbeing Partnership (CHWP) met on 19 June for its first official meeting. The LGA is represented by Sally Burlington on this partnership which includes representatives from key bodies in the health sector and local councils. The Department for Education has now joined the CHWP and membership from the body representing Clinical Commissioning Groups is still in progress.

2. Work has begun on 3 of 5 priority areas, set out below:

Effective commissioning:

3. A task and finish group focusing on the safe transfer of 0-5 commissioning to councils has been set up under the CHWP. Membership includes; LGA, SOLACE, ADCS, Department of Health (DH), Public Health England and NHS England. The group is responsible for developing a transition plan and assurance process for Ministerial consideration.

4. The key elements of the transition plan will focus on early planning with local government including:

4.1 a two stage process with a 'light touch' assessment in 2014 to enable early identification of struggling areas and time for local government to respond;

4.2 joint sign off between NHS England, local government and independent parties;

4.3 joint and early communications to both sectors; and

4.4 work by the task and finish group to establish a narrative for the future development of health visiting over the next few years, to ensure services are sustainable.

5. Health Visiting is an extremely high priority for the Government, therefore Ministers will seek a robust assurance process which gives them confidence in a safe transfer of the commissioning of these services to councils in 2015.

6. The issue of whether funds will be available to local authorities for 2014/15 to cover new burdens will be discussed bilaterally between DH and the LGA. A proposition paper will be brought to the next task and finish group meeting in July for consideration and sign off, with a view to taking the proposition to the Minister before summer recess.

7. There are a number of key issues that will need to be taken into consideration to ensure the transition and assurance plans are robust for local authorities. The LGA is working to ensure these issues are considered, these issues include:

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- 7.1 early joint planning with local government through Health and Wellbeing Boards and Children's Partnerships is essential so that commissioning plans for 2013/14 are developed in light of the planned transition in April 2015 to minimise risks;
- 7.2 using the opportunities from the transfer of 0-5 public health services and commissioning for Health Visitors to improve early intervention by linking up more holistically to wider local systems and ensuring services are sustainable; and
- 7.3 ensuring that there is sufficient funding transferred to local authorities from NHS England and that this is communicated early to local authorities so they can plan effectively, especially at a time when some local authorities may be undergoing service reconfiguration as a result of funding cuts.

Early Intervention, Identification and Prevention:

8. A full work programme is being developed. However, partners agreed a cross departmental approach on early intervention issues will be taken by the CHWP and it will engage with the Early Intervention Foundation (EIF) to help define this work programme.

Integrated care and support for children and young people:

9. Work will focus on outcome measures for children and young people with long-term conditions and a series of case studies of children and young people with particular conditions will be developed to track where the issues are and what happens next.

Next Steps

10. In addition to continuing work on the priorities listed above, future meetings will identify the key pieces of work to be taken forward by task and finish groups for the remaining two priorities:
 - 10.1 good transitions throughout the course of life; and
 - 10.2 operating the new system and understanding how best to make it work.

Children and Families Bill

11. The Children and Families Bill has now completed its passage through the House of Commons Stage and has progressed to the House of Lords. It received its Lords Second Reading on 2 July and is not expected to move to Committee Stage until October. The LGA has been briefing at every stage of the Bill's progress and has been meeting a large number of MPs and Peer to get our messages across.
12. 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:
 - 12.1 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. It is the wrong solution and risks making things worse for children and adopters.

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12.2 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. The complaints system for redress needs to be improved so that it actually delivers effective accountability for children with SEN and their parents.

13. The LGA has been working extensively with MPs and other stakeholders to ensure that our concerns are addressed and will continue to do so as the legislation progresses through the Commons. We are seeking amendments to a number of clauses, which we will continue to press in the House of Lords.

Launch of resource to help councils raise awareness of child sexual exploitation

14. Child sexual exploitation (CSE) has gained an increasingly high public, political and media profile. There is broad consensus that raising awareness of this type of abuse is essential to preventing it and stopping it early when it does happen. It is an important part of an effective approach to tackling CSE, alongside using evidence and information to understand what is happening locally, developing a strategic response, supporting victims and facilitating policing and prosecutions.
15. The LGA ran a successful conference on tackling CSE in February, at which we launched a 'National Conversation' consultation exercise, supported by a number of national organisations including the Children's Commissioner, the Children's Society and the Association of Chief Police Officers. This sought views on how councils, using their links with partners and communities, can best raise awareness of CSE, what the barriers are and how those could be overcome. Responses were received from a range of organisations and these informed the development of a set of resources to support councils, which was launched at a well-attended workshop at the LGA Annual Conference on 2 July.
16. Recognising that councils will have different approaches and circumstances, the online resource does not set out a 'one size fits all' approach that all councils should follow. Instead it shares a set of materials, both new ones produced by the LGA and existing ones from the sector, in order to help provide councils with ideas on how to raise awareness of CSE and materials that can be adapted to suit local circumstances.
17. The resource contains sections on raising awareness: within your council; with partners; and with the wider community (children and young people; parents and carers; faith and community groups). It includes case studies, briefings, communications support and training materials, some of which were produced in conjunction with other organisations such as the Islamic Society of Britain, Parents Against Child Sexual Exploitation (PACE), the Office of the Children's Commissioner and the CSE charity NWG Network. It can be accessed through the LGA website at www.local.gov.uk/cse.

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Schools' Funding Update

School Funding for 2014-15

18. As previously reported to the Board, following concerns about recent changes to schools funding expressed by the LGA and a number of authorities, DfE published a review document on 12th February. On 4th June 2013 DfE published their response.
19. DfE has moved to some extent in response to the concerns raised by LGA and councils – for example
 - 20.1 Authorities will be able to include a sparsity factor in their formulae
 - 20.2 They will be able to have separate lump sums for primary and secondary schools – previously only one lump sum was allowed
 - 20.3 They will allow authorities, with the support of schools forums, to keep back a small sum to support schools with falling rolls
 - 20.4 There will be some protection of lump sums for schools that agree to merge.
21. However, in some ways the factors have become more restrictive; e.g.
 - 21.1 The maximum allowable lump sum will be reduced from £200,000 to £175,000
 - 21.2 At least 80% of funding must be delegated through pupil led factors – although admittedly all but two authorities adhered to this level this year
 - 21.3 Schools will be expected to pay for high needs funding of up to £6,000 through their delegated budgets as opposed to through additional central support – this was recommended this year but will become mandatory
 - 21.4 Any mobility factor will have to be more targeted – it can only be applied if it affects more than 10% of pupils.
22. The document also confirms that the minimum funding guarantee will remain at -1.5% per pupil in 2014-15

LACSEG refund 2012-13

23. At the same time DfE announced the LACSEG refund for 2012-13. 101 authorities got to share £94.16m. This followed the legal action taken by 29 authorities; it means that of the original £265m top-slice around 35% will have been repaid.
24. This can be counted as an LGA win for authorities; although we were not formally involved in the legal action we co-ordinated it with the authorities and acted as an informal channel for DfE and the authorities.

Spending Round 2015-16

25. The announcement on 26 June confirmed that schools funding and the pupil premium will continue to be protected in real terms. However Local Government DEL

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(Departmental Expenditure Limit), which includes funding for children's services and early intervention will be cut by 10% in real terms. In addition the Education Services Grant, which replaced LACSEG from 2013-14, will be cut by £200m; the details of this will be consulted on in the autumn. The chancellor also pledged that a new national schools funding formula will be introduced from 2015-16.

26. The £200m cut in the Education Services Grant is 20% of the total grant but 25% of the proportion that went to authorities in 2013-14.
27. The LGA commented in our on the day briefing that in our submission for the Spending Round, we called for schools to contribute to towards early intervention; nothing was said on this in the statement. Although schools' spending has been protected, the disproportionate cut in the Education Services Grant will affect spending on school improvement, management of school buildings and tackling non-attendance. We said it would be essential that the sector engages robustly in the consultation to make the case for local authorities' positive contribution to school delivery and improvement and to ensure Government policy and OfSTED's expectations on LEAs are aligned.
28. We also commented that we have supported the introduction of a fairer funding formula for schools, but would like to see local flexibility retained to allow any nationally determined formula to be flexed to respond to local needs and priorities of schools .

Schools Capital

29. The announcements on capital funding made on 27th June contained details on schools capital. The Government committed to invest more than £21 billion of capital in schools for the next six years, until the end of the next Parliament. They said that this would be sufficient to over 275,000 new primary school places; 245,000 new secondary school places; open up to 180 new Free Schools; 20 University Technical Colleges and 20 Studio Schools a year; as well as addressing all essential schools maintenance needs. We understand that DfE officials intend to discuss allocation methodologies with ministers and then consult with the sector in the autumn.
30. The announcement included a promise to rebuild 150 schools in very poor condition by 2017 – two years earlier than planned – as part of the Priority School Building Programme. This means that the PSPB will now be mainly delivered through traditional capital – design and build contracts – rather than private finance. This might be an issue for some authorities which didn't bid because of the private finance nature of PSBP, but DfE officials have made it clear that they will not reopen the bidding process.
31. There has not yet been any announcement of the targeted basic need programme; this was the £982m announced in the 2012 Autumn Statement. Officers understand that this is likely to fund around 100 schools, with a presumption that these will be academies.

Term Dates

32. The government intend to amend section 32 of the Education Act 2002 so that the governing bodies of all schools are responsible for setting their own term dates. Currently, around 70 per cent of secondary and 30 per cent of primary schools

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including academies, free schools and voluntary-aided (VA) schools already have responsibility for their term dates. This change would mean community, voluntary-controlled and community special schools, and maintained nursery schools would no longer have their terms dates set by the local authority. All maintained schools will still be required to open for a minimum of 190 days per year.

33. In the past, the LGA worked with the teaching unions to propose term dates, which could be adopted (or not) by councils and by academies and VA schools. As the number of academies increased, and with an increasing policy emphasis on school autonomy, fewer and fewer councils chose to follow this recommendation and so the proposals were ended. We have suggested that councils should work together with their local schools – both council maintained schools and academies - to set dates that suit local parents and teachers. It is important for parents (and teachers with children in schools that they don't work in) to have sensible local arrangements to coordinate term dates.

Raising the Participation Age (RPA)

34. The first phase of Raising the Participation Age (RPA) commences this summer. It means all young people must continue in education or training until the end of the academic year in which they turn 17. The second phase applies to all 18 year olds from summer 2015. Young people have a choice for what this means for them: full-time, work-based learning or part-time education or training (if employed, self-employed or volunteering for more than 20 hours a week).
35. Councils have a range of duties to support young people into post 16 education, employment and training. Broadly this means they must promote RPA and encourage, enable and assist young people to participate, provide an education and training offer, record and track young people's progress and identify those not participating. They are taking lead on RPA locally, building a coherent strategy for young people, around which all relevant partners (schools, colleges, employers and training providers) can engage.

Youth Contract

36. As part of the three year Youth Contract, the Government committed £126m to support the 55,000 most disengaged 16-17 year olds NEETs to participate and stay in education, apprenticeships or a full time job with training. The Education Funding Agency (EFA) commissioned this nationally and awarded contracts, in the main, to national providers. Leeds-Bradford-Wakefield, Newcastle-Gateshead, and Liverpool negotiated devolved Youth Contracts as part of City Deals.
37. The national approach sidelined councils despite their statutory duties to increase the rate of 16/17 year olds into education and training (RPA) and support NEETs. We lobbied for the devolved approach to apply to all areas across England, arguing that a locally commissioned YC would have secured a coherent local offer to young people, rather than too many national programmes let locally which are uncoordinated, and compete for the same clients.
38. In June, the EFA released performance data for nationally commissioned provision across England. Available data is September 2012 to 31 March 2013. It revealed that

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the national approach had 4,364 starts (those recruited on to YC), and 1,202 progressed into education, work or training (27.5%).

39. In contrast, the devolved approach performed better. An average of the devolved data from Leeds-Bradford-Wakefield (694 starts / 398 progressions), and Newcastle-Gateshead (137 starts / 65 progressions), led to 55.7% young people were supported into work or education. This supports the LGA view that councils should take the lead in commissioning and joining up provision for young NEETs in order to create a more coherent offer.

European Social Fund 2014-2020

40. European Social Fund (ESF) is an EU fund which adds values to existing provision to help people improve their skills and job prospects, including support for young people who are at risk of, or who are already NEET.
41. Funded in seven year stages, the current 2007-2013 ESF programme, worth £2.5 billion (£5bn when match funded) has been managed centrally. This has made it difficult for councils to influence when and how it is spent, and target it towards local need (NEET reduction, developing skills for unemployed etc).
42. This is set to change with the new 2014-2020 programme. As part of the spending review, the Government announced that the majority of spending decisions for England's £5.3bn allocation (includes ESF and European Regional Development Fund) will be devolved locally through Local Enterprise Partnerships. This is extremely positive, and one that councils and the LGA (European and International Board) have long campaigned for.
43. Councils are working with LEPs and partners to plan how these EU funds will add maximum value to deliver more intense, locally integrated provision to boost growth, employment, skills and support the most vulnerable. Since all EU funds need to be match funded, local areas' are looking at options including local and national money. They will submit strategies in September outlining how they will make use of the funds locally. The LGA will be taking discussion forward with Whitehall on next steps.

National Foundation Economic Research (NFER)

44. Since the last report to the Board, the NFER reported their work on the impact of the safeguarding children peer reviews and the survey exploring waiting times for CAMHS and alternative service provision. The longitudinal study exploring the longer term impact of safeguarding children peer reviews, jointly funded by LGA and CIB has been reinstated and will continue into the third and final phase of data collection in July.

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Note of decisions taken and actions required

Title: Children and Young People
Date: Wednesday 29 May 2013
Venue: Westminster Room, Local Government House, Smith Square, London SW1P 3HZ

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

Paul Carter	Kent CC
Susie Charles	Lancashire CC
Patricia Bradwell	Lincolnshire CC
John Osman	Somerset CC
Anne Burns	Cumbria CC
Paul Lakin	Rotherham MBC
Rita Krishna	Hackney LB
David Bellotti	Bath & NE Somerset Council
Liz Hackett Pain	Monmouthshire CC

Substitutes

Roy Perry	Hampshire CC
Peter Evans	West Sussex CC
Peter Downes OBE	Cambridgeshire CC
Neil Burden	Cornwall County Council

Apologies

Nick Forbes	
Robert Light	Kirklees MBC
Kath Pinnock	Kirklees MBC

Officers: Sally Burlington, Ian Keating, Verity Sinclair

Guests: Sue Gregory, Steve Hart (both attended for the first agenda item)

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Item	Decisions and actions	Action by
	<p>Cllr David Simmonds welcomed all those present and opened the meeting by congratulating those who had been re-elected in the May local elections. He said he had written expressing commiserations to the two board members who had lost their seats.</p> <p>1. Report on recent Ofsted developments</p> <p>Cllr David Simmonds introduced the report and welcomed the two guest speakers Sue Gregory and Steve Hart from Ofsted.</p> <p>Sue Gregory apologised on Sir Michael Wilshaw's behalf for not attending the meeting and her and Steve outlined their individual expertise.</p> <p>Sue read out the speech Sir Michael had prepared for the board. This covered a number of points including changes to the inspection framework whereby schools previously labelled satisfactory would be labelled 'requires improvement.' The speech explained Ofsted would be going further than routine inspections by working with requires improvement schools, through producing on-going reports, helping them engage with local networks and trying to act as an enabler for change. These changes had seen a variable response from local authorities around the country but it was stressed that Ofsted were very keen to engage with local councillors. There was also mention of social care inspections where there had been postponement of proposals for multi-agency inspections, in the meantime Ofsted only inspections would be being conducted.</p> <p>Cllr David Simmonds started the question and answer session by asking what Ofsted meant by 'good'. Sue explained that Ofsted had no role in prescribing teaching methodology and they were looking at the overall impact of lessons and making sure progress was happening. For early years education she explained they were looking at communication and engagement with the children. When pressed she explained they would judge progress through the standardised assessments.</p> <p>In discussion members made a number of points that were responded to by Sue and Steve:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ofsted's new role in both inspection and improvement was a concern for some members. Sue explained that the Chief Inspector of schools had a statutory responsibility to improve schools and that while Ofsted was not an improvement agency it was an agent of improvement. She assured members that their approach would be proportionate to need. Members stressed the need to involve local authorities and not duplicate their role.• A member questioned whether Ofsted would be taking responsibility for failure by schools to improve. Sue outlined that the statutory duty for improvement was with the local authority, the head teacher and the governing body although Ofsted had a responsibility to improve schools nationally.	

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- Consistency in the quality of Ofsted inspectors was questioned by members. Sue assured that Ofsted inspectors were closely monitored by regional directors who fed back any problems to the agency, but there was an issue with schools passing the blame to the inspector when they received a poor report. She however advised that if there was a genuine complaint, councils should contact Ofsted directly.
- There were a number of concerns raised about academies including their relationship with local authorities and the standard of academy chains. Sue outlined that there was guidance on how to build relationships with academies and many local authorities had a good working relationship. Members explained the poor relationship was often down to the academy. In terms of academy trusts while there was no statutory power to inspect them, if there were a number of concerns about their schools then concerns would be raised with the Secretary of State for Education.
- There was a discussion on whether expectations should vary based on the catchment area of the school. Steve and Sue both stated they believed every child should be entitled to a good education and there was no barrier other than disability and mobility that could not be overcome. Members agreed that while context needed to be taken into account all children should be receiving the best education possible.
- The success of the safeguarding inspections was questioned by members. Steve and Sue defended the inspections saying they were focusing on the perspective of the child and it was necessary to inspect safeguarding and looked after children at the same time. Members questioned how councils could provide the same service with less funding. Sue advised that this be taken up with the Secretary of State.

Decision

Members noted the report.

Action

Officers to action as directed

Ian Keating/
Cassandra
Harrison

2. Children's Improvement Board (CIB) – Legacy Programme

Cllr David Simmonds introduced the report which updated the board on the withdrawal of DfE funding for the Children's Improvement Board (CIB) and the work being done by officers on what elements of CIB to preserve. Cllr Simmonds explained officers were seeking the views of councillors on the priorities for the legacy programme and future governance arrangements.

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A number of views on priorities were mentioned including:

- The need for the peer challenge and safeguarding work to continue in light of the improvements it had contributed to within local authorities.
- The continuation of the Leadership academy, with the possibility of charging local authorities to attend.
- The priorities from the regions set out in the report were broadly agreed with. Members stressed the need for local authorities to contribute to the funding of some of these projects.

Concerns were raised over the Association of Directors of Children's Services (ADCS) recent letter to Colin Hilton. Members were worried that ADCS appeared to be aligning itself with the role that Ofsted set out for its own improvement functions rather than looking to the political and corporate leadership of children's services to deliver improvement work. It was agreed that a letter would be written to the president of ADCS and Sir Michael Wilshaw from Ofsted expressing the concerns.

Members asked for a progress report on the winding up of CIB to be a standing item on the CYP agendas from now on.

Decision

Members expressed views on the priorities for the legacy programme and future governance arrangements and agreed a letter would be sent to the president of ADCS and Sir Michael Wilshaw.

Action

Officers to feed the priorities recommendations back to CIB

Alison
Miller/Sally
Burlington

Officers to draft letters for the chairman to send to the president of ADCS and Sir Michael Wilshaw. Copies and replies to be sent to the board members.

Ian
Keating/Sally
Burlington/Verity
Sinclair

3. Other Business Report

A member commented on the child poverty report expressing the confusion over how poverty was measured. Members agreed that a discussion on child poverty should take place at a future board meeting.

Decision

Members noted the report

Action

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

LGA Officers

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4. 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

Website: www.local.gov.uk

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.

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.

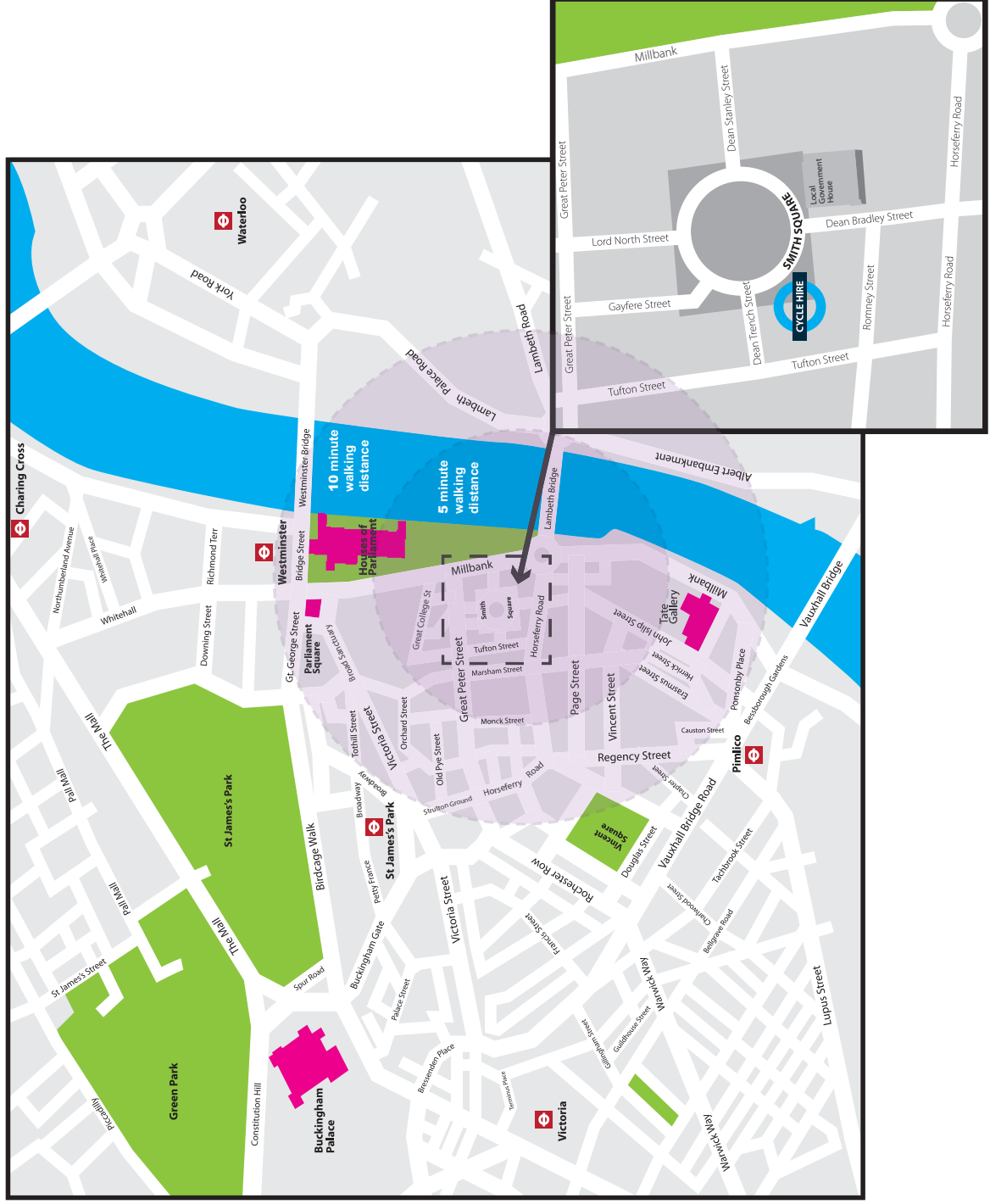
Buses 3 and 87 travel along Millbank, and the 507 between Victoria and Waterloo stops in Horseferry Road close to Dean Bradley Street.

Bus routes – Horseferry Road

507 Waterloo - Victoria

C10 Canada Water - Pimlico - Victoria

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



Central London Congestion Charging Zone

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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