

Children and Young People Board

Agenda

Tuesday 10 September 2013
11.00am

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

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

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This meeting is



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LGA Children and Young People Board

10 September 2013

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

11.00am on Tuesday 10 September in the Westminster Suite (8th floor), Local Government House, Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ. Lunch will be available at 1pm in the Westminster Suite.

Attendance Sheet

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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

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Children and Young People Board - Membership 2013/2014

Councillor	Authority
Conservative (7)	
David Simmonds [Chairman]	Hillingdon LB
Paul Carter	Kent CC
Patricia Bradwell	Lincolnshire CC
Roy Perry*	Hampshire CC
Paul McLain*	Gloucestershire CC
Liz Hacket Pain	Monmouthshire CC
John Osman	Somerset CC
Substitutes:	
Tony Hall**	North Yorkshire CC
Peter Evans	West Sussex CC
Tom Garrod**	Norfolk CC
Ivan Ould**	Leicestershire CC
Labour (7)	
Nick Forbes [Vice Chair]	Newcastle City
Rita Krishna	Hackney LB
John Merry CBE	Salford City
Paul Lakin	Rotherham MBC
Nicky Williams*	Plymouth City
Anne Western*	Derbyshire CC
Richard Watts*	Islington LB
Substitutes:	
Dora Dixon Fyle**	Southwark LB
Liberal Democrat (2)	
Liz Green [Deputy Chair]	Kingston upon Thames RB
David Bellotti	Bath & NE Somerset Council
Substitutes:	
Peter Downes OBE	Cambridgeshire CC
Independent (2)	
Apu Bagchi [Deputy Chair]	Bedford BC
Helen Powell*	Lincolnshire CC/South Kesteven DC
Substitutes	
TBC	

*new member

**new substitute

Agenda

Children and Young People Board

10 September 2013

11.00am

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

Item	Page
1. Introduction and overview of the LGA's Children and Young People Board - This report provides an overview of our work programme and how it links to Rewiring Public Services. Cllr David Simmonds will introduce the item and describe what to expect as a member of the board.	3
2. Recent Ofsted Developments - Sir Michael Wilshaw Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education and Children's Services, will be speaking to the Board about the current changes to Ofsted's inspection frameworks, specifically focusing on Ofsted's new role in inspecting school improvement services and changes to the inspection of children's social care.	25
3. British Youth Council - David Clark Deputy CEO of the British Youth Council (BYC) will be speaking to the Board on the work of the BYC, especially around improving engagement between councils and youth organisations.	33
4. Adopter Recruitment – Mark Owers and Jan Fishwick from the Consortium of Voluntary Adoption Agencies (CVAA) will be speaking to the Board about adopter recruitment	35
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Introduction and overview of the LGA's Children and Young People Board

Purpose of report

To provide Board members with an overview of the Children and Young People team's work for the next year and ways of working.

Summary

This report provides an overview of the Board's work programme and how it links to the LGA's Rewiring Public Services campaign. The LGA Business Plan is set for the financial year and the business planning cycle for 2014/15 is likely to begin towards the end of this year.

The Rewiring Children's Services document is at **Appendix 1**.

The report also sets out what to expect as a member of the Board and a list of meeting dates for 2013/2014 in **Appendix 2**.

Recommendation

That members note the focus of the Board's work for the rest of the financial year.

Action

To be taken forward by officers as directed by members of the Board.

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Introduction and overview of the LGA's Children and Young People Board

Background

1. The LGA's business planning cycle is based on the financial year, so the current Business Plan covers the rest of the financial year to the end of March 2014. The new business planning cycle, for the year April 2014 – March 2015, is likely to commence towards the end of this year and the Board will have opportunities to contribute to this process.

Rewiring Public Services

2. Since early 2013 the LGA has been listening to councils' key concerns for the future through a series of regional road show events to involve and engage as many people from the sector as possible. What we have heard is that councils are keen to stress the validity of the local democratic process and its implications for local leadership and service delivery; funded through sustainable income levels which should flow through into relevant local action. There are concerns ranging from the 'English question' to how and where funding should be directed and spent to increase growth. The campaign, launched at the LGA conference 2013, will provide the platform for the key areas of economic growth, financial sustainability, adult social care and health and children's services.
3. The campaign calls for a radical rewiring of the public sector, based around giving local areas greater control of public money. This will allow local areas to make decisions on how that money is spent and design services that work for their communities and reduce demand for higher cost national services. The 'rewiring public services' campaign includes specific propositions for children's services to give councils the flexibility they need to redesign services around individual and family needs, promote effective early intervention and rebuild the role of families and communities in supporting each other. See **Appendix 1** for further information.

Further detail on the 2013/14 work plan

4. **Funding for local government:** A sector-led project on children's services costs for the 2015 spending review, jointly with the Society of Local Authority Chief Executives (SOLACE) and the Association of Directors of Children's Services (ADCS); work to prepare a response to the proposed national funding formula for schools; a survey on the council contribution to capital costs, and support for councils in implementing high needs place funding arrangements for 2014/15.
5. **Economic Growth, jobs and prosperity:** Demonstrating that councils are best placed to identify and support young people not in education, training or employment and supporting councils in their responsibilities relating to the raising of the age of participation in education and training. We are working to influence the shape of Government's 16 - 24 reform agenda, including Study Programmes, Traineeships,

Item 1

Apprenticeships (and the new duties for 19-24s with Special Educational Needs in the Children and Families Bill), led by the needs of employers and young people.

6. **Public Service Reform - Children's social care:** influencing proposals for wide ranging reform, in particular for residential children's homes and adoption. We are lobbying for changes to the adoption provisions of the Children and Families Bill, supporting sector improvement, developing proposals on more flexible models of care and extended family support and sharing innovation and learning on developing family and community resilience. We are working to coordinate policy, lobbying and sector improvement to ensure that councils are supported to be effective in tackling child sexual exploitation.
7. **Public Service Reform - Education:** promoting a strong role for councils in education for children and young people from early years through to post-16 education. We are reviewing the impact of the new Ofsted inspection framework for councils' school improvement services and undertaking a project on the use of scrutiny in holding schools and Academies to account. We are also working to ensure that reforms to councils' statutory duties in the Children and Families Bill for children and young people with Special Educational Needs allow councils to retain the flexibility to respond to the needs of individual children and young people and local circumstances.
8. **Public Service Reform - Children's health:** demonstrating local government's commitment to new responsibilities for delivering and commissioning public health services for children and young people aged 5-19 (and those aged 0 – 5 from 2015) by tackling health inequalities and the wider social determinants of health through joining up council led services (jointly delivered with the Community Wellbeing Board).
9. **Sector-led improvement and innovation:** Since the withdrawal of funding for the work of the Children's Improvement Board, the priorities for a sector-led programme link to the products already offered by the LGA in a way that is integrated with other national, peer based tools. This includes direct support to councils through the lead member peers and principal advisers, working to help them access appropriate support, in particular where they are facing significant underperformance challenges. Our support will take account of the increasing financial pressure being faced by councils. The work programme includes: the continuation of the three Leadership Academies, free of charge to participants, confirmed for 2013-14; peer challenge programmes and diagnostic tools in order to foster robust approaches to self-assessment; active support for regional networks of lead members; and continued partnership work with ADCS and SOLACE to support sector-led improvement and to discuss joint approaches to the improvement of children's services.

Financial Implications

10. There are no additional financial implications arising from this report

REWIRING PUBLIC SERVICES

CHILDREN'S SERVICES





SUMMARY

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These propositions would help revitalise local economies by enabling a better connection between schools and other education providers and the needs of local employers. They would help make public services sustainable again by using a place-based public service budgets approach to boost early intervention and prevention.

Children, families and communities need to be resilient enough to cope with life's challenges. But when children, and their parents, do need help they should get it early on, so that the situation can be improved as soon as possible. This should be done in a way that makes sense to them, with their voices at the core of decision making. Not jumping through the bureaucratic hoops of different organisations but getting what they need, when they need it, regardless of whether it is from a children's centre, a social worker, the school, their GP, a more specialist health service or some combination.

When there is no choice but to take children into care, we want to give them a model of stable, loving homes and wider support networks which give them the very best chances in life. The propositions would allow better use of staff and other public sector assets. They would make it harder for weak service provision to shelter behind formal compliance with paper processes.



➤ RECOGNISE THE CRUCIAL SUPPORT OFFERED BY EXTENDED FAMILY MEMBERS WHO CARE FOR CHILDREN WHO MIGHT OTHERWISE BE IN THE CARE SYSTEM

KEY PROPOSITIONS

Drive local public service effectiveness and end waste and red tape at all levels, by bringing local services and decisions together in one place, for each place, for issues ranging from economic development to health and law and order.

Give councils the flexibility they need to redesign services around individual and family needs, and promote effective early intervention, by:

- making place-based public service budgets arrangements the norm for service delivery in local areas; bringing local services and decisions together in one place, for each place, including education and children's social care, allowing greater investment in early intervention
- giving people back a meaningful local vote on a range of tax and spending decisions to reinvigorate the civic and community involvement that people want and public/children's services need
- making the most of the transfer of public health for young children to local government: ensuring health and wellbeing boards are strengthened to extend their leadership across local services and keep children's health and wellbeing at the top of local agendas
- end flawed and bureaucratic tick-box inspections and replace them with a process where genuine consumer champions focus on the service local people receive from schools, hospitals, policing or care homes.

Rebuild the role of families and communities in supporting each other by:

- recognising that "it takes a village to raise a child", raise expectations that communities will help families, and that families will help each other – building on the strengths we already find in communities and in families themselves
- renewing civic education in our schools, ensuring young people understand the rights and responsibilities of government and citizens
- recognise the crucial support offered by extended family members who care for children who might otherwise be in the care system
- incentivising businesses to support children and young people in their locality, making it a standard part of corporate social responsibility.

Strengthen links between the local community and schools by:

- giving local people a more direct say how school buildings are used out of hours
- developing clearer employer involvement in schools' work on education outcomes and as an introduction to the world of work
- removing the protection and ring-fencing of the schools' budget, which creates an obstacle to better working between schools and local agencies
- reversing the decision which prevents schools from pooling budgets so they can cooperate with and support wider services for children and families to improve child development and attainment.



WHEN WE HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO TAKE CHILDREN INTO CARE, WE WANT TO GIVE THEM A MODEL OF STABLE, LOVING HOMES AND WIDER SUPPORT NETWORKS WHICH GIVE THEM THE VERY BEST CHANCES IN LIFE

POLICY

PRINCIPLES

Putting people at the heart

Services should take a whole child and family approach, recognising that individual problems cannot be addressed effectively without considering the wider context of people's lives.

Building civic and community responsibility

Services should build greater capacity and resilience in families and neighbourhoods to help themselves and each other.

Sustainability of public services

Place-based public service budgets should be used to deliver financially sustainable local services, tackling waste and inefficiency and with a focus on prevention.



DETAILED DISCUSSION

The current position is unsustainable: Increasing demands on safeguarding and looked after children services, combined with shifts in policy and funding have resulted in councils' statutory duties and local accountability being woefully out of step with available resources and levers to influence.

Background to the policy issues

Safeguarding pressures

There has been a substantial increase in demand on children's social care over the last few years, shown by significant increases in referrals and numbers of children coming into care¹. Beyond this, expectations have been raised by the Secretary of State for Education's view that more children should be taken into care and earlier. Increasing public and professional awareness of the sexual exploitation of children and young people may also serve to increase referrals. The impact of welfare reform is not yet known, but there is a potential risk that it could put additional pressure on families who are struggling, exacerbating the risk of crisis or neglect, and increasing pressures on the system still further. Domestic violence is known to increase during periods of financial stress, and is a consistent feature of child protection cases and serious case reviews. There are increasing numbers of children with highly complex needs and disabilities, in part as a result of advances in medical science. This also has an impact on the adult social care system, where there are increasing pressures from adults with high care needs and dependencies.

The argument that resources should be re-focused on early intervention and prevention, to improve outcomes and reduce demand on safeguarding services in the longer term commands widespread support. However, there is a real challenge to make this a reality against a backdrop of increasing demand on statutory services; less money and

reduced local discretion over it; political and budgetary cycles that are shorter than the period in which the benefits of early intervention are realised; costs and benefits falling to different agencies; and incomplete evidence to inform decisions.

Funding

Total spending on children and young people's services in the 2011/12 financial year was £8.6 billion (the second biggest area of spend after adults) and cost pressures are rising. Local authorities spent a total of £3.1 billion (gross) on Looked After Children, an increase of £94.9 million (3.2 per cent) compared with the equivalent figure for 2010/11. Spending on child protection services is planned to rise by 2.1 per cent between 2011/12 and 2012/13.

Children's services have not been immune to the effects of the 33 per cent reduction in council budgets, even though councils have sought to protect frontline services from the impact. Cuts to the Early Intervention Grant have been substantial over the last two years and the £150 million top-slice for 2013/14 is being re-badged to support adoption, of which £50 million will be ring-fenced. The cuts make it more difficult for councils to plan for the longer term in the way they commission services and for children and families to experience consistent and secure support. Whilst increased adoption should over time help to reduce the number of children looked after by the local authority, this further restriction on funds will make it harder for councils to invest in early intervention to prevent problems within families from escalating, potentially increasing the pressures on safeguarding and care still further.

There are also other significant funding cuts to key partners, including the police service. The withdrawal of government funding for the sector-led improvement of children's services and the vulnerability of children and families accessing these services introduces significant future risks.

Part of the reason for the squeeze on the children's services budget is the ring-fencing of schools funding over previous spending review periods. Children's social care has been protected by councils, but at the cost of cutting youth work and services such as Connexions. There is a significant risk that we are approaching a tipping point where the only services which can be squeezed further are those non-statutory prevention and early intervention services which help reduce costs further into the system.

-
- The number of children subject to a Child Protection Plan at 31 March has steadily increased from 29,200 in 2008 to 42,850 in 2012.

 - Care applications have risen by 70 per cent between 2008/9 and 2012/13, with February 2013 seeing the highest ever number recorded for a single month.


 - The number of looked after children grew by 10 per cent between 2009 and 2012.



Public service reform

Against a backdrop of reform in public services, councils are coping with rapid and radical changes which have an impact on children's services.

- The changing role of councils with new responsibilities for public health, a shift to more commissioning of children's services and joint working with health and other partners. There are concerns that some NHS bodies may not be well equipped to deliver their own safeguarding responsibilities during this period of rapid change; and the reforms are fragmenting responsibility for commissioning children's health services which could make it even harder to join up.
- Adoption reform, improving residential care, and reforms to the system for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (a relatively high proportion of whom will also be vulnerable or looked after) alongside changes to high needs funding will all place new duties and expectations on councils.
- The Munro Review and Family Justice Review represent a welcome policy direction, but implementation presents significant challenges in reforming the way children's social care operates locally.
- New duties placed on councils to support the raising of the participation age, on top of existing duties to re-engage young people not in education, training or employment. Both are particularly challenging for vulnerable young people. Councils' ability to have an impact is being made more difficult as funding and levers are being increasingly centralised. Councils must be at the heart of commissioning 16-19 education and training provision to identify, plan, target and tailor provision to the needs of young people and manage sustained transitions into sustainable learning and work.
- The impact of welfare reform on families is not yet known. But if people get into debt and face other problems, there may be a further increase in the numbers of children who need extra support, protection or to be looked after by the local authority, particularly in those areas that currently have a high proportion of families on benefits.



COUNCILLORS ARE
RESTLESSLY AMBITIOUS
ON BEHALF OF
RESIDENTS FOR BETTER
SERVICES AND OUTCOMES

What people have said

In the course of developing this paper we have spoken to council leaders – political and managerial – from across the country. We have engaged with policy experts and charities. What emerged was a great deal of consensus about the need for change and the risks we face if we fail to do so.

Those we have spoken to have been clear about the fundamental need to put people, not organisational structures or boundaries, at the heart of children's services. This included discussion about meaningful participation in services, greater control and personalisation.

"It's about people, not institutions."

"Councillors are restlessly ambitious on behalf of residents for better services and outcomes."

"You will get better services if you involve people in their design."

"People don't think 'I'm saving the council money'. They are just doing what families do."

People broadly considered whole systems transformation, for example through place-based public service budgets, to be essential: a bit of a 'no-brainer' in fact, given the challenges facing the public sector. Though making it happen in reality is of course more difficult than signing up to the principle.

Many thought that central government has a role to play in driving this, by making the boundaries between organisations and funding more porous and in incentivising their delivery agencies on the ground to participate in local integration.

"It's about how to spend money in a place most efficiently."

"Government must encourage partners to integrate and jointly invest."

There was a great deal of consensus that the current relationship between the State and citizens is not sustainable; that the public's expectations about what could and should be delivered are out of kilter with the reality facing the public sector. A related topic was the need to look at the whole population from "cradle to grave" and across the whole community: only councils have a broad enough remit, and the democratic mandate, to do this.

"We need to move from people being consumers of public services to citizens."

"We need to keep an eye on universality at a time when the mantra is 'focus on the most vulnerable'."

PROPOSITIONS IN MORE DETAIL

Give councils the flexibility they need to redesign services around individual and family needs, and promote effective early intervention.

Children live in families made up of individuals with varied strengths and needs, living in very different circumstances. Services to support those families must therefore be flexible enough to support individuals and families in ways which make most sense for them – and the more complex and challenging the circumstances, the more nimble and ‘joined up’ local services need to be. So, local areas need the flexibility to re-design services around individual’s needs, rather than inflexible organisational or legal structures.

The current system for family support and children in care is too rigid: children are either in care or out of care. This doesn’t make sense. A much more flexible system, enabling things like respite care breaks for children away from parents could, where safe and appropriate, avoid family breakdown. This kind of approach would also support improved transitions when children return home from care, instead of an ‘all or nothing’ approach which places a huge pressure on everyone.

There is great consensus that intervention to support a child or family has to be as early as possible, but to do this effectively in all areas, councils need the flexibility to configure services to meet families’ needs in the best way possible.




To deliver a step-change in the effectiveness of services we need to:

- Make place-based public service budget arrangements the norm for service delivery in local areas; bringing local services and decisions together in one place, for each place, including education and children’s social care.

Public services currently concentrate on trying to handle failure rather than on preventing it. This is not only unsuccessful in helping people, but is also incredibly expensive. One of the main barriers to prevention and early intervention is the split incentive: where one part of the public sector pays, but another benefits. Protection of traditional organisational budgets hinders investment in outcomes that would, in the longer-term, both benefit society and save taxpayers’ money. Greater integration of different parts of the public sector, with increasingly porous organisational and financial boundaries, is also essential to coping with the wider pressures facing not just local government, but the entire public sector.

By aligning budgets much more closely and taking a place-based public service budget approach everywhere, local areas can see the benefits of effective early intervention and can find ways to reinvest longer term savings in the health and criminal justice systems in local services.

- Give people back a meaningful local vote on a range of tax and spending decisions to reinvigorate the civic and community involvement that people want and public/children’s services need.



THE CURRENT SYSTEM FOR FAMILY SUPPORT AND CHILDREN IN CARE IS TOO RIGID: CHILDREN ARE EITHER IN CARE OR OUT OF CARE

We want people to be more engaged in civic and community life. People want that too. But at the moment they are disillusioned and disengaged. People tell us they want a reason to care about voting and a reason to feel positive about belonging to their civic life. They want more of a stake in public debate. That can be achieved by giving people back a meaningful local vote on a wide range of tax and spending decisions.

- Make the most of the transfer of public health for young children to local government.

Bringing public health for 0-5 year olds within local government presents a unique opportunity to strengthen the links between the universal health visiting service and wider children's services, and Family Nurse Partnership programmes which are one of the most effective early intervention services in the world. Health and wellbeing boards will be crucial to building these links effectively and taking a strategic view across the commissioning of these and other services to support children's health and wellbeing. They need to be strengthened to extend their leadership across local services by involving community, mental health and acute trusts much more actively in their governance.

- End flawed and bureaucratic tick-box inspections and replace them with a process where genuine consumer champions focus on the service local people receive from schools, hospitals, policing or care homes.

Ofsted's increased reach into children's services and school improvement is driving increased costs in local government. But let's face it: people don't care all that much about compliance with bureaucratic process; whether a social worker has recorded something in one box on a form instead of another or the detail of a teacher jumping through a particular administrative hoop.

As long as services are making their lives better and helping their children to be all they can be, because that is what really matters. But the current inspection process does not tell them very much about the quality of services. It implements a paper-chasing, tick-box process which diverts resources away from the very frontline services that people care most about. And after all that, the majority of services end up in the same category anyway. Instead, inspectorates should put people at the heart of their work and transform into something much more valuable: a true consumer champion on behalf of children and families, focussed on the services local people receive.

This is not about councils hiding from hard truths about weak performance. Quite the opposite. This approach will make it much harder for services to shelter behind formal compliance with paper processes. It also means we need to get even better at listening to children and parents, involving them and giving them greater control, not only in individual decisions in a meaningful way, but in the design of services. That might feel like a more risky relationship, but is a risk that we are willing to take.



Rebuild the role of families and communities in supporting each other

- Recognising that “it takes a village to raise a child”, raise expectations that communities will help families, and that families will help each other – building on the strengths we already find in communities and in families themselves.

A child’s best interests are always at the centre of social workers’ decisions, but children do not exist in a vacuum. The system is creaking under current pressure and needs people – families, neighbourhoods – to take more responsibility where they are able to. That does not mean stepping away from our legal and moral duties to help people when they need it, but that personal responsibility is expected in return. This means helping communities to develop the capacity and resilience to support each other and make the positive changes that they want to see, focusing on their strengths and how these can be encouraged to flourish, not just the deficits that grab attention because they require statutory services. It also means joined up services in a place that think about the whole person and the whole family.

Councils have specific duties as ‘corporate parents’ for looked after children and care leavers. But if we are to replicate the help that most children receive from their families, they need support networks which reach beyond the council and expand out to local communities, including businesses and education providers.

- Renewing civic education in our schools, ensuring young people understand the rights and responsibilities of government and citizens.

There is evidence that good and substantial civic education has an impact on the engagement and participation of young people as they enter adulthood. If we want to strengthen civic and community life, schools have a crucial role to play in shaping the expectations of children and young people of their own rights and responsibilities in later life.

- Recognise the crucial support offered by extended family members who care for children who might otherwise be in the care system.

When children cannot live with their birth parents, other relatives such as grandparents, aunts and uncles sometimes step in to provide a stable and loving home. We need to consider how we can best support this kind of ‘kinship care’, so that wider family networks have greater capacity and ability to take responsibility for children that might otherwise need to be taken into care.

- Incentivising businesses to support children and young people in their locality, making it a standard part of corporate social responsibility.

There are great examples of businesses working with local children and young people, supporting community projects and building resilience locally. This type of work should be seen as a standard element of corporate social responsibility for every business, recognised and celebrated more widely.




Strengthen links between the local community and schools

Schools provide the only the universal service which has interactions with school age children day in, day out. Teachers are increasingly becoming involved in child protection issues and picking up concerns about neglect. Through initiatives such as the pupil premium the Government has put schools in the front line of 'narrowing the gap' and reducing disadvantage. Schools cannot therefore operate in isolation from the other agencies with responsibility for supporting and protecting the most vulnerable children and young people. There is a need to clearly articulate the benefits to schools of working with each other and with councils on early intervention in terms of improved attainment and behaviour. And schools need to be able to pool budgets to support early intervention in their own interest.


Working closely with councils on delivering early help and support for children and families benefits schools directly – helping children to be school ready, reducing drop-out rates and improving physical and mental health.

- Give local people a more direct say how school buildings are used out of hours.

Schools provide a community asset which is under-used – with many schools still standing empty in the evenings and at weekends. We cannot afford as a country to waste this resource – and local people should be given the right to request community use of their school halls at a reasonable fee.



EMPLOYERS CONSISTENTLY
SAY THAT YOUNG PEOPLE
DO NOT HAVE THE SKILLS
THEY ARE LOOKING FOR IN
THE WORLD OF WORK



- Develop clearer employer involvement in schools' work on education outcomes and as an introduction to the world of work.

Employers consistently say that young people do not have the skills they are looking for in the world of work. We need to put school leavers' readiness higher up the list of educational priorities, by consciously increasing links between local employers and schools, drawing on the excellent examples that already exist.

- Remove the protection and ring-fencing of the schools' budget, which creates an obstacle to better working between schools and local agencies.

Protection of schools' budgets at a time of significant cuts elsewhere, whilst also ringfencing funds within the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) risks protecting inefficiency in one part of the public sector, and limits local partners' ability to work together effectively.

- Reverse the decision which prevents schools from pooling budgets, so they can cooperate with and support wider services for children and families to improve child development and attainment.

However, the scope for schools, by agreement, to make a contribution to early help approaches through a 'top-slice' or pooling of DSG resources at a local authority level has been reduced with recent schools funding reforms, which explicitly prevent schools from entering into 'pooling' arrangements of this sort. As well as inhibiting a shift to funding preventative measures, economies of scale are being lost by reducing schools' discretion to pool their budgets and balances with councils to purchase shared services and achieve shared objectives.

This restriction should be lifted to allow schools to work with councils and other local agencies to use DSG to support early intervention, help to reduce demand on local public services and improve educational and other outcomes for children and young people.



CONCLUSION



Today's model of public services is unsustainable. Demand and costs are going up but funding is going down. It is time for a new settlement between communities and the state: growing dependency on increasingly intensive care and support for individuals and families is often an indicator that we have collectively failed to provide the right support early enough.

We all have a stake in the future outcomes for children. The majority of our children and young people make positive contributions to our society and continue to do so as they grow into adulthood. But if we fail those who need extra support, we will collectively bear the costs further down the line: welfare payments, the criminal justice system, health care.

Children, families and communities need to be resilient enough to cope with life's challenges. But when people do have problems, they want – and should get – help when they start to emerge. Not having to wait for a crisis to tip them over the threshold for access to services.

Local government wants to rise to this challenge – but it needs the flexibility offered by a place-based public service budgets approach, and appropriate involvement of all local partners, including schools, to do it.

Local Government Association

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please contact us on 020 7664 3000.
We consider requests on an individual basis.

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Ways of working

1. As a member of the Children and Young People Board you will be expected to attend Board meetings which usually take place every other month at Local Government House. The exception to this is the Board meeting in October which takes place at the National Children and Adults Services (NCAS) Conference in Harrogate. A full Board agenda will be sent to you a week prior to the meeting.
2. The dates and times of the CYP Board Meetings 2013/14:

Day	Date	Time	Venue
2013			
Tuesday	10 September 2013	11.00am	LG House
Friday	18 October 2013	9:15 am	NCAS Conference
2014			
Thursday	9 January 2014	11.00am	LG House
Wednesday	5 March 2014	11.00am	LG House
Wednesday	7 May 2014	11.00am	LG House
Wednesday	2 July 2014	11.00am	LG House

3. Accountabilities of Board members:

- 3.1 To engage actively with councils and groupings of councils to secure the views and involvement of the wider membership to inform the Board's priorities and policy positions and act as an advocate for the LGA and its work.
- 3.2 To work with the Chair, Vice and Deputy Chairs, to develop the programme plan for the Board, taking into account the best use of resources.
- 3.3 To attend and participate actively in Board meetings
- 3.4 To attend conferences and other events initiated by the Board.
- 3.5 To read and understand all board papers in advance of the meeting, and to keep abreast of all developments locally and nationally in relation to the areas covered by the board.

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3.6 Where required, to take responsibility for a specified portfolio and act as spokesperson.

3.7 To make appointments to outside bodies relevant to the service area.

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Recent Ofsted developments

Purpose of report

To provide background information for the session with Sir Michael Wilshaw, Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education and Children's Services in England.

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 support for school improvement, which comes against the backdrop of the announcement of a future 20% cut to the Education Services Grant, which funds council action in this area. There will also be revised inspection arrangements and an enhanced Ofsted improvement role 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
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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 focused school inspections in Coventry, Portsmouth, Derby, Norfolk and the East Riding of Yorkshire, with a specific focus on the support and challenge provided by the council. These were done under Ofsted's existing powers. Ofsted has now introduced, from 1 June, a new framework to give it powers for direct inspections of council support for school improvement.
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:

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- 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 joint LGA and 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 schools to improve.
7. However, the mixed messages from DfE appear to be continuing, with the announcement in the recent Spending Review of a 20% cut to the Education Support Grant for 2015/16. This is the grant which supports the council role in supporting school improvement, including the statutory functions it continues to carry out for academies. There will be a consultation on how the cut is to be achieved in the autumn. One of the points that the LGA is likely to make in response is the need for Ofsted to align its expectations of councils with the DfE funding that is being made available to them to support school improvement.
8. The framework which establishes the new Ofsted regime for ‘the inspection of local authority arrangements for supporting school improvement’ was 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. They can also be triggered if the Secretary of State “requires” an inspection.
9. 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:
 - 9.1 the effectiveness of corporate and strategic leadership of school improvement;
 - 9.2 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;
 - 9.3 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;
 - 9.4 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;
 - 9.5 the impact of local authority support and challenge over time and the rate at which schools and other providers are improving;
 - 9.6 the extent to which the local authority brokers support for schools and other providers;
 - 9.7 the effectiveness of strategies to support highly effective leadership and management in schools and other providers;
 - 9.8 support and challenge for school governance, where applicable; and,

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- 9.9 the way the local authority uses any available funding to effect improvement, including how it is focused on areas of greatest need.
10. Two councils have so far been inspected under the new framework – Norfolk and the Isle of Wight. Both were judged ‘ineffective’ in their support for school improvement.
11. 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

12. 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.
13. 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’. It has since been announced that it is intended that this will be introduced in 2015.
14. Over the summer Ofsted issued a 4 week consultation on the new framework for inspections of services for children in need of help and protection, looked after children and care leavers. The LGA and SOLACE submitted a joint response which:
- 14.1 Highlighted concerns about previous, current and pilot inspections and stated that the framework and Ofsted inspection workforce both need further development before the new regime is implemented. This must draw on learning from the pilots.

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- 14.2 Stated that Ofsted must use the opportunity to reduce the excessive burdens that inspections have placed on local authorities.
- 14.3 Called on Ofsted to take a more fundamental cultural shift which focuses on outcomes and experiences for children and families.
- 14.4 Questioned whether a single judgement can actually be meaningful, given the complexity of the system and disagreed with the principle of 'limiting judgements' which can provide a distorted picture of performance.
- 14.5 Agreed that only good is good enough, but questioned the new terminology of judgements and highlighted the high performance of local authority child protection services in international terms.
- 14.6 Generally welcomed inspections of Local Safeguarding Children Boards, but highlighted that this falls short of multi-inspectorate arrangements which would provide greater ability for councils to hold partners to account. It also raised concerns that the framework as proposed is broader than current LSCB remit, which would drive costs.
- 14.7 Highlighted the effectiveness and importance of a sector-led improvement approach.
15. Under the current framework for child protection inspections, 25 per cent of 79 councils inspected were judged to be inadequate. 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.
16. Ofsted is continuing to move into the realm of improvement of councils' safeguarding and care, with a 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. The extent and detail of Ofsted's improvement support proposals are unclear.

Proposed changes to the inspection of early years providers

17. Ofsted recently carried out a consultation on raising expectations of quality and driving improvement in early years education and childcare by:
- 17.1 More frequent re-inspection and monitoring of childcare and early years providers in settings which are not yet rated 'good';
- 17.2 Replacing the "satisfactory" judgement with "requires improvement";
- 17.3 Limiting the timeframe for settings which are not yet good to improve sufficiently or face tougher sanctions such as de-registration; and

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17.4 Working directly with providers in a quality improvement role.

18. 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, it was proposed that councils' statutory duty to provide information, advice and support to providers would be repealed.
19. 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.
20. The Government has listened to some of our concerns and since amended their plans in their recent "More affordable childcare" document which sets out their vision for the early years sector. Councils will retain a quality improvement role and keep their duty to provide advice, support and information to providers judged by Ofsted to be 'requiring improvement', as a condition of providers receiving public funding. Councils can also provide support to 'good' or 'outstanding' settings if both parties wish.
21. Although we are pleased that councils will retain a quality improvement role, we do not think that there should be such a heavy reliance on Ofsted ratings for funding decisions as they only offer a snapshot in time. Local authority officers have detailed local knowledge built up from an on-going dialogue with the provider and local parents. We are also concerned a potential conflict of interest with Ofsted having its own improvement role as they will be working with groups of providers that are 'not yet good', to help them improve.

Financial Implications

22. 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.

British Youth Council

Purpose of report

For Information.

Summary

The British Youth Council (BYC) is the National Youth Council of the UK. Their purpose is to get young people aged 25 and under to influence and inform the decisions that affect their lives. This is done through encouraging them to get involved in their communities and democracy locally, nationally and internationally, and become volunteers, campaigners, decision-makers and leaders.

Every local authority in England has some kind of youth council or young mayor overseeing local authority services. The LGA has engaged BYC in the Hidden Talents campaign, including a joint hosting of a Youth Summit where young people scrutinised the LGA's proposals for reducing youth disengagement.

David Clark Deputy CEO of the BYC will be speaking to the board on the current work of the charity especially looking at improving engagement between councils and youth organisations.

Recommendation

That the Board note the report.

Action

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

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Item 4

Adopter recruitment

Purpose of report

To provide background information for the discussion on adopter recruitment.

Summary

Jan Fishwick, Chair, and Mark Owers, Director, of the Consortium of Voluntary Adoption Agencies (CVAA) will attend the meeting to discuss the challenges of adopter recruitment and how councils and voluntary agencies can work together to overcome them.

Recommendation

This report is for information.

Action

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

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Adopter recruitment

Background

1. Reforming the adoption system to increase the number of adoptions and reduce delay remains a priority for the Government. The LGA has welcomed some changes implemented to date, such as the reduction of bureaucracy in the assessment process and reforms to the family justice system, but contested others, for example local authority adoption scorecards, which do not provide a fair picture of performance. Other changes include the creation of a National Gateway to provide information to prospective adopters and supporting an increase in 'fostering for adoption'. The Department for Education (DfE) is also developing proposals on post-adoption support.
2. Local government has long maintained that the shortage of adopters is one of the major challenges in securing children adoptive homes. The numbers of children being approved by the courts for adoption each year has risen from just over 3,000 in 2009/10 to over 4,200 in 2011/12. The most recent official data analysed shows that over 4,600 children with a placement order were waiting to be able to move in with a family at 31 March 2012. The DfE estimates an additional 500-600 adopters need to be recruited and approved per annum. A survey carried out by the Association of Directors of Children's Services in April 2013 suggests that there has been significant activity in local authorities to increase the number of successful matches of children and adopters since the official data was published. It also points to intentions to significantly increase recruitment activity over the next year.
3. It is important to note that the numbers do not take account of the complexity of matching adoptive families and children. In particular, finding adoptive homes for sibling groups, older children and children with complex needs is a significant challenge.

The role of Voluntary Adoption Agencies (VAAs)

4. There are around 30 VAAs in England, which tend to provide placements for harder to place children. The Consortium of Voluntary Adoption Agencies (CVAA) is their representative body. VAAs recruit approximately 20 per cent of adopters; however achieved a 43 per cent increase in the number of adopters approved in 2012/13. Local authority-led regional and sub-regional adoption consortia often have VAA members and a small number of local authorities have contracted with VAAs to provide adopter recruitment services on their behalf.
5. The Government believes that a strong voluntary sector is crucial to addressing the adopter shortage and has outlined some of the challenges it faces. These include cash flow, as VAAs are only paid once a child is placed with an adopter they have approved and limited confidence in local authority demand for their services, which

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inhibits investment in recruitment. The DfE has provided a £1million grant to the sector via the CVAA over 2012-14 and has recently announced an additional £16million package to support growth over 2013-16, including expansion grants, start-up grants and business development support.

Government analysis and proposals

6. In January 2013 the Government published '*Further Action on Adoption: More Loving Homes*' which set out its analysis of the adopter shortage. It recognised that many adoption services provide an excellent service and are effective at recruiting sufficient adopters to meet local need, in line with their statutory duties. However, the current system places disincentives on councils to recruit more adopters than are needed in their local area and supply is not keeping up with demand at national level. The Government also considers that the small scale at which some local authority adopter recruitment services operate is unsustainable.
7. The Government's proposed solution is to provide the Secretary of State with the power to force councils to outsource their adopter recruitment and assessment functions to other agencies. The Children and Families Bill contains provision for such a power, which could be applied to individual councils, groups of councils, or local government as a whole. The LGA believes this is unnecessary, disproportionate and risky and is arguing strongly against the provision as the Bill progresses through the parliamentary process.

Sector alternative

8. The LGA, the Society of Local Authority Chief Executives (SOLACE) and the Association of Directors of Children's Services (ADCS) have produced an alternative, sector-led plan. It recognises that there is scope for improvement in the system and outlined our collective ambition to reduce the national adopter shortfall (estimated by DfE at 31 March 2012 to be 2,000 – 3,000) by more than 50% by 31 March 2014.
9. Actions include removing the historic systemic disincentive created by the fee structure, which makes competitors of councils and discourages recruiting more adopters than are needed locally. This is because the fee which a council pays to place children with adopters that another council has recruited does not cover the recruiting council's costs. It is also lower than the fee paid to VAAs, which can lead to sequential decision-making and build in delay. The plan also includes measures to support local political and professional leadership and facilitation of discussions about more formal joint working in the sector.
10. The Children's Minister, Edward Timpson MP, has welcomed the commitments made by local government, but has also voiced concern about how this will be sustained in the longer-term. The Minister has invited representatives of the local government and voluntary sector to a series of meeting in the second half of 2013.
11. In parallel to these meetings, CVAA, LGA, SOLACE and ADCS have been exploring ways in which the statutory and voluntary parts of the adoption sector could work more closely together. This could take the form of a joint Board, focusing on ensuring

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the national system operates at optimum level in order to meet the needs of children for whom adoption is the best way to achieve permanence. Further work needs to be carried out on the detail of such a model, but proactively demonstrating sector leadership and addressing performance challenges could put local government in a stronger position on this agenda.

Conclusion

12. The supply of adopters is insufficient for the number of children awaiting adoption nationally. Better matching the supply of adoptive families with the needs of children at national level would have benefits for looked after children for whom adoption is the best choice. This also has the potential to lead to fewer children in care, which would have financial implications for councils. Achieving this requires local authorities to work more closely both together and with the voluntary sector. Failure to do so could lead to the Government using the power to remove councils from adopter recruitment that it expects to achieve through the Children and Families Bill.

Financial Implications

13. The LGA's work on this issue falls within the budgeted resource for the Finance and Policy Directorate.

Membership and Terms of Reference for 2013/14

Purpose of report

To ask the Children and Young People Board to note its Membership and Terms of Reference for 2013/14.

Summary

The Board's Membership (**Appendix A**) and Terms of Reference (**Appendix B**) are attached to this report.

Recommendation

That the Children and Young People Board notes its Membership and Terms of Reference for 2013/14.

Action

No further action necessary.

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Children and Young People Board - Membership 2013/2014

Councillor	Authority
Conservative (7)	
David Simmonds [Chairman]	Hillingdon LB
Paul Carter	Kent CC
Patricia Bradwell	Lincolnshire CC
Roy Perry*	Hampshire CC
Paul McLain*	Gloucestershire CC
Liz Hacket Pain	Monmouthshire CC
John Osman	Somerset CC
Substitutes:	
Tony Hall**	North Yorkshire CC
Peter Evans	W Sussex CC
Tom Garrod**	Norfolk CC
Ivan Ould**	Leicestershire CC
Labour (7)	
Nick Forbes [Vice Chair]	Newcastle
Rita Krishna	Hackney LB
John Merry CBE	Salford City
Paul Lakin	Rotherham MBC
Nicky Williams*	Plymouth
Anne Western*	Derbyshire
Richard Watts*	Islington LB
Substitutes:	
Dora Dixon Fyle**	Southwark
Liberal Democrat (2)	
Liz Green [Deputy Chair]	Kingston upon Thames RB
David Bellotti	Bath & NE Somerset Council
Substitutes:	
Peter Downes OBE	Cambridgeshire CC
Independent (2)	
Apu Bagchi [Deputy Chair]	Bedford BC
Helen Powell*	Lincolnshire and South Kesteven
Substitutes	
TBC	

*new member

**new substitute

Terms of reference and remit

The purpose of the Children and Young People Board is to provide strategic oversight of all the Local Government Association's (LGA) policy and improvement activity in relation to children and young people. This includes education, social care and family support services in line with the LGA's priorities.

Boards should seek to involve councillors in supporting the delivery of these priorities. This can be through task groups, rural and urban commissions, special interest groups (SIGs), regional networks and other means of wider engagement. They operate essentially as the centre of a network connecting to all councils and drawing on the expertise of key advisors from the sector.

The Children and Young People Board will be responsible for:

1. Developing a thorough understanding of council priorities and performance in the areas of responsibility, using strong networks and robust information.
2. Helping to shape the LGA Business plan by ensuring the priorities of the sector are fed into the process.
3. Overseeing a programme of work to deliver the strategic priorities set by the LGA Executive, covering lobbying and campaigns, research and or policy, good practice, improvement support and events – as specified in the business plan, taking into account linkages with other policy boards where appropriate.
4. Representational and lobbying activities on behalf of the LGA and responsibility for the promulgation of activity through public statements in its areas of responsibility.
5. Building and maintaining effective relationships with key stakeholders.

The Children and Young People Board may:

- Appoint members to relevant outside bodies in accordance with guidance in the Political Conventions.
- Appoint member 'champions' where appropriate (who must be a current member of the board) on key issues, with responsibility for liaising with portfolio holders on key issues that require rapid response and or contact with councils.

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.

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Position: Programme Officer
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E-mail: verity.sinclair@local.gov.uk

Other business report

Schools' and Children's Services Funding Update

National Funding Formula

1. In the Spending Review in June it was announced that the Government intend to introduce a national funding formula for the year 2015-16. It was announced that there would be real terms protection for the schools' budget and the Pupil Premium. However there was no announcement of the level of the minimum funding guarantee for 2015-16.
2. So far contact with DfE has suggested that officials intend to carry out consultation and modelling across government in Autumn 2013, before beginning a detailed 12 weeks' consultation in December 2013, in time to announce final policy and allocations in May 2014.
3. The key issues will be:
 - 3.1 Which factors to include in a national formula and how to weight them;
 - 3.2 Transition and protection for schools and local authorities;
 - 3.3 How much leeway there will be to make changes at a local authority level, for example through the Schools Forum; and
 - 3.4 Whether DfE wish to propose any further changes to local funding formulae.
4. Officers will bring regular updates to the Board.

Education Services Grant (ESG)

5. In the Spending Round announcement on 26th June 2013 it was announced that the Education Services Grant will reduce by around £200m in 2015-16.
6. The ESG was established in April 2013 to replace the former system of LA Block LACSEG payments to academies. ESG is intended to pay for central education functions including:
 - 6.1 Therapies and other health related services;
 - 6.2 Pupil support;
 - 6.3 Education welfare service;
 - 6.4 School improvement;
 - 6.5 Asset management – education;
 - 6.6 Music services;
 - 6.7 Visual and performing arts (other than music);
 - 6.8 Outdoor education including environmental and field studies (not sports);
 - 6.9 Statutory/ regulatory duties;
 - 6.10 Premature retirement costs/ redundancy costs (new provisions);and

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6.11 Monitoring national curriculum assessment.

7. ESG was set at £1.04bn in 2013-14 and £1.03bn in 2014-15. However the new consultation suggests it will fall to around £800m in 2015-16. Currently local authorities get £131 per pupil for pupils in maintained schools. However for pupils in academies they get £15 per pupil, which covers education welfare services, some asset management and various statutory and regulatory duties.
8. A reduction of £200m represents around 20 per cent of the 2014-15 ESG. This would equate to a flat per pupil rate of around £87 in 2015-16. Academies receive the same base rate ESG funding as local authorities (£116 per pupil), however most of them are on a protected rate (£150 per pupil in 2013/14 and £140 per pupil in 2014/15). The DfE says that they are committed to bringing together the local authority and academy rates over time and would anticipate covering this in the consultation.
9. The DfE says that it is keen to engage with local authorities, schools and other stakeholders in order to consider how the proposed reductions to ESG might be implemented.
10. They have looked at 2012-13 s.251 data to make some assessments of current ESG-related spend in local authorities and say that 27 local authorities are currently spending less than £87 per pupil on education support services, but this is the lower end. The LGA has been very critical of the use of s.251 data and the DfE wish to look below the surface seems to indicate acceptance that s.251 data does not show the full picture.
11. One key issue is funding for school improvement. This is within the £116 per pupil and is not included in the amount for local authority duties. However Ofsted has indicated that local authorities have a school improvement role for all schools whether maintained or academies. Academies may buy into school improvement services; in practice this happens a great deal particularly with convertor academies, but if that does not happen it is not clear where the funding for school improvement for academies comes from. This is an issue which we will wish to develop in the forthcoming consultation.
12. Officers understand that the DfE is considering consulting in two stages, starting in Autumn 2013:
 - 12.1 A preliminary 'deep-dive' investigation (likely to begin around October 2013). This will involve conversations with and visits to local authorities and academies, in order to understand the issues and gather examples of best practice in delivering existing services. LGA officers understand from contact with DfE officials that this is likely to involve around 8 councils.
 - 12.2 A formal written consultation (likely to begin towards the end of 2013 and last for a minimum of 12 weeks). The DfE says that this will aim to disseminate the best

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practice identified in the 'deep-dive', assess likely impacts and identify the most effective solutions for implementing the reduction.

13. DfE still needs to finalise these timings and agree them with ministers, but we understand that they will be aiming to publish the Government's response to the consultation in early summer 2014.

Children's Services Costs

14. In the Spending Round settlement it was announced that DfE and DCLG will work with local government to examine the scope to improve outcomes, reduce burdens and drive efficiency in children's services, and report back on progress in the autumn. LGA officers have had contact with DfE and DCLG officials and we are moving to let our own project which will concentrate on the s.251 return.
15. Further developments will be reported to the Board.

Schools Capital

16. Following the announcements on capital funding made on 27 June where 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 there has been no further development on allocation methodologies. We understand that DfE officials intend to discuss allocation methodologies with ministers and then consult with the sector in the autumn.
17. 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 did not bid because of the private finance nature of PSBP, but DfE officials have made it clear that they will not reopen the bidding process.
18. The outcome of the Targeted Basic Need programme was announced on July 18th; £820m has been allocated following a bid based process. The Government said that it would deliver around 74,000 new pupil places in 45 new schools and through the expansion of 333 outstanding and good schools.
19. However there is continuing concern about the shortage of school places and on 3rd September the LGA published some work which predicted that based on data submitted to DfE that 1000 of the 2277 local planning districts would be over capacity by 2015-16. Cllr David Simmonds appeared on the Today programme following the release of these figures

Sector-led improvement

20. Since the last meeting of the Board on 17 July, discussions have been continuing on taking forward the various elements of the sector-led offer to councils.

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20.1 The first of this year's leadership academies took place on 5/6 September with both David Simmonds and Rita Krishna acting as facilitators during the two days.

20.2 A meeting was held with SOLACE (Society of Local Authority Chief executives) to discuss proposals for a joint leadership work engaging lead members, DCSs and chief executives. Initial discussion have been held on joint induction work in summer 2014 and piloting an event this year which would involve attendees from all three groups in working on potential future scenarios for councils and children's services.

20.3 Discussions are taking place with the LGA's Principal Advisers to ensure they are able to access additional support for councils on children's services, where needed and that the LGA keeps in touch with the sector-led improvement work that is continuing in regions.

Children's Health update

21. A Joint Board on children's health issues was convened for office holders of the Children and Young People Board and Community Wellbeing Board on 15 July 2013. The Joint Board discussed the different options available for the safe transfer of commissioning responsibilities for 0-5 year olds including commissioning of health visiting services and the Family Nurse Partnership which transfers to councils in 2015.
22. Health Visiting is an extremely high priority for the Government, which is encouraging the Department of Health of taking a robust assurance process. It is therefore essential that the process provides effective assurance to Ministers whilst delivering a proportionate and collaborative approach appropriate for local government.
23. The Joint Board agreed that the transition plans would need to take account of the following points:
 - 23.1 Focus on outcomes, looking at what we want to achieve instead of the bureaucracy of the process;
 - 23.2 Partners across health, central and local government at both national and local level will need to work together and share information in an open manner;
 - 23.3 Health and Wellbeing Boards will need to be made aware of the transfer as early as possible so that it can be prioritised;
 - 23.4 The LGA and partners should work with councils to help them prepare the ground for the transition, including sharing best practice examples;
 - 23.5 Links should be made with the work on troubled families and children's centres as well as other connected areas; and
 - 23.6 The LGA has a key role to play in demonstrating to NHS England that there is real enthusiasm from councils to make this transfer run smoothly and that councils' are capable of delivering these new responsibilities.

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24. The Joint Board also discussed the 2013/14 work programme which includes delivering a series of public health conferences and resource sheets for members and officers, delivering the 2015 transfer; and, delivering the priorities agreed by the Children's Health and Wellbeing Partnership on integration, early identification and prevention. The Board agreed that delivery of the work children's health programme should include:
- 24.1 Looking at how communication can be improved between local authorities and schools especially academies and free schools.
 - 24.2 Encouraging all schools to join up with their local authority in the co-ordination process of vaccinations to ensure no school or child is missed out from the process.
25. Following the Joint Board meeting, discussions to agree a collaborative and proportionate transition and assurance process for the 2015 transfer are on-going between the Department of Health, Public Health England, NHS England and the LGA.

Hidden Talents: Youth engagement in work and learning

26. Over the summer we have pushed the case for local authorities to have greater levers over services to help young people into work and learning. This has included publishing a poll of unemployed young people which found services too complicated and poorly targeted to their personal needs, a press release on how some councils are putting the Government's Youth Contract to shame in areas where local authorities are leading it rather than national agencies, and a report highlighting a drop in the number of young people receiving support on national skills and employment programmes over the last three years. The work has received a good deal of press attention over the summer, making a clear case for devolving future youth engagement schemes to local authorities. This activity has formed part of a programme of engagement to influence the Deputy Prime Minister's review of national schemes and services to 16-24 year olds, which is due to report to the Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister in mid-September. This work is jointly led by Lead Members of the Children and Young People and Economy and Transport Boards.

Action research into more effective commissioning of children's homes – final report and launch event

27. The Office of Public Management (OPM) was commissioned by the LGA to work with ten local authorities conducting action research into more effective strategic commissioning of children's residential care homes. The research focused on three aspects of commissioning: needs analysis; matching needs and supply; and quality assurance and monitoring. It included a review of published literature, extensive interviewing, an online survey of children and young people in care and care leavers and facilitated action learning groups.

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28. The final report which summarises the findings and some recommendations for the sector was launched in August. Given the high profile recently placed on children's homes and the recent Government proposals affecting them, we hope this report will be a helpful resource to explore some of the issues affecting councils' commissioning of children's homes.
29. The LGA will also be holding an interactive half day event on 17th September in Local Government House, London, where councils taking part will share the learning from the project.

National Children and Adult Service Conference, 16 – 18 October 2013, Harrogate

30. The National Children and Adult Services Conference is the key event for the LGA's Children and Young People Board. It is widely recognised as the most important annual event of its kind for councillors, directors, senior officers, policymakers and service managers with responsibilities for children's services, adult social care and health in the statutory, voluntary and private sectors. The LGA Chairman will open the conference this year and other confirmed plenary speakers include Jeremy Hunt, Norman Lamb, Edward Timpson, Andy Burnham and Stephen Twigg. To date, 100 local authorities have registered to attend and over 500 delegates.
31. The LGA's Children and Young People Board will meet on the Friday morning at the conference and the session will be open to all Councillors attending the conference. Edward Timpson MP, the Children's Minister, will attend the session.

Note of decisions taken and actions required

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

Attendance

Position	Councillor	Council / Representing
Chairman	David Simmonds	Hillingdon LB
Deputy-Chairman	Liz Green	Kingston upon Thames RB
Deputy-Chairman	Apu Bagchi	Bedford BC
Members	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
Substitutes	Roy Perry	Hampshire CC
	Peter Evans	West Sussex CC
	Peter Downes OBE	Cambridgeshire CC
Apologies	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.

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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

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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.

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

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

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

