

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

1. The LG Group hosted a roundtable on the **future of children's health** on 21 December. This meeting between myself, representatives of, amongst others, the LG Group, Department of Health, Department of Education, the NHS Alliance, NHS Confederation, Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (RCPCH), and Professor Sir Ian Kennedy discussed Sir Ian's report 'Getting it Right for Children and Young People', as well as papers outlining the progress made so far on this issue by the RCPCH and LG Group.
2. A paper on children's health, where points from this discussion will be developed, will go to the LG Group's Children and Young People Programme Board on 25 January 2011 for direction by the Board, before another such roundtable is held early this year.
3. On 8 December 2010 I led a session on the education white paper at a joint LG Group / National Governors Association event on '**Implementing the Education White Paper: Future challenges for governors and councils**'. This discussed the changing role of governors in the light of national policy changes affecting local authorities and schools and I highlighted LG Group successes in securing a strategic role for councils, as well as the challenges these changes will present.
4. On 4 November I chaired a meeting of the LGA Children and Young People Board at the National Children and Adults Services conference where the Rt Hon Michael Gove MP, Secretary of State for Education, joined us to discuss the **education white paper** with over 50 lead members for children and young people and Leaders also in attendance.
5. The importance of this LG Group role in facilitating discussion with councillors on the future role of local authorities in education was emphasised when on 24 November 2010, the Government laid out its plans for reform of the schools system in its white paper 'The Importance of Teaching'. In the paper it is clear the Government has listened to our arguments and ensured that local government will continue to have a strong, strategic role in education as champions for parents, families and vulnerable children. Funding for schools will also continue to be allocated through councils working in close partnership with local schools.

6. We also successfully lobbied for the new approaches to permanent exclusions that will be trialled, with schools taking on the power, money and responsibility to secure alternative provision for excluded pupils. Within this the academic performance of excluded children will count in the excluding school's performance tables.

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