

Children and Young People Board

Agenda

Wednesday, 25 March 2015
11.00 am

Westminster Suite, 8th Floor, Local
Government House, Smith Square, London,
SW1P 3HZ

To: Members of the Children and Young People Board
cc: Named officers for briefing purposes

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This meeting is



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Children & Young People Board
25 March 2015

There will be a meeting of the Children & Young People Board at **11.00 am on Wednesday, 25 March 2015** Westminster Suite, 8th Floor, Local Government House, Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ.

A sandwich lunch will be available, for those who have requested one, at 1.00pm

Attendance Sheet:

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Apologies:

Please notify your political group office (see contact telephone numbers below) if you are unable to attend this meeting.

Labour:	Aicha Less: 020 7664 3263	email: aicha.less@local.gov.uk
Conservative:	Luke Taylor: 020 7664 3264	email: luke.taylor@local.gov.uk
Liberal Democrat:	Group Office: 020 7664 3235	email: libdem@local.gov.uk
Independent:	Group Office: 020 7664 3224	email: Vanessa.Chagas@local.gov.uk

Location:

A map showing the location of Local Government House is printed on the back cover.

LGA Contact:

Patrick McDermott
0207 664 3342 patrick.mcdermott1@hotmail.com

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Children & Young People Board – Membership 2014/2015

Councillor	Authority
Labour (7)	
Cllr Nick Forbes (Vice-Chair)	Newcastle upon Tyne City Council
Cllr John Merry CBE	Salford City Council
Cllr Richard Watts	Islington Council
Cllr Dora Dixon-Fyle MBE	Southwark Council
Cllr Bob Cook	Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council
Cllr John Kent	Thurrock Council
Cllr Anne Burns	Cumbria County Council
Substitutes	
Cllr Tim Cheetham	Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council
Cllr Anntoinette Bramble	Hackney London Borough Council
Conservative (7)	
Cllr David Simmonds (Chairman)	Hillingdon London Borough Council
Cllr Jane Scott OBE	Wiltshire Council
Cllr Patricia Bradwell	Lincolnshire County Council
Cllr Paul McLain	Gloucestershire County Council
Cllr Liz Hacket Pain	Monmouthshire County Council
Cllr Ivan Ould	Leicestershire County Council
Cllr Tony Hall	North Yorkshire County Council
Substitutes	
Cllr Ian Parry	Staffordshire County Council
Cllr Phillip Bicknell	Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead
Cllr Peter Evans	West Sussex County Council
Cllr Thomas Garrod	Norfolk County Council
Liberal Democrat (2)	
Cllr Liz Green (Deputy Chair)	Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames
Cllr David Bellotti	Bath & North East Somerset Council
Substitutes	
Cllr Peter Downes	Cambridgeshire County Council
Independent (2)	
Cllr Helen Powell (Deputy Chair)	Lincolnshire County Council
Cllr Paul Cullen	Richmondshire District Council
Substitutes	
Cllr Anne Hawkesworth	Bradford Metropolitan District Council
Cllr Adrian Naylor	Bradford Metropolitan District Council

Agenda

Children & Young People Board

Wednesday 25 March 2015

11.00 am

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Item

- | | |
|---|---------|
| 1. Declarations of Interest | |
| 2. Early Years and Childcare | 1 - 6 |
| Ellen Broome, Director of Policy, Communication and Research at the Family and Childcare Trust (FCT) has been invited to attend the Board meeting to discuss the FCT's views on the need for a review of childcare funding. | |
| 3. Child Sexual Exploitation | 7 - 10 |
| 4. Other Business Report | 11 - 14 |

PART 2: CONFIDENTIAL

- | | |
|---|---------|
| 5. Note of the Previous Meeting | 15 - 20 |
| 6. A Future Inspection Model for Children's Services | 21 - 32 |
| 7. Ofsted | 33 - 36 |

The Ofsted Chairman, David Hoare, is attending the Board meeting to discuss the inspectorate's future work, with particular reference to improvement, and how this could be impacted by the result of May's General Election.

Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday, 17 June 2015, 11.00 am, Smith Square 3&4, Ground Floor, Local Government House, Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ

Early years and childcare

Purpose

Members are asked to consider:

- funding for early years and childcare
- the role of councils in improving availability of early years provision
- the role of councils in improving quality in early years' provision.

Summary

This report provides an overview of early education and childcare policy and funding and seeks direction from the Board for the key issues raised in the report.

Ellen Broome, Director of Policy, Communication and Research at the Family and Childcare Trust (FCT) will attend the meeting to discuss the FCT's views on the need for a review of childcare funding.

Recommendations

Members are asked to consider and provide a steer on LGA's work on early years and childcare in order to build the case for devolving more decision making to a local level.

Actions

Officers to take action arising out of discussion, as directed by members.

Contact officer: Liz Hobson
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Early years and childcare

Background

1. Early education and childcare is expected to feature strongly in the General Election manifestos for all of the main political parties. This is driven in part by the importance of early education in narrowing gaps in attainment, especially for children from disadvantaged backgrounds, and partly by the needs of working parents for affordable childcare.
2. The LGA has given evidence to the Education Select Committee's inquiry into Children's Centres and to the House of Lords Affordable Childcare Select Committee, setting out our concerns about the need for early years services to be determined locally and calling for a review of the early years funding system with the aim of reducing the complexity caused by the different funding sources. The reports from both select committees reflect our concerns about the need for more coherent thinking on early years' funding policy. The Association of Directors of Children's Services (ADCS) in its recent Early Years Policy Position paper suggests that help with childcare should be targeted on the most vulnerable children and that there should be investment in parenting and wider family support alongside the free childcare offer.
3. A number of initiatives are underway in councils, including Croydon's '*Best Start*' which is aiming to bring together key services including health visiting, children's centres, early years and the voluntary sector into an integrated service model. Lambeth and Southwark have just published a joint Childcare Commission report which calls on the Government to bring together early years and education funding, taking a 0 –18 approach.
4. Other reports also call for the next government to carry out a fundamental review of childcare funding, including the Family and Childcare Trust's (FCT) annual survey of childcare costs. The FCT's survey shows a steep rise in nursery costs for the under 2s, and the FCT also suggests that there is a need for councils to do more to support the childcare needs of families because of growing gaps in provision.

Complexities in the funding system

5. There are a range of subsidies and different funding systems for early years services, run by at least five different Government departments, and at times there can be tensions between what different policies are trying to achieve, as well as inefficiencies and poor targeting around need for different families in different places.
6. The Government currently invests £5.2 billion annually in early education and childcare, with just over half (56%) spent on the early education entitlement allocated through the Dedicated Schools Grant. Spending is set to rise to £6.4 billion in the next Parliament with the implementation of the tax-free childcare scheme for working parents and the childcare element of the roll-out of Universal Credit.
7. The hourly rate in cash terms for early education for 3 and 4 year-olds for 15 hours a week, 38 weeks a year, has been frozen for the last three years. Providers in the Private Voluntary and Independent (PVI) sector (who provide around 60% of places for 3 year olds) have complained that there is a significant shortfall in funding for the free entitlement. The funding is allocated to councils on a historic basis, with a wide disparity in funding levels across the country, which also impacts on childcare costs for parents over and above the free entitlement. There is already a national formula for the funding of

the offer for disadvantaged 2 year olds but there are still issues concerning willingness of larger PVI providers to provide places and some big differences in levels of take-up within and between different council areas.

8. Early education funding cannot be used flexibly, and it is not always well linked to needs of the children and parents whom it is intended to benefit. For example, the funding cannot be used by parents for 'portage' services to provide home learning support for young disabled children. Evaluations of the 2 year old pilots found that in some areas, provision that was effective in improving outcomes for children required a combination of childcare and parenting support. However, this learning has not been incorporated into the offer, which is delivered largely by providers without this support.
9. There are a number of other Department of Education (DfE) funding streams, including £50 million for the introduction of the Early Years Pupil Premium from April 2015, which is targeted at disadvantaged 3 and 4 year olds, but with slightly different eligibility rules from the free entitlement for disadvantaged 2 year olds. There is separate funding for pilot schemes such as the Social Investment Pilot to encourage PVI providers into deprived areas and for Teaching Schools to work with the PVI sector.
10. Children's Centres are funded through general funding from council tax, retained business rates and revenue support grant, not through DfE grants. Funding for the 0 – 5 public health duties is provided in a ring-fenced grant from the Department of Health.
11. Schools have been protected from the cuts councils have faced, but DfE regulations governing the Schools Budget prevent Schools Forums from further pooling resources with councils to provide integrated early help services, even though schools have a shared interest in ensuring that young children are 'school-ready'.
12. From October 2015, when the government introduces the tax-free childcare scheme for working parents, three different subsidy regimes for working families' spending on childcare, over and above the free entitlement, will be in place through the tax and benefits system, with different eligibility rules, and different levels of support that are not simple to navigate or understand.
13. The Family and Childcare Trust, among others, have argued for parents to be able to move more easily between the new tax free childcare scheme and universal credit. The House of Lords affordable childcare report recommended that the Government should consider a single mechanism for childcare subsidies to support working parents.
14. The LGA has called for an overhaul of early years funding, to remove the unnecessary complexity in the system and provide a streamlined and place-based approach that devolves decision making to a local level. The chart attached at Appendix 1 demonstrates the amount of estimated annual spending that is expected to be in place for the under-5s during the next Parliament, including the forthcoming changes to the childcare subsidies for working parents through the tax-free childcare scheme and the introduction of Universal Credit.

Improving availability in deprived areas

15. There has been a rapid expansion in the overall scale of early years' provision, but there are significant variations in availability between local areas. Evidence shows that participation remains lower for disadvantaged groups, even though research shows that

they have the most to gain from early education and childcare. At the same time, the role of councils in tackling the availability and quality of early years' education and childcare is now much more restricted than it was previously.

16. Explicit limits are placed on the role of councils in childcare provision by the Childcare Act 2006. Councils should not provide places directly, unless there are no other providers that are willing to do so. The growth in early years' education and childcare over the last ten years has been almost entirely in the PVI sector and there has been little expansion in public sector provision. There is also strong evidence that the overall quality of provision is lower among PVI providers than in the public sector, particularly in disadvantaged areas.
17. DfE survey figures show that in 2013 only around one in ten childcare places were run by either councils or schools but two-thirds of full day care settings in children's centres were maintained and half of these were run by councils directly.
18. The Government is keen to encourage schools to expand nursery provision and there have been a number of recent Government initiatives to address poor availability of early years and childcare provision in some disadvantaged areas. These include pilot schemes to attract social investment and to encourage Teaching Schools to work with PVI providers. Councils are widely viewed as 'providers of last resort' and there has been very little incentive - or funding - for councils to take the initiative in increasing public sector provision in deprived areas, where parents find it difficult to pay market rates for private childcare provision over and above the free entitlement.
19. Councils have also faced criticism for failing to ensure that there is sufficient childcare for working parents beyond the free entitlement (and for school age children up to the age of 14), even though the law recognises that it may not be practicable for a council to secure childcare to meet the requirements of every parent in their area because of funding constraints.
20. Rather than Whitehall trying to tackle the issue of lack of availability of childcare in deprived areas, councils could be given more freedom and flexibility to determine what is needed and to target help with childcare for the under-5s on vulnerable children and families.
21. Councils already play a significant role in providing support for low income households to move out of poverty and tackle the range of barriers they face in finding work. The LGA through its work on employment and skills overseen by the People and Places and Cities and Regions Boards has been challenging inflexible and fragmented national schemes and restrictions. The restrictions on the role of councils in childcare provision can also get in the way of providing effective support to the most disadvantaged families.

Improving quality in deprived areas

22. There is good evidence that high quality early education improves outcomes for children, particularly for disadvantaged children who may not have a positive home learning environment. The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) which must be followed by all schools and Ofsted registered providers, including child-minders, sets standards for the learning, development and care of children from birth to 5 years.

23. According to a recent Nuffield Foundation report on lessons from evidence of early years education, the maintained sector continues to be the most effective in terms of learning outcomes. This underlines the role of staff qualifications in raising quality, with the presence of a teacher with graduate-level qualifications identified as particularly important. Maintained schools in disadvantaged areas also offer comparable quality to those serving more advantaged areas. But across the PVI sector, quality has been found to be lower in settings in deprived areas serving disadvantaged children
24. Ofsted are now the 'sole arbiters of quality' in early years' provision in 25,000 nurseries and pre-schools, 54,000 childminders and in 16,000 primary schools with nursery classes and over 400 maintained nursery schools. Councils must base decisions about funding the free entitlement on the provider's Ofsted inspection judgement. Councils cannot require providers with an Ofsted judgement of 'good' or better to undertake any training or quality improvement, even though there can be four years between inspections.
25. Councils previously played a key role in providing on-going support for all early years' settings and research shows that a wide range of quality measures is valuable in helping to understand what is happening in early years' settings. Relying on Ofsted's single judgement may be too blunt to use as a basis for decisions about funding the free entitlement and further support. We have called into question the wisdom of just leaving good or outstanding schools alone until any problems become serious and the same applies to early years' settings. Allowing councils the flexibility to provide support for early years providers across the spectrum, in the same way that they support school improvement, might also help to improve links and co-ordination between early years' education and primary schooling.

Recommendations

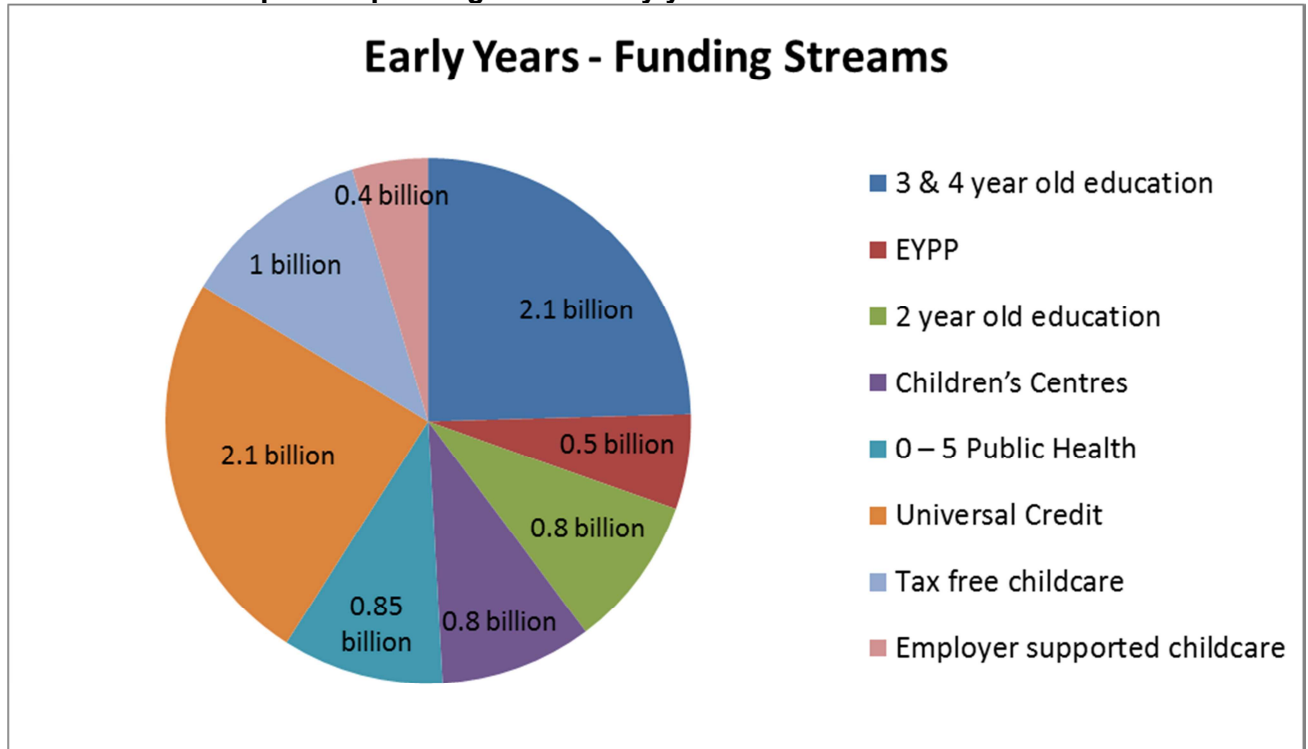
26. Members are asked to consider and provide a steer on LGA's work on early years and childcare in order to build the case for devolving more decision making to a local level.

Financial Implications

27. There are no additional financial implications for the LGA arising from the report.

Appendix A

Estimated annual public spending on the early years in the next Parliament



Source: DfE written evidence to House of Lords and Childcare Payments Bill Revised Impact Assessment, November 2014, House of Commons Education Select Committee report on Children's Centres 2013

Funding for provision

The largest amount of early years funding is for the early education entitlement through the Dedicated Schools Grant, (DSG): £3.1 billion for 3 and 4 year olds and £0.8 billion for 40% of 2 year olds who are disadvantaged. £50 million has been provided to fund the Early Years Pupil Premium for disadvantaged 3 and 4 year olds from April 2015.

Significant funding is also allocated annually by councils to children's centres which is estimated at £0.8 billion. In April 2011 the Government removed the ring-fence from Children's Centre funding and introduced the Early Intervention Grant (EIG). From April 2013, EIG was transferred to the Department for Communities and Local Government to include in its Business Rates Retention scheme.

Childcare subsidies for parents

The Government proposes to increase the level of childcare help in the new Universal Credit (UC) in April 2016 to 85 per cent of childcare costs, up from the 70 per cent that is presently available through Working Tax Credit, up to a maximum cost of £175 per week for one child.

Later in 2015, employer-supported vouchers will begin to be phased out and replaced by a tax-free childcare scheme. For every 80p that parents will pay into a childcare account, the Government will pay in 20p, up to £2,000 support per child per year. The scheme will be available for those earning up to £150K a year but those on UC will not be eligible. The scheme will be introduced initially for childcare for the under-5s.

Child Sexual Exploitation

Purpose of report

To update members on the latest national developments on child sexual exploitation (CSE), and to highlight ongoing LGA work to support council efforts to tackle CSE locally.

Summary

This report summarises the latest national activity to tackle child sexual exploitation, including the findings of the Casey review into Rotherham council and the proposals presented as part of the government's response to the Jay Report. The report also updates members on progress with the LGA's child sexual exploitation action plan following January's high level CSE summit at Local Government House.

Recommendations

Members are asked to:

- a) discuss government proposals to strengthen local responses to CSE.
- b) discuss the LGA's ongoing work to support councils in tackling CSE.

Action

Officers to take forward actions identified by members.

Contact officer: Ian Dean
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Background

1. Over recent months, a series of inquiries and reviews have highlighted significant weaknesses in collective action to protect vulnerable children and young people from sexual exploitation. Although much of the attention has focussed on local authority child protection services, no single agency at national or local level has escaped criticism for responses that have all too often failed to keep children safe from harm.
2. In response to the issues highlighted in these reviews, the LGA developed a cross-Board action plan over the summer of 2014 to support local activity in tackling CSE. This report updates members on progress with this work, and also summarises key national developments since the previous update to CYP Board in January 2015.

National developments

3. Following publication of the Jay Report in August 2014, Louise Casey was appointed to lead an independent inspection of Rotherham council. This inspection had a particular focus on leadership and governance, scrutiny, services for children and young people, taxi and private hire licensing, and whether the council 'covered up' information.
4. Casey reported on 4 February 2015, and concluded that the council was "not fit for purpose" due to significant concerns about current practice and culture. The government subsequently appointed a team of five commissioners, headed by Sir Derek Myers, to take on the full range of the authority's executive functions until 31 March 2019.
5. The following month, on 3 March 2015, the government held a Prime Ministerial summit on CSE and announced a package of measures to tackle some of the issues identified by the Jay Report and subsequent inquiries. Although the detail behind many of the proposals remains unclear, headlines include:
 - A new national whistleblowing portal for reports related to child abuse
 - A new national taskforce and centre of expertise to support areas with their local response to CSE
 - Consultation on introducing an offence of "wilful neglect" to children's social care, education and elected members
 - Reconfirmation of the government's intention to consult on mandatory reporting of child abuse
 - Granting child sexual abuse the status of a national threat in the Strategic Policing Requirement
 - £1 million towards a communication campaign on identifying and reporting child abuse and neglect
 - New duties on local safeguarding children boards (LSCBs) to conduct regular local assessments on the effectiveness of local responses to CSE
 - A range of measures designed to improve information sharing between agencies
6. Separately, Ofsted, the Care Quality Commission, and Her Majesty's Inspectorates of Constabulary and Probation announced plans to introduce multi-agency inspections of

child protection services across all agencies in a local area. This follows 18 months of sustained lobbying from the LGA and the Association of Directors of Children's Services.

Actions arising from LGA CSE summit

7. On Tuesday 20 January 2015, the LGA hosted a high level child sexual exploitation summit in Westminster, held jointly with ADCS and Solace. This was a key commitment from the LGA's CSE action plan, and brought together over 100 council leaders, chief executives, lead members and directors of children's services with representatives from central government, health, police and the third sector.
8. It was agreed that there was a need for stronger leadership from local government on these issues, particularly in light of a perceived failure from Whitehall to deliver a robust and coordinated response. Three themes were highlighted for focussed activity over the coming months, two of which were subsequently included in the government announcements of 3 March:
9. The need for a national awareness raising campaign. However, the campaign announced by government falls short of the LGA's call to challenge wider societal attitudes, particularly towards adolescents who are often blamed for their own abuse and around the increasing sexualisation of childhood. The LGA will continue to lobby for this to be included in future national activity, and we will also work with councils to support local awareness raising work.
10. The need to address challenges around sharing of relevant information, between separate agencies but also within agencies and between local authorities (particularly when looked after children are placed out of area). The LGA will work with government on the range of information sharing initiatives subsequently announced, and will continue to assess whether additional work is required.
11. The need to identify and share examples of effective practice, and to support senior leaders to properly assess the impact of local work. The LGA published a CSE resource pack for councils at the summit, and will continue to collect case studies of local practice to share online at www.local.gov.uk/cse. The LGA also worked with DfE, DCLG and the Home Office to ensure that a recent assessment of the quality of local responses to CSE included a focus on identifying effective approaches at the frontline, examples of which were shared at the Prime Ministerial summit in March.

LGA action plan update

12. Alongside actions arising from the 20 January CSE summit, the LGA is continuing to work on the activity previously agreed through our CSE Action Plan. This includes:
13. Assessing the effectiveness of current legal options to disrupt the activity of people suspected of involvement in CSE. Birmingham City Council recently secured civil injunctions banning ten men suspected of child sexual exploitation from approaching any girl under the age of 18. Injunctions were considered necessary due to a lack of existing statutory alternatives to restrict the activities of suspected abusers without the evidential threshold required by criminal courts. The subsequent introduction in March

2015 of a new Sexual Risk Order, which can be applied without the need for sexual harm to have taken place, is designed to strengthen the powers available to police and social workers to protect children at risk of CSE. The LGA will work with councils to consider the effectiveness of these new orders, and to establish whether further legal powers are required.

14. A strong focus on the role of regulation and licensing in preventing CSE. Having successfully lobbied against a government clause to relax taxi regulations, the LGA will hold a taxi licensing conference on 31 March 2015 to highlight the importance of all councils ensuring that their licensing processes are safe and robust. The conference will also see the launch of an updated councillor's handbook for taxi and PHV licensing, stressing the importance of robust fit and proper person tests before issuing a licence and advising councils to refuse licences to those with an indecency conviction. We have also updated our online regulation training module for councillors with information on preventing CSE, and have written to all Chairs of Licensing to highlight the role of taxis in CSE.
15. Supporting councillors in scrutinising local safeguarding children services. The LGA's recently published CSE resource pack includes key lines of enquiry for councillors to pursue when considering the effectiveness of local responses to CSE. We are also working with the Centre for Public Scrutiny (CfPS) to revise and update guides for councillors scrutinising services for safeguarding children and children in care, last updated in 2012. The first of these, for scrutiny of safeguarding children services, will be published in April 2015.
16. Review of local safeguarding children boards. This project is due to report at the end of March 2015. Early findings suggest that a lack of secure funding, limited statutory powers and heightened expectations present significant challenges for LSCBs. This report, and the LGA's new programme of LSCB peer diagnostics, will be used to influence upcoming government work to examine the effectiveness of LSCBs in scrutinising local safeguarding practice.
17. Highlighting the impact of funding reductions and rising demand. New modelling from the LGA has identified a £2.6bn shortfall in children's social care funding by 2020, alongside rapidly increasing demand for services and a 40 per cent reduction in council budgets since 2010. The Government recently pledged £2 billion to an NHS system struggling to cope with winter pressures, and the LGA will argue that the pressures facing children's social care services require a similar response.

Recommendations

18. Members are asked to:
 - a) discuss government proposals to strengthen local responses to CSE.
 - b) discuss the LGA's ongoing work to support councils in tackling CSE.

Financial implications

19. The work outlined in this paper will be completed within existing resources.

Other Business Report

Purpose

For information

Summary

This report provides reports on other business relevant to the Board.

Recommendation

That the Board note the updates on:

- i. Child and adolescent mental health
- ii. Investing in Our Nation's Future: The First 100 days of the next Government

Action

LGA officers to action as necessary.

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Other Business Report

Update on Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services

1. On 10 February 2015 the Government responded to the Health Committee's report into Children's and adolescents' mental health and Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) which was published on 5 November 2014. The LGA submitted a written submission to the Health Committee. Our submission included the following key concerns:
 - A lack of investment in CAMHS
 - Poor quality and out of date data
 - Lack of accessibility to specialist services and long waiting times.
 - Poorly planned transitions.
 - Serious concerns about the quality in safeguarding and admissions practice.
2. The Government accepted many of the Health Committee's recommendations and stated that improving child and adolescent mental health is a key priority for the Government. Its key responses to the Health Committee's report included
 - 2.1 Setting up a Taskforce to bring together experts on children and young people's mental health services from across education, social care and health sectors to considering how we can provide more joined up, accessible services built around the needs of children, young people and their families. The Taskforce is due to publish its report with recommendations to Ministers in March.
 - 2.2 Announcing that NHS England has funded eight pilots into collaborative, joint commissioning arrangements for children and young people's mental health.
 - 2.3 As part of the Autumn Statement announcement, the Government announced additional investment of £30 million a year over the next five years in England, to improve services for young people with mental health problems. This will place particular emphasis on eating disorders and other issues such as self-harm.
 - 2.4 The Government is expanding and updating a prevalence survey and anticipates publication of the findings in 2017.
3. We welcome the strong focus and prioritisation of child and adolescent mental health issues and we urge the future Government to prioritise and build upon this work to deliver improvements as quickly as possible. Whilst the plans to commission a national prevalence survey of child and adolescent mental health is a positive step forward, the anticipated publication of the findings in 2017 does not satisfy the urgent need for better quality data.
4. Public mental health is now the responsibility of local authorities and Health and Wellbeing Boards have a key leadership role to play in bringing together all partners to create a shared vision for child and adolescent mental health services. The LGA is

keen to work with partners to identify and facilitate development of locally led actions which could be progressed now by the sector(s) to keep the momentum going.

Investing in Our Nation's Future: The First 100 days of the next Government

5. Our report 'Making sure every child has a place at a good local school' was published on 20 March 2015. Following our report 'Investing in our nation's future: the first 100 days of the next government', this publication further details the commitments the next government will need to make to secure a bright future for the children and young people of this country. It calls on the next government to mend the broken system of two-tier school accountability and decision-making by:
 - 5.1 Supporting the creation of local education trusts to drive school improvement.
 - 5.2 Streamlining top-down Ofsted inspection and putting peer challenge at the heart of school-to-school improvement.
 - 5.3 Restoring to councils the powers to hold all local schools to account for education standards and to intervene when they start to slip.
 - 5.4 Returning to councils responsibility for safeguarding and special educational needs provision in academies and the power to direct them to admit hard-to-place pupils.
 - 5.5 Allowing councils to open new schools and paying schools capital into single local capital pots to allow councils and schools to work together to make the best use of scarce resources.

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LGA location map

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Website: www.local.gov.uk

Bus routes – Millbank

- 87** Wandsworth - Aldwych
- 3** Crystal Palace - Brixton - Oxford Circus

For further information, visit the Transport for London website at www.tfl.gov.uk

Public transport

Local Government House is well served by public transport. The nearest mainline stations are: Victoria and Waterloo: the local underground stations are

St James's Park (Circle and District Lines), **Westminster** (Circle, District and Jubilee Lines), and **Pimlico** (Victoria Line) - all about 10 minutes walk away.

Buses 3 and 87 travel along Millbank, and the 507 between Victoria and Waterloo stops in Horseferry Road close to Dean Bradley Street.

Bus routes – Horseferry Road

- 507** Waterloo - Victoria
- C10** Canada Water - Pimlico - Victoria
- 88** Camden Town - Whitehall - Westminster - Pimlico - Clapham Common

Cycling facilities

The nearest Barclays cycle hire racks are in Smith Square. Cycle racks are also available at Local Government House. Please telephone the LGA on 020 7664 3131.

Central London Congestion Charging Zone

Local Government House is located within the congestion charging zone.

For further details, please call 0845 900 1234 or visit the website at www.cclondon.com

Car parks

- Abingdon Street Car Park (off Great College Street)
- Horseferry Road Car Park
- Horseferry Road/Arneway Street. Visit the website at www.westminster.gov.uk/parking

