

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

1. In June I wrote to Tim Loughton MP to welcome the **Munro Review's** emphasis on increasing the scope for professional judgment and reducing overly burdensome central prescription and bureaucracy. We are keen to continue working closely with the Department for Education and continue engagement through the implementation of the recommendations. I have requested that the Minister consider a member sitting on the Implementation Panel.
2. At the May meeting of the Board Liz Railton, Interim Director of the **Children's Improvement Board (CIB)** attended the meeting to give a presentation on the work underway through the CIB for a sector led approach to improvement for children's services. The CIB is a partnership board set up by the LG Group, the Association of Directors of Children's Services, SOLACE and the Department for Education. The Board will have responsibility for preventing failure at all points in the improvement cycle where there are identified risks and weaknesses, through a robust system of challenge and improvement support. This will be discussed further at future meetings and is now a standing item on the Children and Young People Programme Board's agenda, which will also be providing overall direction for the CIB.
3. Discussions with DfE officials on the **schools funding consultation** have continued through both the Task and Finish Group of the Ministerial Advisory Group, which I chair, as well officer involvement in the official-level School Funding Implementation Group. So far discussions have focussed on exactly what would shape a reformed schools funding system as well as the role of local authorities within it. Following the joint submission to the first stage of the consultation, the LGA has continued to work jointly with ADCS. The MAG Task and Finish Group has also been discussing the recommendations of the **James Review on Schools Capital**.
4. I wrote to David Norgrove to endorse the consultation response submitted by ADCS to the **Family Justice Review**. In particular the letter welcomed the focus on the needs of children in the system and the proposals to reduce delays and their associated harm. The courts have an essential role to play in safeguarding children and that it is vital to get reform right for children, young people and families.

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