

**Note of decisions taken and actions required**

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**Title:** Children and Young People  
**Date:** Wednesday 17 July 2013  
**Venue:** Westminster Room, Local Government House, Smith Square, London SW1P 3HZ

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**Attendance**

<b>Position</b>	<b>Councillor</b>	<b>Council / Representing</b>
Chairman	David Simmonds	Hillingdon LB
Deputy-Chairman	Liz Green	Kingston upon Thames RB
Deputy-Chairman	Apu Bagchi	Bedford BC
<b>Members</b>	Paul Carter	Kent CC
	Robert Light	Kirklees MBC
	Susie Charles	Lancashire CC
	Liz Hackett Pain	Monmouthshire CC
	Paul Lakin	Rotherham MBC
	Rita Krishna	Hackney LB
	David Bellotti	Bath & NE Somerset Council
	Nick Forbes	Newcastle Upon Tyne CC
	Patricia Bradwell	Lincolnshire CC
<b>Substitutes</b>	Roy Perry	Hampshire CC
	Peter Evans	West Sussex CC
	Peter Downes OBE	Cambridgeshire CC
<b>Apologies</b>	John Merry	Salford CC
	Kath Pinnock	Kirklees MBC

**Officers:** Helen Johnston, Ian Keating, Alison Miller, Mike Heiser, Verity Sinclair

**Guests:** Dr Maggie Atkinson, lead members from councils across the country

Item	Decisions and actions	Action by
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Cllr David Simmonds welcomed everybody making a special mention of all of the new children services lead members who had come to observe the board meeting. Everybody introduced themselves.

**1. Presentation by Dr Maggie Atkinson, Children’s Commissioner for England**

Dr Maggie Atkinson spoke to the board, explaining her role as children commissioner and the current projects she and authorities around the country were involved in. These included among others, Lancashire County Council creating a quilt with experiences of being a child in care, working with asylum children and having child takeover days at local authorities to make sure the child’s voice is heard. She also discussed Doncaster council having its children’s services responsibility removed, warning councillors to be aware this could happen elsewhere.

Members of the board were invited to ask questions, these included:

- **How can children in private education and home education be protected?**  
Dr Atkinson explained currently there was no right of entry for councils in either area and could make this difficult for councils to discharge their safeguarding responsibilities.
- **How do we combat pupils being asked to leave schools or otherwise risk expulsion?**  
Dr Atkinson said ‘disappeared’ children were a big problem and the board should do everything they could to combat it. She explained Ofsted had agreed to rate schools as inadequate if they were found to be partaking in this practice.
- **What are the issues with Child Sexual Education and care homes?**  
She explained that children in residential homes can be particularly vulnerable to CSE, including those placed away from their home area. She felt the LGA could act as a broker between councils which place a lot of children out of area and the councils which have a lot of independent provision in their areas.
- **What is happening with regards to internet safety?**  
She had been to a meeting with Clare Perry MP to discuss this and they were continuing to fight those who felt it was a human rights issue. She encouraged members of the board to speak to their MEP’s, religious leaders and other influential people to get internet safety recognised as a priority.

**Decision**

Members noted the report.

**Item 7**

**Action**

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

**2. End of Year Review**

David Simmonds introduced the item, praising the CYP board for achieving a significant amount over the last year.

The report was discussed by members and key issues including a lack of school places, funding cuts, sixth form budget reductions, investment in school infrastructure and the changes to the school funding formula were all suggested as priorities for the year ahead.

**Decisions**

Members agreed a report on post 16 education funding would be brought to the next board meeting.

Members noted the report.

**Action**

Officers to write a report on funding for post 16 education to bring to the next Board. Mike Heiser

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

**3. Future Arrangements for sector-led improvement for children's services**

The cuts to funding of the Children's Improvement Board were discussed. Despite this members emphasised the importance of continuing with peer challenges and making sure councils in difficulty were given support. However, the need to identify clear outcomes and impacts of the challenges was stressed. There was also discussion on the capacity to facilitate the peer challenges.

**Decision**

Members noted the report.

**Action**

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

**Item 7**

**4. Appointments to Outside Bodies**

It was mentioned that the National Youth Agency (NYA) would be reducing the number of LGA representatives down from two to one. The appointment would be decided upon at the next Board meeting.

**Decision**

Members noted the Outside bodies that the Board would be appointing to. LGA Officers

**Action**

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

**5. Other Business Report**

Cllr Bellotti raised the issue of the deregulation of school term times, suggesting that the intended amendment to section 32 of the Education act meaning governing bodies could set their own term dates, could leave many schools with different term times. As a consequence families with children at different schools could face increased childcare costs and a lack of family cohesion. Cllr Bellotti asked officers to identify any appropriate research into term dates.

There was also a discussion on the Children and Families bill; the Board were informed that the claims by voluntary adoption agencies that Local authorities were delaying the adoption process were unfounded.

**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.