

Note of last Children & Young People Board meeting

Title:	Children & Young People Board
Date:	Thursday 13 June 2019
Venue:	Smith Square 1&2, Ground Floor, 18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ

Attendance

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

Item	Decisions and actions	Action
1	Welcome, Apologies and Declarations of Interest The Chair welcomed members to the meeting and noted apologies. Introductions were made around the table.	
2	National Network of Parent-Carer Forums - Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (presentation) The Chair introduced Maureen Morris and Mrunal Sisodia from the National Network of Parent Carer Forums. Maureen and Mrunal gave an overview of the NNPCF, which allowed parents to express views on SEND and keep an eye on the public purse. The organisation was divided into 9 local authority areas. All NNPCF staff were parents and carers, which enabled the organisation to benefit from lived experience. They gave an outline of the 'State of the Nations' report, which highlighted the following issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• There was not enough money in the system;• the pressure on special schools needed easing;• there was a lack of early intervention in special schools;• the organisation was supportive of the new local area special framework;• CCGs generally prioritised safeguarding over SEND. In the discussion which followed, members made the following points: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Members thanked the speakers, emphasising they recognised many of the points made.• Concerns were raised over a lack of incentive to keep children with SEND needs in mainstream schools, even though it was more	

costly to send them to a specialist schools. Taking a child out of their local school also meant they were taken out of their local community.

- Leads in councils often prioritised safeguarding, but there had to be a shift away from this.
- There were issues around persistent absence, usually with SEND children, which were often forgotten.
- Problems with underfunding were discussed.
- Local Authorities often experienced problems working with academies. There was a perception that academies excluded SEND children more often, although official statistic did not support this.

The Chair thanked the speakers.

Decision:

1. The board **noted** the presentation.

Action:

1. It was **agreed** the State of the Nation report would be circulated.

3 Special Educational Needs and Disabilities task and finish group

Cllr Gillian Ford, Chair of Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) task and finish group, introduced the item. She advised that the report set out work undertaken since the group's first meeting in March 2018. It outlined further work in this area that the LGA could undertake to strengthen the understanding of SEND pressures facing councils.

She highlighted that a series of follow up workshops were planned and further details would follow in due course. She emphasised points 7, 8 and 9 in the report, and asked what should be considered as priority focus areas.

In the discussion which followed, members made the following points:

- If more children became eligible for support, this would need to be funded.
- On point 7, it was emphasised that structural issues would need to be addressed. At the moment, there was not enough funding to do this.
- Efforts needed to be focused on 7.1, to help main stream schools to support children.
- There was a discussion on point 8 and the pressures on the further education system.

- There was a discussion on early years provision.
- Members highlighted that there was substantial pressure on local authorities in assessing SEND plans. This needed to be highlighted to government.
- It was important to capture the voice of children in the evidence base.
- More work needed to be done in specialist schools (with reference to paragraphs 7-10).

Cllr Ford thanked members for their contributions. The Chair thanked Cllr Ford for her work.

Decision:

1. Members **noted** the work undertaken by the task and finish group to date.

Action:

1. Officers to continue with work in line with members' comments.

4 Progress in delivering the LGA children's services improvement programme

Andy Bates, Principal Adviser for the South-West Region, introduced the item. Apologies were noted from Clive Harris and Richard Cooke.

Andy advised that the paper provided a brief summary of the progress made in delivering three key strands of the LGA Children's Services Improvement Programme through 2018/19:

- Leadership Capacity and Development
- Early Years Peer Challenge
- Children's Services Peer Challenge

Work had been put into improving infrastructure and establishing regional improvement alliances, as well as a national improvement board and peer challenges.

In the discussion which followed, members made the following points:

- It was important to acknowledge the work undertaken, and how it had been developed.
- It was highlighted that some regional improvement alliances were more developed than others.
- Members emphasised it was positive to see that

authorities wanted to be involved in peer challenges.

- There was a discussion around how local authorities could best be supported through regional support, especially where there needed to be sector change.
- There was a discussion around how to approach authorities which were not engaging.

Decision

1. Members **noted** the progress in delivering the Children's Services Improvement Programme.

Action

1. Officers to proceed with work in line with members' comments.

5 Consultation on children not in school

Louise Smith, Senior Adviser, introduced the item, setting out the board's achievements over the past year in the oversight of the LGA's policy, regulatory and improvement activity in relation to education and schools, children's social care, children's health and early years.

She highlighted the government had published a consultation on proposals to create a register for home educated children, and asked members what they would like to see in a response to this.

In this discussion which followed, members made the following points:

- There was a discussion around the reasonability of home education for children in general.
- The funding for a home educated child was returned to DfE. It was felt the case needed to be made for this to go to local authorities.
- There was a discussion around safeguarding, and whether there was a whistle blowing process for missing children. Children outside of mainstream education were currently not on any register.
- Members emphasised that there needed to be a better understanding of why children were being taken out of schools to be educated at home. Some felt this was down to failures in the school system.
- There was no assessment of parents for home schooling, and the

voice of the child was lost in this respect.

- Members agreed they welcomed the idea of a register, but it was emphasised that this was another responsibility placed on local authorities, without resources to administer it.
- It was suggested that the LGA approach the Children's Commissioner to discuss where the responsibility for the register should lie.

Decision:

1. Members **noted** the report.

Action:

1. Officers to provide a response to the consultation in line with members' comments.

6 Appendix A

7 Note of the Previous Meeting

Decision:

Members **agreed** the minutes of the previous meeting as an accurate summary of the discussion.

8 Children and Young People Board End of Year Report

Decision:

1. Members **noted** the achievements for 2018/19 and **agreed** the report.

The Chair thanked members for their contributions.

Cllr Gillian Ford thanked the Chair for her work over the past year.

Appendix A -Attendance

Position/Role	Councillor	Authority
Chairman	Cllr Anntoinette Bramble	Hackney London Borough Council
Vice-Chairman	Cllr Roy Perry	Hampshire County Council
Deputy-chairman	Cllr Lucy Nethsingha	Cambridgeshire County Council
	Cllr Gillian Ford	Havering London Borough Council
Members	Cllr Susie Charles	Lancashire County Council
	Cllr Dick Madden	Essex County Council
	Cllr Laura Mayes	Wiltshire Council

Cllr Roger Gough
Cllr Teresa Heritage
Cllr John Kent
Cllr Bob Cook
Cllr Clare Coghill
Cllr Barry Kushner

Kent County Council
Hertfordshire County Council
Thurrock Council
Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council
Waltham Forest London Borough Council
Liverpool City Council

Apologies

Cllr Matthew Golby
Cllr Megan Swift
Cllr David Mellen
Cllr Carl Cashman
Dr Phil Norrey

Northamptonshire County Council
Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council
Nottingham City Council
Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council
Devon County Council

In Attendance

LGA Officers