

SAM RAMANAH

From the Rt Hon Andrew Lansley CBE MP  
Secretary of State for Health

Member Services

Department of Health

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11 JUL 2012

Dear David & David,

Thank you for your letter of 31 May about the *Children and young people's outcomes strategy*.

I would like to begin by thanking the LGA for the commitment and interest it has shown, and continues to show, in improving the health and well-being of children and young people.

I made clear when I established an independent Children and Young People's Outcomes Forum to inform the development of this Strategy that I wanted it to look at the entire spectrum of children's health and well-being needs. This is reflected in the Forum's membership, which includes individuals from a wide range of backgrounds, including Directors of Children's Services, an elected councillor, parent representatives, representatives of Royal Colleges, children's voluntary sector workers and NHS clinicians.

I received an update from the Forum in April. I understand that it has already considered the concerns you raise, and that these will be fully reflected in the report's conclusions and recommendations. For example, integrating services for children and young people with safeguarding is one of the key areas that the Forum has sought to address through its work. I will receive the full report from the Forum shortly.

I am informed that representatives from the LGA attended an event on 20 June, where the Forum presented its work to key partners, and that this included details of the methodology that it had adopted to undertake its task, which I know included a significant amount of external engagement.

I understand that the Forum also outlined the key themes that were emerging, and areas where it would like to make recommendations concerning the health outcomes that matter most for children and young people. It also outlined the contribution that the health system needs to make to support their delivery. I hope that the information that was presented at this meeting reassured you of the wide scope of the Forum's considerations.

Once the report has been submitted, the Department will aim to engage with all the key organisations across the NHS and local government to consider the report's implications for how services are commissioned and provided in a way that improves the health and well-being of children and young people. I and my officials look forward to working with the LGA over the coming months to ensure that we all play our part in supporting improved health outcomes for children and young people.

However, given the importance of Local Government in supporting better health outcomes, I am happy to meet with you both. If your office could contact my diary manager Chris Bird ([chirs.bird@dh.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:chirs.bird@dh.gsi.gov.uk)) in order to make the necessary arrangements.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Lansley', with a stylized, cursive script.

**ANDREW LANSLEY CBE**