



# **Children & Young People Board**

Agenda

Thursday, 3 November 2022  
5.30 pm

Manchester Central Exhibition Centre

There will be a meeting of the Children & Young People Board at **5.30 pm on Thursday, 3 November 2022** Manchester Central Exhibition Centre.

### **LGA Hybrid Meetings**

All of our meetings are available to join in person at [18 Smith Square](#) or remotely via videoconference as part of our hybrid approach. We will ask you to confirm in advance if you will be joining each meeting in person or remotely so we can plan accordingly, if you wish to attend the meeting in person, please also remember to confirm whether you have any dietary/accessibility requirements. 18 Smith Square is a Covid-19 secure venue and measures are in place to keep you safe when you attend a meeting or visit the building in person.

[Please see guidance for Members and Visitors to 18 Smith Square here](#)

### **Catering and Refreshments:**

If the meeting is scheduled to take place at lunchtime, a sandwich lunch will be available.

### **Political Group meetings and pre-meetings for Lead Members:**

Please contact your political group as outlined below for further details.

### **Apologies:**

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

<b>Conservative:</b>	Group Office: 020 7664 3223	email: <a href="mailto:lgaconservatives@local.gov.uk">lgaconservatives@local.gov.uk</a>
<b>Labour:</b>	Group Office: 020 7664 3263	email: <a href="mailto:labgp@lga.gov.uk">labgp@lga.gov.uk</a>
<b>Independent:</b>	Group Office: 020 7664 3224	email: <a href="mailto:independent.grouplga@local.gov.uk">independent.grouplga@local.gov.uk</a>
<b>Liberal Democrat:</b>	Group Office: 020 7664 3235	email: <a href="mailto:libdem@local.gov.uk">libdem@local.gov.uk</a>

### **Attendance:**

Your attendance, whether it be in person or virtual, will be noted by the clerk at the meeting.

### **LGA Contact:**

Amy Haldane  
[amy.haldane@local.gov.uk](mailto:amy.haldane@local.gov.uk)

### **Carers' Allowance**

As part of the LGA Members' Allowances Scheme a Carer's Allowance of £9.00 per hour or £10.55 if receiving London living wage is available to cover the cost of dependants (i.e. children, elderly people or people with disabilities) incurred as a result of attending this meeting.

## Children & Young People Board – Membership

[Click here for accessible information on membership](#)

Councillor	Authority
<b>Conservative ( 7 )</b>	
Cllr Patricia Bradwell OBE (Vice Chairman)	Lincolnshire County Council
Cllr Roger Gough	Kent County Council
Cllr Kam Kaur	Warwickshire County Council
Cllr Laura Mayes	Wiltshire Council
Cllr Antony Mullen	Sunderland City
Cllr Mark Sutton	Staffordshire County Council
Cllr Adrian Hardman	Worcestershire County Council
<b>Substitutes</b>	
Cllr Ryan Brent	Portsmouth City Council
Cllr Robert Flatley	Derbyshire County Council
<b>Labour ( 7 )</b>	
Cllr Louise Gittins (Chair)	Cheshire West and Chester Council
Cllr Beverley Momenabadi	Wolverhampton City
Cllr Adam Ellison	South Tyneside Council
Cllr Fiona Venner	Leeds City Council
Cllr Imran Khan	Bradford Metropolitan District Council
Cllr Mili Patel	Brent Council
Cllr Tim Roca	Westminster City Council
<b>Substitutes</b>	
Cllr Gary Bridges	Manchester City Council
Cllr Daniel Francis	Bexley Council
Cllr Leigh Redman	Somerset County Council
<b>Liberal Democrat ( 2 )</b>	
Cllr Lucy Nethsingha (Deputy Chair)	Cambridgeshire County Council
Cllr Mark Cory	Colchester Borough Council
<b>Substitutes</b>	
Cllr Dine Romero	Bath & North East Somerset Council
<b>Independent ( 2 )</b>	
Cllr Julie Fallon (Deputy Chair)	Conwy County Borough Council
Cllr Judy Jennings	Epping Forest District Council
<b>Substitutes</b>	
Cllr Julian Dean	Shropshire Council
Cllr Charlie Hull	South Somerset District Council
Cllr Jon Hubbard	Wiltshire Council
Cllr Edward Maxfield	Norfolk County Council

## Agenda

---

### Children & Young People Board

Thursday, 3 November 2022

5.30 pm

Manchester Central Exhibition Centre

---

Item	Page
1. Welcome, Apologies and Substitutes, Declarations of Interest	
2. Children and Young People Board Priorities 2022/23	1 - 10
3. Youth Services - National Youth Agency	11 - 16
4. Note of the Previous Meeting	17 - 24

**Date of Next Meeting:** Tuesday, 24 January 2023, 11.00 am, Hybrid Meeting  
- 18 Smith Square and Online



**Meeting:** Children and Young People Board

**Date:** 3 November 2022

## **Board Work Programme and Priorities Report for 2022/23**

### **Purpose of report**

For discussion and direction.

### **Summary**

This paper sets out the Local Government Association's Children and Young People Board's (CYP) priorities and work programme for 2022/23, as agreed at its meeting on 29 September 2022. Members at the National Children and Adult Services conference are asked to comment on the priorities and share key issues from their own areas to ensure these are fed into the LGA's lobbying and improvement work for 2022/23.

### **Recommendation**

Members are asked to discuss the Board's priorities and work programme for 2022/23.

**Contact officer:** Ian Keating  
**Position:** Principal Policy Adviser  
**Phone no:** 0207 664 3032  
**Email:** [ian.keating@local.gov.uk](mailto:ian.keating@local.gov.uk)

## **Board Work Programme and Priorities Report for the 2022/23 meeting cycle**

### **Background**

1. The Children and Young People Board met on 29 September 2022 to agree its priorities for 2022/23. The Board considered priorities identified in the 2021/22 Board Cycle, along with recent developments in Government policy and issues raised by member councils. Members also emphasised issues being faced by their own councils and councils in their regions.
2. The following were agreed as immediate priorities, with the remaining work outlined in this paper taking place over the 2022/23 Board year:
  - 2.1.1. Cost-of-living crisis, including impact on organisations and widening inequalities (Board to link with cross-LGA work on this)
  - 2.1.2. Independent review of children's social care
  - 2.1.3. SEND Green paper
  - 2.1.4. Healthy development review
  - 2.1.5. Funding
3. Members at the National Children and Adult Services Conference are asked to comment on the priorities identified by the Children and Young People Board and share their own key issues to inform the Board's lobbying and improvement work for 2022/23.

### **Education and SEND**

4. Our work in response to proposals set out in the SEND Green paper will continue to be based on three broad themes; structures, including clarity on responsibility for delivering various aspects of SEND support; levers, specifically ensuring that councils, as leaders of local SEND systems, have the powers to hold partners to account for the work and; sufficiency of funding to meet the needs of children with SEND. Given that implementing the high-level proposals set out in the Green paper will take a number of years, we will continue to call for additional high needs funding in the interim and for the Department for Education (DfE) to bring forward proposals to manage down and eliminate Dedicated Schools Grant deficits. We will continue to work with a broad range of partners, including central government departments, third sector and parent-carer groups to ensure there is a shared understanding of and confidence in detailed proposals as they are developed.

5. The Schools White paper acknowledged that the existing education system is fragmented and councils have a continued role at the centre of local education systems with powers to match their duties around place-planning and ensuring pupils out of school return to the classroom as soon as possible. In our work on the Schools Bill we will focus on ensuring that powers to direct all schools to admit pupils without a place are given to councils quickly, reflecting the fact that in many areas the majority of schools are already academies. We will also work to ensure that all councils will have the opportunity to set up their own Multi-Academy Trusts (MATs) and that the proposed register for home-educated children is supported by powers for councils to check that those children are receiving a suitable education.
6. We will support the DfE to ensure that the proposals set out in the SEND Green paper compliment those set out in the Schools Bill and vice-versa, as well as making the linkages with wider reforms including the Independent review of children's social care. In particular, any revised regulatory framework for MATs (replacing the proposed framework that has been removed from the Schools Bill) must support the SEND Green paper's ambition to increase levels of mainstream inclusion.

### **Children's social care**

7. The Independent Review of Children's Social Care was published in May 2022. The Government has committed to publishing an implementation plan by the end of 2022 to deliver the review's ambitions to transform the children's social care system and ensure children grow up with loving, safe and stable families. The LGA is engaged in discussions with the Department for Education around the key recommendations and the Board will continue to influence emerging policy.
8. Councils continue to report significant challenges with placement sufficiency for children in care, particularly in relation to placements for children with complex and challenging needs, and the significant and increasing costs of placements. The LGA will continue to work with the Government and the wider sector to consider how we can ensure sufficient, high-quality homes for children in care that fully meet their needs, including looking at how to engage the NHS more fully in the delivery of these homes, seeking more involvement by the Government in the delivery of secure children's homes placements and working with the DfE on foster carer recruitment and retention. The Board has agreed to establish a cross-party working group to more closely consider issues around placement cost and capacity, to identify potential solutions and to share good practice.

9. Workforce challenges are posing a significant risk to the delivery of children's social care services in many councils, both in relation to ensuring posts are staffed and in relation to budgets. In particular, councils are reporting that the changing behaviour of agencies is proving exceptionally difficult, while the cost-of-living crisis is anecdotally driving in-house staff to join agencies where pay rates are higher. The LGA is working with the DfE in relation to the children's social care workforce in particular, and with the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities on wider workforce pressures in local government.
10. Asylum and immigration issues are increasingly placing pressure on children's services, including rapidly rising numbers of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children arriving in the UK and related changes to the National Transfer Scheme; the introduction of the Homes for Ukraine scheme and the family visa scheme for those fleeing the war in Ukraine; and the challenge of Afghan families continuing to live in hotels due to housing shortages. The LGA is engaged in regular discussions with the Home Office and the DfE about these issues and will work with the Board to develop solutions to try to ensure that all children seeking safety in the UK can receive the help they need. This will include seeking full funding to support children, speeding up asylum claims, ensuring access to support including health and education, and improving placement sufficiency.
11. The rising cost-of-living is an issue of significant concern for children's services, with well-established links between deprivation, poverty and involvement with children's social care. The LGA has already established a range of workstreams in relation to the cost-of-living crisis and will work with the Board to monitor the impact of the crisis on children and families.
12. The Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse published its final report on 20 October 2022. The LGA is considering the findings of the review and how to support councils to implement its recommendations.
13. Families of, and organisations representing, disabled children have highlighted concerns around the limited recognition in either the SEND Green Paper or the Independent Review of Children's Social Care of the challenges in accessing social care. Councils have also highlighted that there are challenges in supporting young people as they transition to adult social care services, while we know there are wider difficulties around accessing ongoing support. To improve our understanding of these issues, the LGA has commissioned Alma Economics to work with disabled people, the families of disabled children and social workers to identify the main barriers to accessing such services, for those who have lifelong disabilities and will therefore require ongoing support from both children's and adult's social care. This work will form the basis for further work identifying



solutions to these challenges to enable the LGA to seek the funding, levers or legislation that councils need to provide disabled people with the changing support that they need over the course of their lives.

14. In 2016, the LGA commissioned the Isos Partnership to develop a [report looking at the enablers of improvement in children's services](#). This report continues to be well-used and well-respected by children's services departments across the country. Recognising that there have been significant changes since 2016, including the impact of the pandemic, rising demand and increasing financial challenges, we have commissioned an update to this report to ensure that it is as relevant as possible for councils.

### **Early years**

15. High quality early years provision will help to support the Levelling Up agenda and close the attainment gap, which widened during the pandemic. We commissioned research to understand 'what works' in the delivery of high quality provision and the cost of extending such provision to all children for their early entitlements (2, 3 and 4 year old offers). We will share the outcomes of this research with the Government to show the importance of a sufficiently funded system that supports highly qualified staff and access to education and care for all children.
16. Long term challenges within the early years system due to underfunding of the system has been exacerbated by the pandemic and the current cost of living crisis. Recruitment and retention of high quality staff has always been challenging for the sector but is now heightened with staff leaving the sector completely for better paying roles elsewhere. The Government has put in place a workforce team and we are feeding into their review. The impact of staff challenges along with rising costs is leading to reported closures of early years settings. We will commission work to explore the impact of closures of early years settings, particularly in more deprived areas.

### **Children and young people's mental health and wellbeing**

#### **(activities sit across both this Board and the Community Wellbeing Board)**

17. Covid-19 has had a significant impact on the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people. We will continue to work with government to prioritise the wellbeing of children and young people.

18. The roll out of mental health support teams in schools (MHSTs), as set out in the 2017 Green Paper, has been progressed with an intention to reach more of the country within the next few years. Although this is a positive step forward, there is still more that can be done.
19. We are looking at the support that could be available in the community, such as through early support hubs, and will continue to work with government to ensure that they recognise the role that councils can play in ensuring early intervention and prevention in mental health and the specialist roles that are required in children's services to support vulnerable children's mental health.
20. The government is consulting on a 10 year cross departmental strategy on mental health for all ages. We have worked closely with the government to show that councils are a core part of ensuring a preventative mental health offer and supporting children and young people when they have mental health needs. We have called for this strategy to have the resources it needs to ensure there is change for children, young people and their families.
21. Building on previous commissioned research such as whole household approaches to mental health, transitions from children's to adults mental health services, and the evidence around early intervention and prevention, further case studies will be collated around supporting children in care and care leavers with their mental health.

### **Youth Services**

22. The Government announced a Youth Review in February 2022 that highlighted the priority areas for the youth investment fund (YIF), reforming the National Citizen Service (NCS) and reducing waiting lists for non-military Uniformed Youth Groups. Although we welcomed the focus on youth services, it was disappointing that the YIF was predominantly focused on capital spend when the sector needs greater investment into staff and training. We continue to lobby for long term direction and funding from the Department of Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) on youth services. We will continue to champion the importance of youth services, particularly given the evidence around the importance of these services during the pandemic and to support recovery.
23. We are working with councils to explore good practice in commissioning, developing or delivering youth service provision. This includes holding a webinar on partnership working in youth services and drawing together good practice case studies. We are anticipating the refresh of the consultation on statutory guidance on youth service provision and will work with partners to respond to this.

### **Youth justice**

24. The Board supported a position on an increase to the minimum age of criminal responsibility and we will continue to lobby for this, in particular through the Police, Crime, Policing and Courts Bill. In 2022, we produced research that explored the impact criminalisation at an early age on young people and the wider community and held a webinar exploring local authority experiences.
25. The Ministry of Justice has announced £300m to prevent youth crime. This is a positive investment into the system and will help to deliver changes in the system. We developed a youth justice policy statement and will continue to lobby on the wider structural changes needed to improve the justice system.
26. A priority continues to be over representation of black and ethnic minority children in the youth justice system therefore we are working closely with the YJB on a disparity protocol. We are also engaged in the government's review of youth remand following a report in 2021 and will ensure the recommendations are actionable for councils.

### **Supporting disadvantaged families and children**

27. The Family Hubs and Start for Life Programme has gone live with 75 local authorities able to apply to be part of the programme and to receive part of £302m funding. The LGA has worked closely with the Government from the initiation of the programme.
28. We will continue to work with DHSC, DfE and partners to ensure "Start for Life" is a collaborative and strength-based programme which empowers councils to improve services and ensure local flexibility and leadership rather than a one-size fits all approach. We will work with DfE and the Centre for Family Hubs to ensure sector input into the roll out of Family Hubs.
29. We are developing a Must Know guide for Councillors to explain the process for the 75 local authorities that will be receiving the funding and for those that will not in this round. We are also working with the Government to show the importance of long-term funding available for the programme and for councils to have certainty after 2025.
30. The Board has agreed to review and inform the national and local approach to children's food and nutrition, including the Holiday Activities and Food Fund, Healthy Start Vouchers, the Department for Work and Pensions' Household Support Fund and local welfare funding more widely. There was a focus on children's food throughout the pandemic, and this is also reflected in Part One and Part Two of the national food strategy (NFS). Many organisations are calling for a review of school food and we have pushed for increasing the eligibility criteria and introducing automatic-enrolment for Free School Meals, we will continue to bring

relevant proposals to the Board's attention and develop an LGA position as appropriate. The Board will also work jointly with the Community Wellbeing Board on cross-cutting issues such as childhood obesity, nutrition and maternity support. We are also engaging with councils and partners on the wider recommendations of the NFS on local food strategies and partnerships, food security and resilience, local food economies and the environment.

31. We will continue to consider the impact of national and local welfare policy and support on families with children and will work jointly with the Resources Board to ensure that the role of councils in supporting low income and disadvantaged households is both properly recognised and adequately resourced. Our Reshaping Financial Support programme is directly addressing the ways in which councils are supporting low income families to alleviate financial hardship and promote financial inclusion and resilience.
32. The current and future impact of the pandemic on children's health, social and economic wellbeing - particularly those from the most affected places, groups and communities - will be a core strand within the LGA's strengthened cross-cutting approach to equality, diversity and inclusion.
33. We will continue to make the case for early intervention and prevention across services for socially and / or economically vulnerable families. The Board will lead the LGA's work with Government and the sector on the implementation and future funding of Supporting Families (formerly Troubled Families) and the development of Family Hubs, as well as targeted support such the Department for Work and Pensions' Reducing Parental Conflict programme.

### **Children's Health**

30. Covid-19 and now the rising cost of living will undoubtedly have an impact on the health, wellbeing and development of children and young people. We will continue to work with Government to ensure that children's health is prioritised.
31. We will continue to work with government to ensure that the views and concerns of local government are addressed in the developing policy agenda for childhood obesity, the Healthy Child Programme and any proposals identified in the Health Disparities White Paper.
32. We will continue to make the case that funding and capacity are mission critical issues affecting local public health teams' ability to deliver essential health promoting services for children and young people in their local areas.
33. We will refresh our policy lines on child obesity, healthy weight, planning, oral health, the vision for the refreshed Healthy Child Programme and with a new system, cost of living, inequalities and Covid-19 recovery lens.

34. We will continue to work with partners across the system to strengthen the position of children's health and public health in Integrated Care Boards/Partnerships.
35. Workforce challenges within the children's health workforce, and the wider public health workforce in general. We will continue to lobby to rebuild the Healthy Child Programme workforce to ensure children and families are supported, unmet need is identified and work begins to address the adverse impact COVID-19 and the cost of living crisis will have on child health inequalities.

### **Financial implications**

36. The priorities will be delivered within existing resources.



## Youth Services

### Purpose of report

For discussion.

### Summary

Representatives from the National Youth Agency (NYA) will join today's meeting to give an update on the recent work undertaken by the NYA, including the National Guarantee, the statutory duty and future campaigns.

### Recommendation/s

Members are recommended to provide feedback on the challenges and opportunities arising for councils regarding youth services and any additional issues following the presentation from NYA.

### Action/s

Officers will take action as required arising from the discussions.

**Contact officer:**

Flora Wilkie

**Position:**

Adviser – Children and Young People

**Email:**

flora.wilkie@local.gov.uk

## Background

1. Members will be aware that funding to youth services by local authorities in England and Wales saw a real terms decline of 70 per cent between 2010/11 and 2018/19. Since 2010/11, youth services such as [youth clubs and youth workers have been cut by 69 per cent](#). More than 4,500 youth work jobs have been cut and 750 youth centres closed.
2. The LGA has a [vision for youth services](#), for all young people to enjoy their lives, reach their full potential and make a good transition to adulthood. This includes six principles of youth services, a desire to see a national strategy for youth services and for councils to have the resources and levers to ensure a strong local offer for young people. The LGA has [produced a series of publications](#) to support councils in this role, such as a guide to engaging young people in commissioning and a framework for outcomes for young people.
3. In February 2022, the government has announced a [National Youth Guarantee](#), this included the revised Youth Investment Fund at £378m (reduced from the £500m announcement in 2019), a year round, more local approach for NCS and efforts to tackle waiting lists for uniformed youth groups and an expansion of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award.
4. The Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport committed to review the guidance which applies in relation to [the statutory duty placed on Local Authorities](#) to secure sufficient educational and recreational leisure-time activities to improve young people's wellbeing.
5. The LGA has continued to engage with DCMS with recent early sight of the Department's proposals. We have welcomed that the existing guidance continues to recognise that local authorities are best placed to work with local public, private and voluntary sector partners and young people to determine the nature and composition of their local youth offer. Councils should continue to have the freedom to shape provision according to local need rather than being constrained by national direction. Councils should be empowered to lead, co-ordinate and commission both universal and targeted youth services that meet the needs of their local communities.
6. We have also made clear that ongoing funding reductions set alongside a significant increase in demand for child protection services has meant that councils have had to divert resources away from universal and early help services to support those children most at risk. These funding challenges are ever more acute for local authorities. To truly develop a good quality youth service that is consistent across the country, there needs to be long term, sustainable funding. Fundamentally, although clarity is welcomed, if the changes to the guidance expect more of councils, they should be fully funded.
7. The LGA is currently working with the National Youth Agency (NYA) to develop a peer review model pilot for youth services. This will be piloted between January and May 2023 to inform longer term planning for the department.



**Topics for discussion**

1. Please see appendix 1 for a paper from NYA.
2. As shown in appendix 1, the NYA will outline; the national youth guarantee and the youth sector census, the statutory duty for youth work, and future campaigning work.

**Implications for Wales**

3. None – Wales has its own guidance regarding youth work.

**Financial Implications**

4. None

**Next steps**

5. Officers will use the discussion to inform future work in this area.

## Appendix 1

### National Youth Agency briefing for LGA Children and Young People Board – Leigh Middleton, CEO

1. It will be our pleasure to meet with the Children and Young People (CYP) Board to update you on the latest work and thinking from the National Youth Agency (NYA). Over the last year, the NYA has secured over £3m to invest in strengthening the role of youth work and the broader youth sector. During COVID-19, youth workers were re-asserted by the government as key workers and our youth services as an essential service. This has since led to a renewed focus on the vital role of youth work in supporting our most vulnerable and marginalised young people who often struggle to engage effectively with statutory services.
2. Attending the CYP Board during the National Children and Adult Services Conference (NCASC) is a poignant time to reflect on the role of youth work as part of the triad of support services for children and young people (social work, education and youth work). The government has published details of their National Youth Guarantee, which commits that all young people who need it can access weekly youth work-based provisions in their local community. Achieving this is a considerable challenge and will require significant new investment., the NYA, with our partners Social Investment Business, secured the rights to distribute the £360m Youth Investment Fund to invest in youth facilities in 600 wards across the country. The NYA has also secured a £1m investment this financial year to fund foundation-level training for youth work practitioners (Inc volunteers). These investments are the start, and much more will be needed during these tough fiscal times if we are to grow the quality and capacity of the youth sector across England.
3. The NYA and the LGA are now working with the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) to scrutinise the statutory duty guidance for youth work and the role of councils in supporting a robust local ecosystem of provision for young people. The provision of youth services remains a statutory duty for Local Authorities (s507B Education Act, 1996).
4. We are pressing for new government investment to ensure these essential services are secured for all young people. As part of this collaboration, we are working to pilot a peer review programme for youth services led, supported, commissioned (or not) by Local authorities. As the government seeks to provide clearer guidance to councils, the peer review model is being developed to support them in a nurturing and supportive programme.
5. In the last five years, youth work has shot up the political priority list. The Treasury has told the NYA that to secure fresh investment, the youth sector needs to become more investable in. This work starts with knowing what youth provision exists where, who for, and how it is funded and staffed. To answer this massive challenge, the

NYA launched the Youth Sector Census, which has been steadily mapping the youth sector from grassroots providers up. When we meet, we will be able to show you how this work is rapidly delivering a powerful national data system to capture and map the local landscape. Sadly, returns from councils have been particularly weak, and we are keen to support them in improving returns. We've also learnt that the quality of s251 returns rarely matches local offers, and this is harming the case for investment in many areas. We'd welcome discussing how we can jointly improve this story.

**Some of the topics we'll seek to cover in the time we have are:**

6. Holding government to account for the National Youth Guarantee of regular (weekly) youth work and out-of-school activities. And to ensure equitable access across communities.
  - a. How: We deliver the Census, which will inform national investment and local planning. Increasing the capacity of youth work/services. After an initial 3-year programme of work, the census has reopened for 2022 self-reporting. In 2021 one-third of Local Authorities were completed; one-third responded; one-third had no reply. <https://www.nya.org.uk/national-youth-sector-census/>
  
7. Increasing accountability on the statutory duty for youth work (educational leisure and recreational time) by strengthening guidance for local authorities to secure local services - whether directly delivered, commissioned, funded or independently provided in their area.
  - a. How: We are working alongside LGA with the Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport (DCMS); on the statutory guidance, and our latest NYA guidance has been published. To be supported by peer reviews (NYA-LGA pilot) and quality/standards (NYA, as the professional, statutory and regulatory body for youth work in England). <https://www.nya.org.uk/resources/resource-library/>
  
8. Campaigns: In the face of a cost-of-living crisis, to support young people (and families) with somewhere safe and warm to go, to be with friends, and activities outside of the school day with a youth worker for safeguarding and support.
  - a. How: As we anticipate LA funding cuts, we want to protect and grow youth services - but fear frontline cuts. We want to work with the LGA and local authorities in campaigns, reviews and evaluations.

\*NYA guidance is a 2PS baseline of two qualified youth workers (FTE) and a team of trained, skilled support workers and volunteers accessible across communities (using secondary school catchment areas/ population count as a proxy for access).



## Minutes of the last Children and Young People Board

---

Title:	Children and Young People Board
Date and time:	Thursday 29 September 2022
Location:	Hybrid via Microsoft Teams and 18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ

---

### Attendance

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

### Item Decisions and actions

#### 1. Welcome, Apologies and Substitutes, Declarations of Interest

The Chair welcomed members to the Children and Young People Board meeting.

Cllr Mark Cory declared that he was a part-time teacher and member of NEU.

Apologies were given by Cllr Kam Kaur, Cllr Adam Ellison and Cllr Adrian Hardman with Cllr Ryan Brent, Cllr Leigh Redman and Cllr Robert Flatley in attendance as substitutes.

#### 2. Minutes of previous meeting

Members of the Children and Young People Board agreed the minutes of the meeting held on 7 June 2022.

#### 3. Membership and Terms of Reference and Appointments for Outside Bodies for 2022/23

The Chair introduced the item which the terms of reference and membership for the LGA's Children and Young People Board for the 2022/23 meeting cycle.

Following the brief discussion, members made no comments.

#### **Decision:**

Members of the Children and Young People Board noted and agreed the report.

#### 4. Board Work Programme and Priorities Report for 2022/23

The Chair introduced the report which set out proposals for the Children and Young People Board's (CYP) priorities and work programme for 2022/23.

10 November 2022

During the discussion, members made the following comments:

- Members raised that there needed to be a crosscutting theme across the Board with budgets being a serious concern. The key significance was how children would be looked after as budgets were completely out of control and had a knock-on effect on other areas. Cooperatives to be looked at with regard to placements.
- One of the biggest challenges was the huge rise in poverty and direct impact on services. Cost of living crisis should be of particular focus and should be an item for the next Board meeting.
- Members suggested that a task and finish group looking at placement sufficiency would be helpful, including considering best practice in this area, particularly as placement budgets were so high. The role of Independent Fostering Agencies should be included in this work.
- Early years should be considered as an education path, the earlier children were placed in an educational setting the better.
- With regard to workforce, raising awareness on the good work social workers do was important to counter the negativity surrounding this area.
- Members suggested encapsulating the cost-of-living crisis in two ways which were the organisational impacts of inflation, energy costs, cost of living and pressures across local government budgets, education and third sector; and the cost of living and poverty and how that impacted individuals.
- Members raised concerns that the increase in Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) was driven by schools looking for funding, which was destructive as children were being labelled unnecessarily and was causing a significant financial challenge for local authorities.
- Members were keen to get a position from the LGA on food and nutrition for children, including free school meals. The holiday activity fund did not cover the full six weeks in the summer holidays and did not include half term holidays.
- Early years was a clear focus from government and it would be worth looking to include people not having access to childcare and the problems it has caused during the pandemic as well as now.
- Members raised concerns about children's health, including the significant cuts to the public health grant in recent years.

The chair concluded that the main theme was the cost of living and to set up a task and finish group around areas raised to share best practice.

**Decision:**

Members of the Children and Young People Board noted and agreed the report.

**Actions:**

- Officers to consider a task and finish group looking at placement sufficiency and discuss with lead members.
- Officers to consider the cost-of-living crisis as a key focus and identify a route for the Board to feed into LGA-wide work in this area.

## **5. Supporting unaccompanied asylum-seeking children**

The Chair introduced the item which outlined challenges for councils in relation to supporting unaccompanied asylum-seeking children, along with a range of proposals for improvement, including both existing and recommended LGA positions.

Louise Smith, Senior Adviser, informed the Board that changes had been made to the National Transfer Scheme (NTS) to try to ensure children could transfer to their new homes more quickly. The changes expected councils to support more unaccompanied asylum-seeking children with the threshold increasing from 0.07 per cent of a council's child population to 0.1 per cent on 24 August 2022. Councils would receive more funding to support children when they are above the 0.07 per cent threshold.

Louise added that LGA had always been clear that placing children in hotels was unacceptable and needed to be a driver of system change. However, the LGA wanted to continue to work with government to look at the impact and deliverability of the recent announcements on councils, children and Strategic Migration Partnerships.

Members were asked to consider recommendations outlined in the paper.

During the discussion, members made the following comments:

- Members commented that a series of reception and safe care services to replace hotels made more sense to have but the concern was how long they would stay there for. Changing timescales for councils to transfer children from where they had arrived from 10 days to 5 days was difficult for local authorities due to the lack of information for both the local authorities and minors themselves. This was particularly relevant where children were being placed in rural areas with no connection to their culture and therefore needed time to be prepared for this.
- Members said that there were not enough adequate resources to support children when they became care leavers.
- Members noted that often children were traumatised due to the horrific journeys made to get to the UK and recommended that the LGA lobby the Government for the opening of safe legal routes to the UK and the strengthening of rights around family reunification.
- High quality supported lodging may be a good option for young people.

10 November 2022

- Members asked if there was a figure for the number of young people in temporary accommodation such as hotels who were waiting on age assessments. Louise responded that the full age assessment took place when they arrived at the council which sometimes caused challenges for both councils and young people as it was expensive and lengthy.
- Members notes that there was some good practice around the country in ensuring unaccompanied children received the support they needed and suggested a role for the LGA in identifying and sharing this good practice, for example through holding a webinar.

**Decision:**

Members of the Children and Young People Board noted the report and agreed the recommendations.

**Actions:**

- Officers to lobby government for the opening of safe legal routes to the UK and strengthening of rights around family reunification.
- Officers to consider a webinar to share best practice.

## **6. A Vision for Children and Young People**

The Chair introduced the report which sought the views of the Children and Young People Board on a potential medium to long-term vision for children and young people, which could be used to guide the LGA's policy work in this area and influence the Government and the manifestos for the next general election.

During the discussion, members made the following comments:

- Members wanted to put in an ask for a more joined up system with local authorities at the forefront. There was fragmentation and lack of connection within the education system and this needed to be a priority.
- Members asked why immigration was mentioned under the "stable, loving homes and trusted relationships" theme. Louise responded that this referred to some children seeking asylum in England living in hotels and B&Bs.
- Mental health and wellbeing was important to consider as part of the report.
- Members considered how to engage young people in this work. Louise responded that work would be done with national organisations, and it was also important for councils to engage with young people and good practice examples of how councils were doing this were available on the LGA website.
- Members expressed it would be useful to get regions to share best practice and give feedback which would provide further information and capture all local authorities.

**Decision:**

Members of the Children and Young People Board noted the paper.

## **7. Schools workforce pay**



10 November 2022

The Chair introduced the report which gave members the opportunity to hear negotiations around pay for school support staff.

The Chair invited Selena Lansley and Harry Honnor, Senior Advisers in the LGA's Workforce and Negotiations team, to present to the Board.

Selena informed the Board that she would be giving an overview of the National Employers' Organisation for School Teachers (NEOST) which the LGA were majority members of and the response back to the Governments consultation.

Selena highlighted the following key points:

- Due to changes in government that the two-year deal was not agreed but rather a one-year deal.
- Majority of teachers would receive a 5 percent increase if the proposal was agreed as expected.
- Starting salary for Early Career Teachers outside of London is at £28,000 which is an uplift of 8.9 percent.
- Government have confirmed no additional funding would be given.
- Launched a survey and received 106 responses.
  - 86 percent indicated they would have to make significant adjustments to budgets required.
  - 70 percent indicated that they would need to restructure roles within the school as an impact of the pay award.
  - 40 percent indicated that they estimated an affordability gap of 5 percent and above (taking into account inflation costs, energy cost and school support staff pay award).
  - 79 percent indicated the pay award would aid in future recruitment.
  - 42 percent indicated the pay award would not support better retention.

Harry highlighted the following key points:

- On the 25 July, the National Employers agreed unanimously to make the following one-year (1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023), final offer:
  - With effect from 1 April 2022, an increase of £1,925 on all NJC pay points 1 and above.
  - With effect from 1 April 2022, an increase of 4.04 per cent on all allowances.
  - With effect from 1 April 2023, an increase of one day to all employees' annual leave entitlement.
  - With effect from 1 April 2023, the deletion of pay point 1 from the NJC pay spine.
- The offer would achieve a bottom rate of pay of £10.50 with effect from 1 April 2022 (which equates to a pay increase of 10.50 per cent for employees on pay point 1); everyone on the NJC pay spine would receive a minimum 4.04 per cent pay increase; and the deletion of pay point 1 on

10 November 2022

1 April 2023, would increase the bottom rate to £10.60 (providing 10p headroom above the current upper-end forecast for the NLW on that date.

- If the offer was accepted, it would increase the national pay bill by 6.886 per cent (£1.045bn).
- UNISON had announced its members had accepted the offer by 65 percent, Unite's consultation was due to end 14 October and GMB's consultation was due to end 21 October.

Following the discussion members made no comments.

**Decision:**

Members of the Children and Young People Board noted the paper.

**Date of Next Meeting:** Thursday, 3 November 2022, 4.00 pm, NCASC - Manchester

**Appendix A – Attendance**

<b>Position</b>	<b>Authority</b>	
Chair	Cllr Louise Gittins	Cheshire West and Chester
Vice Chairman	Cllr Patricia Bradwell OBE	Lincolnshire County Council
Deputy Chair	Cllr Lucy Nethsingha	Cambridgeshire County Council
Deputy Chair	Cllr Julie Fallon	Conwy County Borough Council
Committee Member	Cllr Roger Gough	Kent County Council
	Cllr Laura Mayes	Wiltshire Council
	Cllr Anthony Mullen	Sunderland City
	Cllr Mark Sutton	Staffordshire County Council
	Cllr Beverley Momenabadi	Wolverhampton City
	Cllr Fiona Venner	Leeds City Council
	Cllr Imran Khan	Bradford Metropolitan District Council
	Cllr Mili Patel	Brent Council
	Cllr Tim Roca	Westminster City Council
	Cllr Mary Cory	Colchester Borough Council
	Cllr Judy Jennings	Epping Forest District Council
Apologies	Cllr Adrian Hardman	
	Cllr Kam Kaur	
	Cllr Adam Ellison	



**Safer and Stronger Communities  
Board**

10 November 2022

Substitutes                    Cllr Ryan Brent  
   Cllr Robert Flatley  
   Cllr Gary Bridges  
   Cllr Daniel Francis  
   Cllr Leigh Redman

LGA Officers                    Louise Smith  
   Flora Wilke  
   Emily Hackett  
   Harry Honnor  
   Selena Lansley  
   Amelia Sutton  
   Noleen Rosen  
   Abigail Gallop  
   David Mills  
   Tahmina Akther  
   Emma Munkhdalai

