

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

1. At the Children and Young People Programme Board on 29 March, representatives from the 8 regional Children and Young People's **Lead Member networks** joined the Board in discussions, including how the Board can work more closely with the networks. We intend to hold more joint meetings with the networks in future.
2. Sarah Teather, Minister for Children and Families, also attended the Board, to discuss with Members the **Special Educational Needs and Disability Green Paper**. The green paper was published on 4 March with a consultation period until 30 June 2011. A Member representative from the LG Group, will be attending a session of the Education Committee on the Green Paper and its implications for teachers, local government, parents and pupils, on 17 May.
3. Ahead of the publication of the final report of the Munro review of child protection, Professor Munro attended the Board to discuss progress. The need to update the **role of Lead Members for Children** was raised in the debate. In June, Members from the Board will be discussing this issue further with representatives from the Department for Education.
4. On 3 May I chaired the task and finish group established by the **Ministerial Advisory Group (MAG)** to discuss the options for the reform of schools funding. The group had an initial discussion on the options for reform of the schools funding formula and received an update on the progress of the James Review of capital funding for schools. There is currently a public consultation on school funding reform and the LGA will be doing a response jointly with ADCS, but will continue to use the MAG task and finish group for an ongoing dialogue with DfE on school funding issues.
5. On 10 May I attended the launch of the final report of the **Munro review of child protection**, which once again highlights the need to reduce the bureaucracy pressing down on social workers. Freeing up social workers to spend more time with children who are at risk and with families that are struggling to cope is something LGG has long been calling for. It is encouraging that the report acknowledges that there are a range of organisations involved in keeping children safe from harm and that inspection should examine all the professional agencies working to protect children.

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