

Note of last Children & Young People Board meeting

Title: Children & Young People Board
Date: Wednesday 17 June 2015
Venue: Smith Square 3&4, Ground Floor, Local Government House, Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ

Attendance

An attendance list is attached as **Appendix A** to this note

Item	Decisions and actions	Action
1	Welcome and Declarations of Interest Cllr David Simmonds CBE welcomed the board to his final meeting as Chairman. The Board thanked Cllr Simmonds for his chairmanship, and congratulated him for his recognition in the Queen's birthday honours list. The Board also congratulated Edwina Grant for her award of an OBE for services to safeguarding children and young people. The board marked the passing of David Bellotti who had served as a Member of the board up until the May election. It was agreed that the Chairman would write to David's widow on behalf of the board. Declarations of Interest Cllr Ivan Ould noted that he was Chair of f40 lobbying group for fairer funding in education.	
2	Annual Review of the Year The Chairman introduced the Annual Review of activities of the Children and Young People Board for 2014-15. The board welcomed Ian Keating as Principal Advisor for Children and Young People following Helen Johnston's departure. Members discussed: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The breadth of work undertaken and its importance beyond the remit of the board.• The importance of the board's work on the prevention of Child Sexual Exploitation• The need to push for better sharing of data between the NHS and Local Government• The need for clarity around CAMHS funding, particularly in relation to services in schools• The need for the LGA to continue to highlight the challenges facing councils in school place planning	

3 Priorities for the New Parliament

The Chairman introduced the paper that asked members to identify the key LGA priorities for working with and influencing the new government.

Members discussed:

- The importance of showcasing the good work that councils do in children's services and promoting a positive image of the work.
- Combined Authorities' role in children's services
- A stronger role for councils in decisions about new free schools in their areas, to support their place planning duties and to make sure public money is spent efficiently
- The continued importance of work around CSE and safeguarding
- The new burdens that could be placed on children's services under the new government
- The need for the system to be proactive on the availability and supply of teachers and school leaders.
- Local government's future role in joining up early years and childcare provision.

Action

Members to send examples to Ian Keating of free schools that are not in appropriate buildings or places.

Keep members posted on any developments around a council's right to use in-house placements for fostering children.

4 Education and Adoption Bill and Childcare Bill

Members were presented with a summary of the provisions of the Education and Adoption Bill and the Childcare Bill. Members were asked to identify the key LGA priorities for lobbying on the two Bills.

Members discussed:

- The need to look into the availability and supply of good sponsors for Academies
- The need for maintained schools and local authorities to be able to sponsor academies
- Concerns around the capacity of the Regional Schools Commissioners to take on additional failing maintained schools ,as proposed in the bill
- The evident capability of Local Authorities in sustained school improvement
- The potential for contradictory measures of a school's performance to coexist depending on the definition of coasting schools, with Ofsted declaring it good or outstanding but the Government classing it as 'coasting'
- The development of markets to provide extra childcare hours, particularly in areas where the state is the only viable provider.

Action

Find information on how many sponsors come forward when the need for a free school or academy has been identified.

The recommendations for the proposed areas of focus for the LGA were **agreed**.

5 Full Employment and Welfare Bill

Members were presented with a summary of the main policy agendas relating to services supporting the engagement of young people in education and training and their transition from school to work. It analysed the potential impact on councils, including the impact of proposals included in the Full Employment and Welfare Bill.

Members discussed:

- The issue of free school transport provision ending at 16 with a school leaving age of 18, which is a particular problem in rural areas.
- The inconsistent record of Job Centre Plus and the greater benefit of a locally commissioned provider for supplementary careers advice in schools.
- The impact of the removal of housing benefit for 18 – 21 year olds on young people.

Action

Members **noted** the report.

6 Other Business Report

The Chairman introduced the Other Business Report, which provided members with an update on the work of officers on the 0-5 Public Health Transfer, Child and Adolescent Mental Health, and the National Children and Adult Services Conference (NCAS).

Members discussed the LGA proposals CSE disruption orders if councils can apply directly to the courts.

7 Note of the Previous Meeting

Members **agreed** the Minutes of the previous meeting on 25 March 2015

Appendix A -Attendance

Position/Role	Councillor	Authority
Chairman	Cllr David Simmonds CBE	Hillingdon London Borough Council
Vice-Chairman	Cllr Nick Forbes	Newcastle upon Tyne City Council
Deputy-chairman	Cllr Liz Green	Kingston upon Thames Royal Borough Council
	Cllr Helen Powell	Lincolnshire County Council
Members	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
	Cllr Jane Scott OBE	Wiltshire Council
	Cllr Paul McLain	Gloucestershire County Council
	Cllr Liz Hackett Pain	Monmouthshire County Council
	Cllr Ivan Ould	Leicestershire County Council
	Cllr Tony Hall	North Yorkshire County Council
	Cllr Peter Downes	Cambridgeshire County Council
	Cllr Paul Cullen	Richmondshire District Council
Apologies	Cllr Patricia Bradwell	Lincolnshire County Council
In Attendance		
LGA Officers		