

Children and Young People Programme Board – Report from Baroness Ritchie (Chairman)

1. On 20 October I gave a speech at a LG Association-sponsored **Corporate Parenting conference**. I emphasised the potential benefits and savings that place-based budgets can generate for local partners seeking to intervene earlier in the lives of vulnerable children and young people.
2. On 21 October, in anticipation of the Government's justice green paper (due December 2010), the LG Association held a **Youth Offending Conference** to discuss the local government response to policy proposals such as payment by results and the devolution of custody budgets to councils likely to be contained in it. Speakers included the Chair of the Youth Justice Board and the Children's Commissioner for England.
3. Cllr Gerald Vernon-Jackson and I had a further meeting with Education Secretary Michael Gove on 28 October to consider emerging recommendations from the task and finish groups working to the **Ministerial Advisory Group (MAG)** on the role of councils in education. The three task and finish groups met in September, with LGA representation, to consider commissioning, admissions and exclusions and school improvement. I chaired the commissioning meeting and will report conclusions to the next meeting of the MAG.
4. The National Commissioning Framework for 16-19 education and training has been withdrawn and there will be no replacement for this until after the publication of the Education White Paper, now expected at the end of November. However, feedback to the LGA shows that local authorities are continuing to work in partnership with providers and employers to plan 16-19 education and training for 2011-12. The LGA is working closely with the Association of Directors of Children's Services to make sure that this work continues until final decisions are taken in the MAG on the council role in commissioning.
5. The Secretary of State has agreed to join a meeting of the LGA Children and Young People Board at the **National Children and Adults Services conference** on 4 November. He will discuss the Education White Paper, and lead members for children and young people and Leaders attending the conference have also been invited.

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