

## Note of decisions taken and actions required

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<b>Title:</b>	Joint Children and Young People and Community Wellbeing Board
<b>Date and time:</b>	24 July 2012, 14.00
<b>Venue:</b>	Rathbone Room 7.1, Local Government House

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### Attendance

Position	Councillor	Council / Organisation
Chairman (CYP)	David Rogers OBE	East Sussex CC
Chairman (CWB)	David Simmonds	Hillingdon
Deputy chair (CYP)	Liz Green	Kingston LB
Deputy chair (CWB)	Ruth Lyon	Elmbridge BC
Deputy chair (CYP)	Apu Bagchi	Bedford BC
	Via telephone:	
Vice chairman (CWB)	Keith Mitchell CBE	Oxfordshire CC
Vice chairman (CYP)	John Merry	Salford MBC
Apologies	Linda Thomas	Bolton MBC
In Attendance	Alan Bell	Xxxxxxx, Department of Health
	Sally Burlington	LGA, Head of Programme
	Samantha Ramanah	LGA, Adviser
	Liam Paul	LGA, Members' Services Officer

Item	Decisions and actions	Action by
1.	<p><b>Chair's welcome</b></p> <p>The Chair welcomed the attendees, who comprised the Lead Members of the LGA's two boards with responsibility for Children's issues – the Community Wellbeing board and the Children and Young People's board.</p> <p>Apologies were received from Cllr Linda Thomas</p>	
2, 3	<p><b>Update on safeguarding – Alan Bell, xxxxxxxx, Department of Health</b></p> <p>Cllr David Simmonds, Chair of the Children and Young People's board introduced the first speaker, Alan Bell, xxxxxxxx, whose role gave him the responsibility for Children's safeguarding – working in conjunction with colleagues from across Government; including the Department for Education; and wider stakeholders.</p> <p>It was explained that there were discrete teams within the Department for Health (DH), for safeguarding of children and for vulnerable adults. His attendance was in lieu of xxxxxx, who could not attend due to prior engagements. Alan set out the government and his department's work in a number of areas:</p> <p><i>The Children and Young People's Health Outcomes Forum</i> – this body will report to the Secretary of State for Health the following week (w/c 30 July 2012), and its report would be published for comment at the same time. The full Children and young people's strategy would be published later this year – in September.</p> <p>Following the Munroe review, its recommendations and other stakeholder pressure regarding safeguarding arrangements for children in the new (post Health and Social Care Act 2012) NHS system, DH has begun a series of work, co-produced with partners to address areas of uncertainty and help councils and staff.</p> <p>Much of this work is directed and influenced by the Extended Stakeholder Group, which will next meet on the 20 September. Whilst this group has previously been predominantly health organisations, its membership is now being extending to be more inclusive of the wider variety of partners in the new</p>	

healthcare system, such as Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) Chairs, Local Authority Directors of Children's services (DCSs) and the LGA.

*The new Accountability framework* – Development of the new Accountability framework is a key part of the work overseen by the Extended Stakeholder group, and is led by Ursula Gallagher, NHS Ealing, along with Jane Cummings, Chief Nursing Officer, NHS Commissioning Board. The initial thrust of this workstream is to clarify how the NHS CB and Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) will work together to fulfil their duties to children under the Act and other legislation. SOLACE and the LGA will continue to inform this work, with feedback through the LGA's Associate director Geoff Alltimes.

*Revised statutory guidance on safeguarding children* - Work has also continued to develop revised and reduced statutory guidance on Safeguarding Children, which is currently out for consultation. The Department for Education consultation can be accessed via this [link](#) and is open until 04 September. A government response will follow later in the Autumn. Alan explained that the consultation addresses some health issues, but not all, as it is focused on reducing and improving the existing body of guidance.

*Working Together and Safeguarding Accountability and Assurance Framework* – This document is due to be published in Autumn 2012 (late October), and Alan added that it was felt that this inter-agency statutory guidance was the most important element of safeguarding policy to implement and a base to be in place first. Once the relevant bodies at national and local level were brought together, and understood each other's roles and accountabilities there would be an opportunity to integrate further advice and guidance focused on young people's health.

*Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) Authorisation* - Alan reminded those present that some guidance already existed regarding CCG Commissioning processes and the CCGs' place in the new accountability framework. This guidance required that CCGs provide evidence of their local processes and measures to safeguard children in order to obtain authorisation. Evidence of safeguarding was to be tested through a 360° assessment process, to be led by the responsible local authority(s) in each CCG area.

In discussion it emerged that although some members were aware of this ongoing authorisation process, levels of actual involvement varied. It was explained that the normal procedure

would be for the councillor with responsibility for health in each area to be involved in the process. Concerns were expressed about the extent and nature of local authority involvement in the authorisation process, and that it was possible that **some authorities may not be aware of their responsibilities and/or may not be fulfilling this process.**

*Other Existing guidance* – Alan then reminded members of the **Applicants' guide**, and that local authorities should continue to use relevant advice in the existing legislation as the work to refresh the body of statutory guidance goes on.

*Future Work* – Alan concluded by identifying the Regulation of Children's health / the Safeguarding system and scoping the role of health service and other providers in the new arrangements for children's wellbeing, as two future areas of work for his team.

In the following discussion, a number of points were made, summarised below:

- The letter from the Secretary of State for Health, received 11 July, confirms the assurances received in other officer level meetings and at other engagements regarding the department's commitment to integrating safeguarding with other children's services and ensuring that the reformed health system delivers against its outcomes for children. This represented progress for local government in getting its concerns addressed.
- A concern that whilst relationships were improving, the Department for Health and other central government departments would need to continue to treat local government as an equal partner in future – including a greater recognition of the LGA's role as a cross-party, political organisation, therefore in some cases a single elected representative at DH strategy forums may not be enough.

## **Decision**

*Members **noted** the report and update provided.*

## **Action**

Officers to seek further information on Local Authorities' role in authorising Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs), including the level of involvement of elected members and an indication of

**Sam Ramanah**

the extent to which local authorities around the country are aware of their role and responsibilities.

#### **4, 5 Update on Children and Young People's health work programme and support offer**

Sam Ramanah, Adviser, LGA introduced this item and summarised her report. She explained that much work remained to successfully put the arrangements introduced in the Health and Social Care act into practice. Work undertaken by the LGA over the last 12 months included:

- The updating of a number of products, including the ['Must Knows for Lead Members for Children's services'](#) document and the peer review methodology to incorporate the role of Health and Wellbeing boards and changes to JSNAs and JHWSs
- Case studies and conferences to aid the development of expertise within the sector and spread good practice, including work on Health and Wellbeing boards facilitated from the [Children and Young people's learning sets](#), coproduced with the NHS Confederation.
- LGA response to the revised guidance on children's safeguarding (in progress) and on the development of the Children and Young People's Health Outcomes strategy.
- Establishment of a forum on the LGA's Knowledge Hub facility to bring practitioners and resources together in one place, as well as a dedicated resource area on the LGA website under <http://www.local.gov.uk/childrens-health>.

Regarding the commissioning of services for the 0-5 age group, it was explained that the NHS Commissioning Board will continue to use existing Children's Partnerships until the transfer of this responsibility to local government in 2015. Sam highlighted the need for government to provide further detail on the form of the arrangements post-2015, and during the transitional period.

The future work programme was then outlined, highlighting in particular:

- Transition – Case Studies and 'Key Questions to Ask' document for local authorities and new bodies such as CCGs and HWBs who will be deliver and commission for children's public health.
- Safeguarding – Continuing work to represent the sector's

concerns to DH and ensure that these are addressed. A joint ADCS-LGA consultation on the revised safeguarding regulations. A toolkit to clarifying different bodies' roles and responsibilities in the system. This work will be developed using the Regional Lead member networks.

- Children and Young People's Health Outcomes strategy – It was explained that DH had a number of proposals and constructive engagement was underway to ensure the strategy's recommendations are sufficient.
- Co-ordination – A high-level forum, based on the Local Government Health Transition Task Group, and consisting of senior local authority officers and members, as well as key national players, will be established to provide a single place for stakeholders to discuss issues affecting children and young people arising from the transition to new health arrangements.
- A series of public health conferences, between November 2012 and March 2013, to follow a life course approach to identify key success factors, examine case studies and share good practice.

The members present then provided their feedback on the support offer, with the following suggestions made in discussion:

- It may be useful to investigate how Lead members with responsibility for Children and Young people (CYP) are using their accountability role.
- Councils should be urged to take a pro-active, prevention-based approach, and the LGA should reflect this stance.
- The work programme to include corporate social responsibility and work with partners in the retail/business sector on the children's health agenda.
- Engagement with children and young people should be a priority for those working in the new Public Health system
- Contribution of schools in health agenda – Schools can have a direct impact on Health, especially free schools and academies, through school meals and curriculum.
- Alcohol should be included as one of local government's public health responsibilities which impacts upon CYP.
- The support offer needs to reach every member at every council i.e. concentrate not simply on Lead Members with responsibility for CYP / Health, but be accessible and applicable to ward members too.

- Officers were urged to maintain a strong focus on safeguarding issues.
- The use of existing examples of shared leadership and collective responsibility elsewhere in local authority work to act as a model for the Health and Wellbeing boards e.g. successful Children's Trusts.

### **Decisions**

1. Members **welcomed** the progress so far on the support programme and lobbying activity.
2. Members **approved** the proposed Children and Young People's health support offer to councils and their partners for 2012/13.

### **Actions**

- Officers to organise an update for the Children and Young People Board in six months time.
- Officers to update the joint Board on developments within Children and Young People's health as and when required.
- Officers to respond to members' suggestions as outlined above and build into the Children and Young People's Health work programme wherever possible.

**Sam Ramanah**

## **6 Close**

Cllr David Rogers and Cllr David Simmonds thanked those present and participating via teleconference for their time and closed the meeting.