



Children & Young People Board

Agenda

Thursday, 5 October 2023
1.00 pm

Hybrid Meeting - Victoria Room, 8th Floor, 18
Smith Square and Online

There will be a meeting of the Children & Young People Board at **1.00 pm on Thursday, 5 October 2023** Hybrid Meeting - 18 Smith Square and Online.

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.

Conservative:	Group Office: 020 7664 3223	email: lgaconservatives@local.gov.uk
Labour:	Group Office: 020 7664 3263	email: labgp@lga.gov.uk
Independent:	Group Office: 020 7664 3224	email: independent.grouplga@local.gov.uk
Liberal Democrat:	Group Office: 020 7664 3235	email: libdem@local.gov.uk

Attendance:

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

LGA Contact:

Abigail Benari
abigail.benari@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 2023/24

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

Councillor	Authority
Conservative (6)	
Cllr Patricia Bradwell OBE (Vice Chairman)	Lincolnshire County Council
Cllr Tony Ball	Essex County Council
Cllr Roger Gough	Kent County Council
Cllr Laura Mayes	Wiltshire Council
Cllr Annabel Wilkinson	North Yorkshire Council
Cllr Phillippa Williamson	Lancashire County Council
Substitutes	
Cllr Mark Sutton	Staffordshire County Council
Cllr Robert Flatley	Derbyshire County Council
Cllr Andrew Leadbetter	Devon County Council
Labour (7)	
Cllr Louise Gittins (Chair)	Cheshire West and Chester Council
Cllr Victoria Cusworth	Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council
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 Garry Bridges	Manchester City Council
Substitutes	
Cllr Rachel Massey	Rochdale Borough Council
Cllr Joshua Garfield	Newham London Borough
Cllr Leigh Redman	Somerset County Council
Liberal Democrat (3)	
Cllr Gerald Vernon-Jackson CBE (Deputy Chair)	Portsmouth City Council
Cllr Cordelia Law	Torbay Council
Cllr Mark Cory	Colchester Borough Council
Substitutes	
Cllr Dine Romero	Bath & North East Somerset Council
Independent (2)	
Cllr Jon Hubbard (Deputy Chair)	Wiltshire Council
Cllr Anne Dorrian	Boston Borough Council
Substitutes	
Cllr Helen Wetherall	Noeth East Derbyshire Council
Cllr Edward Maxfield	Norfolk County Council
Cllr Rachel Smith-Lyte	East Sussex County Council
Cllr Alex Reeve	Uttlesford District Council

Agenda

Children & Young People Board

Thursday, 5 October 2023

1.00 pm

Hybrid Meeting - 18 Smith Square and Online

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Date of Next Meeting: Thursday, 30 November 2023, 12.45pm – 1.25pm, In person Meeting at NCASC in Bournemouth

Minutes of last Children & Young People Board meeting

Children & Young People Board

Tuesday, 27 June 2023

Hybrid Meeting - 18 Smith Square and Online

Attendance

An attendance list is attached as **Appendix A**

Item	Decisions and actions
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1 Welcome, Apologies and Substitutes, Declarations of Interest

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

Apologies were received from Cllr Judy Jennings, Cllr Adrian Hardman and Cllr Imran Khan, substituted by Cllr Edward Maxfield, Cllr Robert Flatley and Cllr Garry Bridges respectively.

There were no declarations of Interest.

2 Note of the Previous Meeting

Members agreed the minutes of the previous meeting held on 14 March.

3 Domestic Abuse Commissioner, Nicole Jacobs

The Chair introduced Nicole Jacobs, the Domestic Abuse Commissioner, who is an independent statutory office holder appointed to provide public leadership on tackling domestic abuse and oversee and monitor the provision of services to victims of domestic abuse in England and Wales. Nicole Jacobs outlined her current priorities in relation to children and families experiencing domestic abuse, and her current and future work.

Members comments:

- The Chair highlighted the disappointing statistic that only 29% of families think children and young people are getting the support they need. The Chair also thanked the DA Commissioner for her acknowledgement of the funding and staffing issues councils face, and the limitations to progress as a result.
- Concern was raised around services not being continually funded and instead being subject to a bidding system with the Home Office, emphasising the need to provide a continuous service to protect the victim.
- Members requested sharing of good practice across the country.

- A member expanded on the need for wider collaboration between partners, as agencies had collaborated with a specific brief to achieve a specific outcome –there is a need to look at the wider landscape, to review root causes and patterns.
- Information was requested on how the DA Commissioner and the Children’s Commissioner work together.

Nicole Jacobs responded:

- The patchwork nature of funding for DA services needed to be more joined up and longer term, with greater communication from Government on the intention with funds. The DA commissioner’s office had gathered some evidence on which funding worked well which would help inform these conversations.
- This linked to the need for a greater focus on strategic long-term planning and prevention, rather than crisis intervention. A forum at local level between partners was suggested to address root causes outside of silos.
- Duties that were imposed on areas need to be funded.
- The DA commissioner’s office would continue to raise the profile of good practice, whilst attempting to address some of the systemic funding issues, with plans over the next quarter of the year to delve into the issues at the local level. The [Festival of Practice](#) which took place at the end of March demonstrates the work being done, where local strategic leads had come together to collaborate and share information.
- The Home Office had recently commissioned Police and Crime Commissioners with the aim to address perpetrators and root causes - £75 million of funding over 3 years. This would inform what the local pathway should look like to prevent perpetrators harming.
- Nicole Jacobs described her collaboration with the [Children's Commissioner](#), Rachel de Souza, as working towards shared priorities whilst ensuring no replication of work. Traditionally, the DA Commissioner also worked with the Victim’s Commissioner, however there is not one in post.

Decision

The Board considered the presentation by the Domestic Abuse Commissioner and offered perspectives from their own authorities and views on the Commissioner’s current and future work.

Actions

- Members to reach out to the DA Commissioner’s Regional Commissioners to begin to support work of discovering and sharing good practice across the country – particularly how councils collaborate with partners such as community and voluntary groups.
- DA Commissioner’s Office to send examples of good practice between partners.

4 Early Years Education and Childcare

The Chair invited Flora Wilkie, Adviser, to introduce the item to outline the Government's 2023 Spring Budget announcement of reforms to the early years education and childcare system and the LGA's policy approach for early years. Officers had been refreshing the LGA's policy approach for early years education and childcare following a discussion at the March CYP Board.

Members comments:

- Providers of early years education and childcare had fed back that 'funded places' are not fully funded. Providers had to reduce the number of funded places available, or cross-subsidise places from fee-paying parents – which would not happen in deprived areas, leaving the most disadvantaged unsupported. Additionally, as more families had been working from home more often, fewer fees are being paid and nurseries would not be receiving this additional income. It was requested that this be emphasised in the policy position.
- Greater emphasis on the chronic recruitment and retention issues was needed in the policy position, as additional funded places could not be delivered without adequate staffing levels. Providers had given feedback that wages are the main barrier to recruitment and retention.
- A member raised the point that there is a feminist issue around the perception of early years work, as the workforce is almost entirely women and perceived as low status and low pay - until this is resolved the crisis would continue.
- Concern was raised around the lack of clarity on which qualifications are needed to work in the sector. Another member pointed out a lack of suitably qualified staff from early career level to educational psychologists.
- The funding shortage for the maintained nursery sector needed to be emphasised in the policy position, as the expectation is for maintained nurseries to run as schools with a headteacher. Also, it was raised that maintained nurseries are isolated, not able to academise or join trusts.
- Foster carers and kinship carers should have additional hours made available to them without meeting the work criteria of early years funded entitlements. Emphasis should be placed on the money kinship and foster carers save the Government and the extension to this cohort would further aid this.
- It was suggested that the LGA has a role in sector led improvement and good practice is shared.
- A member called for the removal of childminder agencies from the report due to its failure.
- A member commented that placing the sufficiency team within the commissioning team helped address the conflict between quality, quantity and sufficiency of local provision detailed in paragraph 74 of the report.
- Early identification of SEND children and children with more complex needs, such as speech and language needs was highlighted in combination with the need for additional help to follow the child throughout their life.

- There was a consensus view that information sharing on good practice between local authorities was needed.

The Chair invited Richard Cooke, Head of Children's Services Improvement to speak. Richard Cooke explained that the Department for Education had recently provided a small grant over the next couple of years around early years, specifically speech and language development. Richard Cooke acknowledged it would not address all the issues discussed, however it would be something councils could tap into.

Decision

The Board endorsed the draft early years policy paper subject to comments made during the discussion and agreed that Lead members sign of the final papers in July.

Action

- Officers to circulate final papers with the Board following sign off.
- Officers to share details of the funding provided from the DfE to the LGA.

5 Children's Placements Working Group Final Report

The Chair invited Cllr Fiona Venner to introduce the item which outlined the final report and recommendations of the Children's Placements Working Group which was established on 29 September 2022 by the Children and Young People Board, to consider the issue of placement insufficiency for children in care.

Members comments:

- A member highlighted issues that had arisen with the regulator Ofsted, which had caused barriers and challenges to providing children with the right placements. For instance, being overly prescriptive when matching children with homes and unaware of the effect this has on the wider system, such as resorting to the use of unregistered provision.
- Children's Placements was the most problematic issue facing councils' children's social care departments and overall, was posing considerable reputational risk and financial burdens. The LGA should lobby Government and raise this up the agenda.
- It was helpful to consider the specific needs of children aged 15 and up, as outlined in the report, and to recognise that the needs of resident and asylum-seeking children could be very different, for example resident children may have specific issues in their school or locality.

Decision

The Board agreed the recommendations of the Placements Working Group, as set out in paragraph 9 of the report.

Actions

- Officers to consider methods to take the recommendations of the Children's Placements Working Group forward.

- Officers to explore the creation of an LGA resource to provide information on how to set up a thriving fostering community and how to set up residential homes.
- Members to share specific feedback of experiences to share with Ofsted as requested by Matthew Brazier.
- Good practice should be shared with councils with consideration of how to publicise these more widely.
- Officers to write to Ofsted:
 - Issue of multi-site registration
 - Potential to feedback to Ofsted or incorporate in the policy position the need to be more understanding when matching placements, as they may not be ideal, but there are limited options.
 - Inform Ofsted of the emergency measures local authorities must take as a consequence of Ofsted's decisions.

6 Proposed Ofsted Regional Adoption Agency inspection

The Chair invited Matthew Brazier, Ofsted's Special Adviser (Children in Care) and Project Director for Supported Accommodation (Children in Care and Care Leavers), to discuss plans for the inspection of Regional Adoption Agencies.

The Chair requested information on how regular the inspections would be and encouraged Ofsted to return to the Board with the learnings from the inspections in future.

Matthew Brazier responded:

- The set of inspections of 6 RAAs due to take place in November were the only set scheduled thus far, however following future discussions with the DfE and other stakeholders – it could be decided to do a regular thematic inspection or a cycle of inspections.
- Matthew Brazier ensured that Ofsted did not want to increase the burden on local authorities, but instead, identify and encourage where resources could be used better.

Decision

The Board noted the contents of the presentation.

Action

- Members to contact Ofsted with any further comments on the plans (emails were shared in the meeting chat).

7 Review of RIIA Effectiveness from CIB Working Group

The Chair invited Amy Brace, LGA Programme Manager in the Children's Improvement Team, to give an update on an evaluation exercise undertaken on behalf of the Children's Improvement Board to identify opportunities for further supporting the RIIAs to drive improvement across

the sector. Amy Brace presented her slides (available in the agenda pack).

Members comments:

- A member that was interviewed as part of the review thanked Amy Brace and her team for the work being done and highlighted the value of the work of the RIAs. The member requested examples of good practice to be shared. The member would welcome more opportunities for RIAs to share good practice.

The Chair invited Amy back in future to report back on the progress of the action plan.

Decision

The Board noted the contents of the presentation.

Action

- Amy Brace to progress the action plan, including developing opportunities for good practice to be shared across RIAs.

8 CYP Board activity at LGA Annual Conference

The Chair invited Clive Harris, Senior Adviser to introduce the report that provided information on the children and young people-focussed sessions that are taking place as part of the LGA annual conference from the 4 – 6 July 2023.

Decision

The Board noted the contents of the report.

The Chair thanked Cllr Lucy Nethsingha for her time and valuable contributions over her 6 years on the Children and Young People Board and wished her good luck for her future and new position at the LGA.

Appendix A -Attendance

Position/Role	Councillor	Authority
Chairman	Cllr Louise Gittins	Cheshire West and Chester Council
Vice-Chairman	Cllr Patricia Bradwell OBE	Lincolnshire County Council
Deputy-chairman	Cllr Lucy Nethsingha	Cambridgeshire County Council
Members	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 Fiona Venner	Leeds City Council
	Cllr Mili Patel	Brent Council
	Cllr Tim Roca	Westminster City Council



Apologies

Cllr Judy Jennings
Cllr Adrian Hardman
Cllr Imran Khan

Epping Forest District Council
Worcestershire County Council
Bradford Metropolitan District Council

In Attendance

Nicole Jacobs
Cllr Garry Bridges
Cllr Leigh Redman
Cllr Edward Maxfield
John Pearce

Domestic Abuse Commissioner
Manchester City Council
Somerset County Council
Norfolk County Council
ADCS President

Children and Young People Board - Terms of reference, Membership and Appointments to Outside Bodies for 2023/24

Purpose of Report

For information.

Summary

This report outlines the terms of reference and membership for the LGA's Children and Young People Board for the 2023/24 meeting cycle. The report also identifies outside bodies to which the Board is asked appoint for the 2023/24 meeting cycle.

LGA Plan Theme: One politically led organisation

Recommendation(s)

That the Board:

- i. agree its Terms of Reference (Appendix A);**
- ii. formally notes the membership for 2022/23 (Appendix B);**
- iii. notes the dates of the future meetings (Appendix C);**
- iv. note the Outside Bodies for 2023/24 and register your interest with your Lead Members (Appendix D).**

Contact details

Contact officer: Abigail Benari

Position: Member Services Administrator

Phone no: 07789 937675

Email: Abigail.Benari@local.gov.uk

Children and Young People Board - Membership and Terms of reference and Appointments for Outside Bodies for 2023/24

Background

1. The LGA's Boards seek to lead the agenda for local government on the key challenges and issues within their remit and support the overall objectives of the organisation as set out in the [LGA Plan 2022–2025](#).
2. They take an active role in helping to shape the LGA's plan through extensive engagement with councils and oversight of the programmes of work that deliver these strategic priorities.

Terms of reference and membership 2023/24

3. The Children and Young People's Board's Terms of Reference, Membership and future meetings dates are set out at **Appendixes A, B and C** respectively for agreement and noting.

Children and Young Board Lead Members

4. The LGA seeks where possible to work on the basis of consensus across all four groups. The Children and Young People Board is politically balanced, and led by the Chair and three Vice/Deputy Chairs, drawn from each of the four political groups. This grouping of members – known as Lead Members – meet in between Board meetings, shape future meeting agendas, provide clearance on time sensitive matters, represent the Board at external events, meetings and in the media, as well as engaging with the wider Board to ensure your views are represented.

5. The Lead Members for 2023/24 are:

5.1. Cllr Louise Gittins, Chair

5.2. Cllr Patricia Bradwell, Vice-Chairman

5.3. Cllr Gerald Vernon-Jackson, Deputy Chair

5.4. Cllr Jon Hubbard, Deputy Chair

The Children and Young People team

6. The Board is supported by a cross cutting team of LGA officers, with policy colleagues and a designated Member Services Officer being those who you are likely to have regular contact with.

7. The Children and Young People (CYP) team work within the wider Children, Equalities, Welfare and Democracy team. The CYP team supports the LGA's work on the Board's priorities, and also a number of other issues which are within the Board's remit. The team works with Board Members, the LGA media team and political groups to maintain local government's reputation on the issues facing, in the media; conducts our lobbying work (according to Members' steer) in conjunction with the Parliamentary affairs team, and works collaboratively with other Boards across relevant cross cutting policy and improvement issues.
8. The team supports Members in person or by briefing when they represent the LGA on external speaking platforms or at Ministerial or Whitehall events. We will provide briefing notes and/or suggested speaking notes as required in advance of each engagement.
9. The team also participate in a number of officer working groups and programme boards, representing the sector's interests and putting forward the LGA's agreed policy positions.

Communications and Events

10. There are a number of internal and external communications channels available to help the Children and Young People Board promote the work it is doing and to seek views from our member authorities.
11. The LGA, working in partnership with the Association of Directors of Children's Services (ADCS) and the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS) to the deliver the annual National Children and Adult Services Conference. The conference is the annual opportunity for those with an interest in social care, children's services, education, health and related fields to network with peers and hear the very latest thinking on key policy and improvement agendas.
12. The team also arranges regular conferences (currently in webinar format), which reflect the Board work programme and priorities of member councils.
13. Alongside this, the team arranges training and learning events in partnership with the LGA's improvement team.
14. We also have a dedicated section on the LGA website, monthly e-bulletins, outside speaking engagements and interviews, advisory networks, features and news items in First magazine.

Children and Young People Board outside body appointments

15. The LGA benefits from a wide network of member representatives on outside bodies. These appointments are reviewed on an annual basis across the

Association to ensure that the aims and objectives of the outside bodies remain pertinent to the LGA and accurately reflect its priorities. Appointments should as far as possible be made in proportion with political representation across the LGA; as an LGA representative, members appointed to these roles should speak for the Association, and not one particular political Group.

16. Further details regarding the outside bodies can be found in the table at **Appendix D**, which lists the organisations to which the Board will appoint member representatives for the 2022/23 meeting cycle.

17. The 2022/23 Board was represented by members on the below outside bodies:

Current outside bodies	2022/23 post holder
Children’s Improvement Board	Cllr Louise Gittins (recommended it is the Board Chair)
National Youth Agency	Cllr Mili Patel
LGA’s Asylum, Migration and Refugee Task Group	Cllr Julie Fallon

Members are invited to express any interest in serving on the outside bodies to their relevant Lead Member.

18. In the event that a Board member is required to represent the LGA on any other outside bodies, officers will liaise with lead members to ensure a nominee from the Board is identified. In these circumstances, Members appointed to represent the LGA on an outside body are asked to provide regular feedback, either through the Board meetings, or alternative mechanisms.

19. Equalities Advocate for the Board will be appointed by the Political Groups.

Implications for Wales

20. None

Financial Implications

21. There are no substantial financial implications arising directly from this report. Reasonable travel and subsistence costs will be paid by the LGA for expenses incurred by a member appointee, whilst carrying out a representative role on an outside body on behalf of the LGA.

Equalities implications

22. There are no equalities implications arising from this paper.

Next steps

23. Members to note the content of this report and the proceeding appendices.

Appendix A – Terms of Reference for the Children and Young People Board 2023/24

1. The purpose of the Children and Young People Board is to engage with and develop a thorough understanding of the issues within its brief and how legislation does or could affect councils and their communities. The Board's brief is to provide strategic oversight of all the LGA's policy and improvement activity in relation to the wellbeing of children and young people, including education and social care.
2. The Board should seek to involve councillors in supporting the delivery of these priorities (through task groups, Special Interest Groups (SIGs), regional networks and other means of wider engagement); essentially operating as the centre of a network connecting to all councils and drawing on the expertise of key advisors from the sector.
3. The Children and Young People Board's responsibilities include:
 - 3.1. Ensuring the priorities of councils are fed into the business planning process.
 - 3.2. Developing a work programme to deliver the business plan priorities relevant to their brief, covering lobbying campaigns, research, and improvement support in the context of the strategic framework set by Improvement & Innovation Board and events and linking with other boards where appropriate.
 - 3.3. Sharing good practice and ideas to stimulate innovation and improvement.
 - 3.4. Representing and lobbying on behalf of the LGA including making public statements on its area of responsibility.
 - 3.5. Building and maintaining relationships with key stakeholders.
 - 3.6. Involving representatives from councils in its work, through task groups, Commissions, SIGs, regional networks and mechanisms.
 - 3.7. Responding to specific issues referred to the Board by one or more member councils or groupings of councils.
4. The Children and Young People Board may:
 - 4.1. Appoint members to relevant outside bodies in accordance with the Political Conventions.

- 4.2. Appoint member champions from the Board as appropriate, to lead on key issues, with responsibility for liaising with portfolio holders on key issues that require rapid response/contact with councils.

Quorum

5. One third of the members, provided that representatives of at least 2 political groups represented on the body are present.

Political Composition

Labour group	7 members
Conservative group	6 members
Liberal Democrat group	3 members
Independent group	2 members

6. Substitute members from each political group may also be appointed.

Frequency

7. Meetings to be held five times per board cycle.

Reporting Accountabilities

8. The LGA Executive Advisory Board (EAB) provides oversight of the Board. The Board may report periodically to the LGA Executive Advisory Board as required and will submit an annual report to EAB at the July meeting.

Appendix B – Children and Young People Board Membership 2023/24

Councillor	Authority
Labour (7)	
Cllr Louise Gittins (Chair)	Chester West and Chester Council
Cllr Victoria Cusworth	Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council
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 Garry Bridges	Manchester City Council
Substitutes	
Cllr Leigh Redman	Somerset County Council
Cllr Rachel Massey	Rochdale Borough Council
Cllr Joshua Garfield	London Borough of Newham
Conservatives (6)	
Cllr Patricia Bradwell OBE (Deputy Chairman)	Lincolnshire County Council
Cllr Tony Ball	Essex County Council
Cllr Roger Gough	Kent County Council
Cllr Laura Mayes	Wiltshire Council
Cllr Annabel Wilkinson	North Yorkshire Council
Cllr Phillippa Williamson	Lancashire County Council

Substitutes	
Cllr Mark Sutton	Staffordshire County Council
Cllr Robert Flatley	Derbyshire County Council
Cllr Andrew Leadbetter	Devon County Council
Liberal Democrat (3)	
Cllr Gerald Vernon-Jackson CBE (Deputy Chair)	Portsmouth City Council
Cllr Cordelia Law	Torbay Council
Cllr Mark Cory	Colchester Borough Council
Substitutes	
Cllr Dine Romero	Bath & North East Somerset Council
Independent (2)	
Cllr Jon Hubbard (Deputy Chair)	Wiltshire Council
Cllr Anne Dorrian	Boston Borough Council
Substitutes	
Cllr Helen Wetherall	North East Derbyshire Council
Cllr Edward Maxfield	Norfolk County Council
Cllr Rachel Smith-Lyte	East Sussex County Council
Cllr Alex Reeve	Uttlesford District Council

Appendix C – List of Future Children and Young People Board Meetings for 2023/24

1. Meetings of the Children and Young People Board will be held on:
 - 1.1. Thursday 5 October 2023; 1pm – 3pm
 - 1.2. Thursday 30 November 2023; 12.45pm – 1.25pm (@NCASC in Bournemouth)
 - 1.3. Tuesday 23 January 2024; 11am – 1pm
 - 1.4. Tuesday 12 March 2024; 11am - 1pm
 - 1.5. Thursday 20 June 2024; 1pm – 3pm
2. All Board meetings will be held at 18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ and online via Microsoft Teams apart from the Board meeting at NCASC which is completely in person.

Appendix D – Outside Bodies

Please see below details regarding outside bodies to be appointed by the Board:

Organisation / contact details	Background	Representatives	LGA Contact Officer
<p>National Youth Agency</p> <p>Contact: Jaede Todner</p> <p>Email: jaedet@nya.org.uk</p>	<p>The Agency aims to advance youth work to promote young people’s personal and social development, as well as their voice, influence and place in society.</p>	<p>1 position</p>	<p>Flora Wilkie, Adviser</p> <p>flora.wilkie@local.gov.uk</p>
<p>Children’s Improvement Board</p>	<p>The CIB is a partnership between the LGA, the Association of Directors of Children's Services (ADCS), the Society of Local Authority Chief Executives (SOLACE) and the Association of Independent LSCB Chairs (AILC), bringing together senior political and officer leadership to consider issues related to performance and improvement in children’s services.</p>	<p>1 position</p> <p>(Advised that the Chair is appointed to this position).</p>	<p>Clive Harris, Senior Adviser</p> <p>clive.harris@local.gov.uk</p>
<p>LGA Asylum, Refugee and Migration Task Group</p> <p>Contact: Fatima De Abreu (Member Services Assistant)</p>	<p>LGA policy in this area is led by the LGA Asylum, Refugee and Migration Task Group, made up of regional member and strategic migration partnership representation covering all of the English regions, Northern Ireland, Wales and Scotland.</p>	<p>1 position</p>	<p>Louise Smith, Senior Adviser</p> <p>louise.smith@local.gov.uk</p>

<p>Email: Fatima.DeAbreu@local.gov.uk</p>	<p>Cllr Julie Fallon, previous Deputy Chair of the Children and Young People Board, was a member of the Task Group, which reports to the CYP and the Community Wellbeing Boards.</p> <p>The Task Group will continue to push for clearer alignment between and sustainable levels of funding for all the programmes that resettle asylum seekers and refugees to minimise the pressures on local authorities, local communities and vulnerable individuals.</p>		
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Board Work Programme and Priorities Report for 2023/24

Purpose of Report

For direction.

Summary

This paper sets out proposals for the Children and Young People Board's (CYP) priorities and work programme for 2023/24. Subject to the Board's views, officers will develop a work programme to deliver these priorities.

LGA Plan Theme: Putting people first

Recommendation(s)

That the Board discusses and agrees the priorities and work programme for 2023/24.

Contact details

Contact officer: Clive Harris

Position: Senior Policy Adviser

Phone no: 020 7664 3207

Email: clive.harris@local.gov.uk

Board Work Programme and Priorities Report for 2023/24

Background

1. LGA Boards are asked to consider their priorities for the coming year at their first meeting of the new cycle. Set out below are a list of priorities for discussion, based on the priorities identified last year, and adapted to reflect work that has been completed, recent developments in Government policy and issues raised by member councils.
2. The following are recommended as immediate priorities, with the remaining work outlined in this paper taking place over the 2023/24 Board year:
 - 2.1.1. Input into the development of the LGA White Paper
 - 2.1.2. Cost-of-living crisis, including impact on organisations and widening inequalities (Board to link with cross-LGA work on this)
 - 2.1.3. Placements for children in care
 - 2.1.4. Unaccompanied asylum-seeking children
 - 2.1.5. SEND improvement plan, demand and funding pressures
 - 2.1.6. Children's health
 - 2.1.7. Funding
 - 2.1.8. Early years education and childcare expansion
 - 2.1.9. Children's mental health – refreshing the Board's approach

Proposed priorities

Education and SEND

3. Our work in response to proposals set out in the SEND and Alternative Provision improvement plan will 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. We will continue to highlight that the proposals set out in the Improvement Plan do not go far enough in giving councils the powers to tackle the fundamental demand and funding pressures in the SEND system, or powers to hold health and education partners to account for their contributions to local SEND systems. 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.
4. With the abandonment of the Schools Bill the existing fragmented education system, within which councils do not have the powers to fulfil their remaining statutory duties, will continue for the foreseeable future. We will therefore focus on ensuring that councils have powers to direct all schools to admit pupils without a place and that a register for home-educated children is introduced and accompanied by powers for councils to check that those children are receiving a suitable education.

Children's social care

5. The Independent Review of Children's Social Care was published in May 2022. The Government has now published its subsequent children's social care strategy, *Stable Homes, Built on Love*, along with a range of consultations over the last year including on the social work workforce and updates to the *Working Together to Safeguard Children* statutory guidance. Further consultations are expected over the coming year on other elements of the strategy, including around kinship care. The LGA is engaged in discussions with the Department for Education around the strategy and the Board will continue to influence emerging policy.
6. Children's social care is increasingly recognised as a key driver of financial challenges for councils, and we are working with the Government, partners and member councils to illustrate the scale of this pressure and potential solutions. The Government has announced that the Autumn Statement will be delivered on 22 November 2023, and it is recommended that funding issues are prioritised in the Board's work programme ahead of that event.
7. 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 taking forward the recommendations of last year's children's placements task and finish group. As this issue is both putting significant pressure on children's social care budgets and resulting in poorer outcomes for children in care, it is recommended that this issue is prioritised.
8. 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 finding suitable homes for all Afghan families previously accommodated by the Home Office in hotels. 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. Recent and ongoing High Court cases around unaccompanied asylum-seeking children and the National Transfer Scheme have

put additional pressure on councils to find homes quickly for these children and as such it is recommended that this issue is prioritised.

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. The LGA's Executive Advisory Board, of which the Children and Young People Board Chair is a member, are overseeing an LGA-wide programme of work around workforce challenges to ensure join-up.
10. The rising cost-of-living continues to be an issue of concern for education, family support and children's services. Child poverty is impacting on children's mental and physical health, educational attainment and participation in school, sports, cultural activities and community. There are well-established links between deprivation, household poverty and involvement with children's social care. The LGA has established a range of workstreams addressing the cost-of-living crisis and will work with the Board to monitor the impact of the crisis on children and families. A member of the Board also participates in a cost of living member advisory group that draws together key priorities across all the LGA Boards.
11. The Government has published its response to the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse and the LGA is working with the Government on the implementation of that response. This includes the mandatory reporting of child sexual abuse, and consideration of a redress scheme for victims and survivors.
12. The Chair of the LGA, Councillor Shaun Davies, has specified that corporate parenting, and in particular support for care leavers, is one of his key priorities for the coming year. A separate paper has been provided in this agenda on this issue, and the Board will receive updates on this work at future meetings.

Early years

13. The Spring Budget 2023 saw a significant announcement into early years entitlements focused at the children of working parents. By September 2025, 30 hours of funded childcare for working parents of nine months to primary school age will be available. We [commissioned research into early years provision closures](#) which highlighted the challenges that local authorities are seeing with provision of early years education and childcare. Ability to roll out this significant

expansion of funded childcare is a large concern for councils.

14. Following a series of roundtables with local authority leads and key stakeholders, we developed a [policy paper looking at what councils need](#) to ensure an effective early years education and childcare system. This includes greater powers for councils to manage the market effectively; stopping providers setting up in areas of excess and supporting the development of provision in more disadvantaged areas. Local authority early years teams do a lot on a small budget and need additional investment to support them to deliver this expansion. We will continue to work with government on this expansion, share good practice with councils and raise the areas of concern from the above policy paper.
15. The Spring Budget also announced an intention to ensure that all children have access to 8am to 6pm wraparound provision in primary school by September 2026. We continue to work with government to ensure the effective implementation of this programme. We have commissioned a rapid review into wraparound provision including exploring good practice to support councils as they develop their offer. We have also made clear the challenges facing councils with the range of different expectations being placed on them with this range of change programmes.
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.

Children and young people's mental health and wellbeing

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

17. Covid-19, the rising cost of living and limited education recovery has had a significant impact on the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people. We know there is a rising number of children seeking support from councils for their mental health. This can be both at the earlier stage of poor wellbeing and with an increasing number of children requiring acute support for their mental health. 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 slow but in spring 2023, 35 per cent of pupils and further education learners in England were covered by a team, with 44 per cent

expected to be covered by April 2024 and at least 50 per cent by spring 2025. Although this is a positive step forward, there is still more that can be done.

19. We commissioned research into [policy progress over the past ten years](#) on children's mental health and the research found that many of the ambitions laid out by the Government to date have been a step in the right direction, but they have been continuously criticised for not being ambitious enough in creating the scale of change that is needed. As a result, the policies implemented to date have not had sufficient impact in ensuring children and young people get the mental health support they need.
20. 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.
21. The government chose not to develop a 10 year cross departmental plan on mental health for all ages, instead publishing a major conditions strategy of which children, and mental health, is one small part. It was disappointing that this change was made given the increasing pressures across the system in children's mental health.
22. In response to the national vacuum, the LGA is [developing a series of think piece on children's mental health](#). We have asked a series of stakeholders to share how they think the system could be improved. Using this insight, alongside research, officers are exploring with the CYP Board how they wish to prioritise, refine and build on existing policy asks on children's mental health to most effectively ensure change in this area.

Youth Services

23. The Government has released the refresh to the statutory guidance for youth services, refreshing the 2012 guidance. The LGA has highlighted to government the different situation facing councils and the pressure on services. We continue to lobby for long term direction and funding from the Department of 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 children and young people to engage in education.

Youth justice

24. We've welcomed focus on early intervention and prevention in the youth justice system with funding such as the Turnaround Programme supporting local areas to invest in prevention programmes. We developed a [series of case studies](#) into the youth justice system to support councils. We are working with colleagues in the Community Safety Team to consider how the expectations association with the Serious Violence Duty can be considered for young people.
25. The situation in the secure estate continues to be a concern with closures of some settings, continued delays to the secure school and the potential use of damaging tools such as pepper spray. We will continue to lobby on the wider structural changes needed to improve the justice system, particularly the secure estate.
26. A priority continues to be over representation of black and ethnic minority children and children in care or care leavers in the youth justice system and working with stakeholders to tackle this. 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 is being implemented across 75 local authorities. We have worked closely with councils to understand and support their experience of the start of the programme. We have [developed case studies to support](#) councils consider their approach with some emerging themes highlighted.
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 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.
29. 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, the Healthy Start scheme, 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.

30. 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.
31. 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.
32. 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

33. Covid-19 and the rising cost of living have had an impact on the health, wellbeing and development of children and young people. We will continue to work with Government and partners to ensure that children's health is prioritised and will continue to work jointly with the Community Wellbeing Board on cross-cutting issues such as childhood obesity, disposable vapes, Family Hubs and support for children, such as Free School Meals and Healthy Start.
34. We 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. 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 of COVID-19 and the cost of living crisis on child health inequalities.
35. We recently welcomed the announcement that the Government would commit to banning disposable vapes due to their disproportionate use among children and young people and their detrimental impact on the environment. We look forward to working with Government on these proposals as they develop.
36. 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.

37. We will continue our commitment to improve national and local level policy across all children's public health services, specifically: health visiting, school nursing, children's healthy weight and the National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP).

38. We will continue to make the economic case for prevention. Evidence shows that early intervention and prevention represent good value for money and help reduce the growth in demand on public services.

Implications for Wales

33. There are no implications for Wales arising from this report.

Financial Implications

34. Priorities will be delivered within existing resources.

Equalities implications

35. The work programme seeks to reflect the council duty to promote the wellbeing of all children.

Next steps

36. Subject to the agreement of Members, the work programme will underpin the Board's work for the 2023-24 meeting cycle.

Youth Endowment Fund

Purpose of Report

For information.

Summary

John Yates, Executive Director at the [Youth Endowment Fund](#), has joined the Board to discuss the work of the Fund and to share how councils can make use of their research.

LGA Plan Theme: Putting people first

Recommendation(s)

That the Board consider the presentation by the Youth Endowment Fund and offer perspectives from their own authorities or views on the Fund's current and future work.

Contact details

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Youth Endowment Fund

Background

1. [Youth violence is understood](#) as violence either against or committed by a child or adolescent, which can impact on individuals, families, communities and society.
2. Youth violence can be considered a matter of public health concern, as young people's health and social outcomes are worsened through increased exposure to violence. There are resource implications across the system, both in the short term to deal with injuries, but also the long-term implications for an individual's physical and mental health, given that exposure to violence increases the risk of substance abuse, obesity and illnesses (eg cancer and heart disease).
3. Causes of youth violence are complex, and risk of committing or being affected by young violence is associated with: adverse childhood experiences, access and availability of youth support and / or mental health services, and socioeconomic deprivation.
4. The Youth Endowment Fund (YEF) was established by the children's charity Impetus, with a £200m endowment and ten year mandate from the Home Office. The YEF is part of the What Works Network which is an initiative to improve the way government and public sector organisations create, share and use high quality evidence in decision-making.
5. The Fund seeks to prevent children and young people from becoming involved in violence by identifying what works and working with stakeholders to put this knowledge into practice.
6. There are eight focus areas for the Fund at the moment: diversion, family support, focused deterrence, neighbourhood, trusted adults, therapies, presence in schools, positive activities. The YEF funds work across England and Wales. This funding takes place across three types: themed, place-based and targeted.
7. YEF have produced a [toolkit which provides an overview of existing research](#) on approaches to preventing serious youth violence. This includes reviewing of interventions such as those to prevent school exclusion, focused deterrence, mentoring, and sports programmes.

Youth violence in England

8. [Rates of physical violence among young people](#) are broadly similar across the four nations, however England is the only country in which rates are increasing for all age groups. In Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland, physical violence among young people aged 10-24 shows an overall downward or stable trend from 2012-2017. In England, there has been an increase over the same period for all age groups – most notably for 20-24 year olds, which increased from 297.7 to 315.5 per 100,000 from 2012 to 2017. England also has appreciably higher rates of physical violence among children aged 10-14 years than the other UK nations.

9. In the UK, young people aged 20-24 are [more than three times](#) as likely than those aged 10-14 to suffer injury by sharp object.
10. There is [strong evidence linking deprivation and vulnerability to knife crime](#), alongside links between school exclusion and knife crime and serious violence. This evidence points towards adopting a broad population-wide approach focussing on addressing the social determinants of health, with enhanced interventions to support the communities most at risk. In particular, engaging those young people who have had involvement with the justice system (whether themselves or their families) provides an opportunity to influence the trajectory of the most vulnerable young people.
11. The Youth Endowment Fund and Department for Education have [released a series of research reports](#) into serious youth violence with the below findings.
 - 11.1. The drivers of violence are complex, so it's hard to evidence solutions. Children and young people involved in violence are often victims as well as offenders. Many of them are facing issues such as poverty, mental or physical ill health and/or abuse. The complexity of relationships between these factors and violence makes it hard to predict the impact of services which target them. There is also limited evidence on the direct impact of approaches which are likely to be beneficial, such as 'Child First' or multi-agency working.
 - 11.2. Stigmatisation is part of many children's journeys to violence. Children and young people form 'pro-social' or 'pro-offending' identities, and systems can entrench or challenge this. This means young people may associate themselves as an 'offender' through developing social relationships or because they have been seen as 'risky' or an 'offender' by practitioners and then associate themselves in that way. Children who are male, black, neurodivergent or from low-income households are particularly likely to be stigmatised.
 - 11.3. Positive relationships with practitioners can protect against violence. Trust, respect, empathy and stability are key here. These relationships can make children and young people feel safe enough to disclose their need for support. Good relationships then help involve and engage children and young people in services, and support them as they transition between services.
 - 11.4. Limited resources mean that some children and young people don't access the right support in time to prevent violence. Thresholds for accessing supportive services (e.g. mental health services) are high. Also, practitioners have limited time to consider an individual's needs, tailor services to them, or coordinate seamless transitions between services.

Legislation and policy related to youth violence

12. There has been significant government focus on this area over the past five years. This includes, but is not limited to, the below legislative and policy changes.
13. [Anti-social behaviour Action Plan](#) (May, 2023). Includes one million extra hours of youth support will be made available in anti-social behaviour hotspots and we will invest more to intervene early with at-risk young people via 1-1 support. Provides councils tools to

revitalise communities, bringing more empty shops on high streets back into use, and restoring and renovating local parks.

14. [Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act](#) (April, 2022) Includes the serious violence duty which: requires organisations above to work together to share information, analyse the situation locally and come up with solutions, including the publication of an annual strategy to prevent and reduce serious violence on a local basis. The duty also requires the responsible authorities to consult educational, prison and youth custody authorities for the area in the preparation of their serious violence strategy. This commenced January 2023. The Act also made preventing and reducing Serious Violence a statutory requirement for Community Safety Partnerships
15. [Beating Crime Plan](#) (July 2021) outlines the government's strategy for cutting homicide, serious violence and neighbourhood crime.
16. [Violence Reduction Units](#) (2019) The units draw together partners in 18 areas worst affected by serious violence to deliver a full range of coordinated action needed to tackle serious violence at its root. This was initially announced as part of the £100 million Serious Violence Fund in the 2019 March Spring Statement.
17. [The Offensive Weapons Act](#) (2019) introduced new restrictions on the online sale of bladed articles, introduced Knife Crime Prevention Orders (KCPOs) (which can be imposed on children as young as 12) and created a new offence associated with the possession of flick/gravity knives.
18. [Serious Violence Strategy](#) (April 2018) sets out the government's commitment to combat county lines drug dealing through a combination of greater enforcement and early intervention with at risk young people.

Implications for Wales

19. The YEF funds work in England and Wales.

Financial Implications

20. There are no financial implications for the LGA.

Equalities implications

21. The majority of data for equalities implications is linked to the justice system, rather than looking at serious violence specifically. Children and young people from marginalised backgrounds – including black and Asian children and young people and children who have been in care – are significantly overrepresented in the youth justice system.
22. The YEF have partnered with The Phoenix Way to distribute £10 million in funding to Black, Asian and other minority-led charities and community groups that are working to prevent children and young people from becoming involved in violence.
23. Ethnicity: In London, over half of weapon-enabled robbery (59%) and homicide (65%) suspects were Black. Victim profiles were more diverse (i.e., 56% of weapon-enabled robbery victims were white) but the majority of youth homicide victims were male (93%)

and Black (61%) (ethnicity data uses police observed rather than self reported). Black children were involved in 16% of stop and searches (where ethnicity was known). This was a decrease of two percentage points from the previous year, but 12 percentage points higher than the proportion of Black 10 to 17 year olds in the 2011 population.

24. Sex: Boys made up 86% of the offending population compared with 51% of the 10 to 17 population in England and Wales.
25. Age: Children aged 15 to 17 made up 80% of the offending population, while making up 36% of the 10 to 17 population in England and Wales.
26. Disability: of children sentenced to a Referral Order, Reparation Order, Youth Rehabilitation Order or a custodial sentence in 2018/19: for 71% there were Speech, Language and Communication concerns, for 71% there were mental health concerns, for 47% there were physical health concerns

Next steps

27. Officers will take note of the discussion and continue to work with the youth endowment fund in publicising and sharing their research.
28. Areas for discussions may include:
 - 28.1. How youth violence is affecting your local community.
 - 28.2. How the fund can work with local authorities.
 - 28.3. Existing experience of implementing evidence-based approaches to tackling violence among young people.
 - 28.4. How councils and the LGA can support the work of the Fund.
 - 28.5. Emerging trends that councils should be aware of.

Children and Young People's Mental Health

Purpose of Report

For information.

Summary

Officers have been undertaking work in the sphere of children's mental health after the 10-year mental health plan was replaced by a major conditions strategy. Although welcome to align physical and mental health, the plan does not have a specific focus on children and their mental health. This is against a backdrop of a concerning rise of children and young people requiring support with their mental. The LGA is therefore considering its existing lines regarding children and young people's mental health and how to continue to effectively influence in this area. As part of this, the LGA has developed a series of think pieces to bring different voices into this field and to consider how to tackle the rising demand in children's mental health that we are seeing.

This paper includes:

- A summary of LGA asks on children's mental health to date.
- Please see this link to the published children and young people [mental health think pieces](#)

LGA Plan Theme: Putting people first

Recommendation(s)

That the Board consider existing activity to date on children and young people's mental health and consider how it would like to refine and prioritise the policy approach on children's mental health going forward.

Contact details

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Children and young people's mental health

Background

1. Mental health needs of children and young people were rising even before the pandemic but these have been exacerbated by Covid-19. In 2022, NHS data found that are 1 in 6 children and young people who have a probable mental health disorder, an increase from 1 in 9 in 2017. This has had a significant impact on the system; with a 53 per cent rise in children presenting to councils with mental health needs in 2022 compared with 2018 and a 77 per cent increase in referrals for specialist mental health in 2021 compared to 2019.
2. Supporting young people's mental health should not be seen as solely an NHS issue, however, it needs to be recognised that council funding has not kept pace with that of the NHS resulting in councils being unable to provide vital services that are essential to supporting children and young people's wellbeing.
3. Children's mental health is a complex issue and it continues to be a pressing concern to children, young people, families and the public services around them. CYP mental health is one of the children and young people's board's priority areas and a cross-cutting concern.
4. The Government moved away from the development of a mental health 10-year plan and instead has focused on the development of a major conditions strategy. Although this mentions mental health and children and young people it does not go far enough to tackle the challenges councils and partners are seeing in terms of children and young people's mental health. A [recent LGA-commissioned report that looks at children's mental health policy](#) over the past 10 years shows the challenge facing the system after years of fragmented policies despite some significant investments.
5. There has been a range of activity across government, the NHS and councils on children's mental health, including the rollout of mental health support teams in schools (MHSTs) which provide mid to low-level support in schools and will be rolled out to 50 per cent of pupils by 2025. As set out in [research commissioned by the LGA](#), although many of the ambitions laid out by the Government to date have been a step in the right direction the policies implemented to date have not had sufficient impact in ensuring children and young people get the mental health support they need.

Proposal

6. Given this context, officers are considering existing lines regarding children and young people's mental health and how to continue to effectively influence in this area. Following agreement from lead members, CYP officer holders have overseen a range of work with stakeholders to develop a series of [think pieces on children and young people's mental health](#). Board members are asked to consider and engage with the think pieces as they are published. All think pieces will be published on the LGA website by the end of November.

7. Following the publication of these think pieces, it is proposed to write a letter to the Children's and Mental Health Minister drawing attention to the issues presented in the think pieces and an initial LGA view.
8. In Appendix one is an overview of existing LGA asks on children's mental health.
9. The Board is asked to provide a steer on how to approach the ongoing development, refinement, refresh and prioritisation of policy lines on children and young people's mental health and to capture the impact of children's mental health on local councils. This could include establishing a task and finish group, having focused sessions at Board meetings or devolving work to officers with regular updates to the Board and Lead members.

Implications for Wales

10. None, policy for children's mental health is devolved in Wales.

Financial Implications

11. There are no financial implications for the LGA, any costs incurred will be met out of existing budgets.

Equalities implications

12. Children and young people are more likely to have poor mental health if they experience some form of adversity, such as living in poverty, parental separation or financial crisis, where there is a problem with the way their family functions or whose parents already have poor mental health. Covid-19 and associated school closures increased pre-existing mental health inequalities by gender and age. There are also regional disparities in the prevalence of mental health and the available treatment for young people.
13. Sexual orientation and gender reassignment: Young people who identify as LGBTQ are more likely to suffer from a mental health condition.
14. Disability: Nearly three-quarters of children with a mental health condition also have a physical health condition or developmental problem.
15. Ethnicity: Black children are 10 times more likely to be referred to Children and Young People's Mental Health Services via social services, rather than through their GP, compared to white British children. Black people in England and Wales are 4 times more likely to be detained under the Mental Health Act than white people, and ten times more likely to be given a Community Treatment Order when they are discharged.
16. Sex: [Data](#) on reported self-harm shows a large increase over time for females and in 2014 with 20% of young women reporting that they had self-harmed, three times higher than in 2000.
17. Looked after children are four times more likely to experience mental health issues than their peers.
18. A third of people in the youth justice system are estimated to have a mental health problem.

Next steps

19. The Board is asked to provide a steer on how to approach the ongoing development, refinement, refresh and prioritisation of policy lines on children and young people's mental health and to capture the impact of children's mental health on local councils. This could include establishing a task and finish group, having focused sessions at Board meetings or devolving work to officers with regular updates to the Board and Lead members.

Appendix 1 – Established Children and Mental Health Policy Asks.

Short term:

- **A cross Whitehall strategy**

The LGA is calling for a [cross Whitehall strategy](#) that puts the needs of children and young people at its centre. This will support the wider system to work collaboratively towards clear roles with identified outputs and outcomes.

- **Expansion of Mental Health Support Teams in Schools to full country coverage**

We need the immediate expansion of Mental Health Support Teams in Schools (MHSTs). Although it is important to take an iterative, learning approach to rolling out this programme to ensure it works for children, young people, families and schools, 65 per cent of young people currently do not have access to this support.

- **Investment into youth services**

The refresh to the youth service statutory guidance provides an opportunity for councils to develop their youth services, an essential form of support to young people in their communities. However, this cannot take place without further investment into children and young people's services recognising the wider pressures that council children's services and wider budgets are under.

- **Support for children and young people in care, care experienced young people and unaccompanied asylum seeking children**

Support for children and young people in care and care experienced young people is essential. Sometimes these young people will have experienced significant trauma on their journey into the care system and every effort should be taken to ensure they get the support they need as early as possible to enable them to feel supported. This includes having a specific service within all child and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS) for care experienced young people. This should be delivered closely with the council to ensure the staff who know the young people best are able to support them throughout.

Medium term

- **Build mentally healthy schools**

We need to build on efforts to develop mentally healthy schools. The proposals in the Green Paper to develop Designated Senior Leaders in Schools were slow to be rolled out and have seen some implementation issues. There is a [wealth of evidence showing what makes a difference to children and young people in school](#). Universal social and emotional learning (SEL) interventions in particular have good evidence of enhancing young people's social and emotional skills and reducing symptoms of depression and anxiety in the short term. Universal interventions can be effectively delivered by teachers; however, there is no evidence that teacher-delivered interventions are effective in addressing the needs of students that already have mental health needs, such as with symptoms of depression or anxiety.

- **Counsellors in all state secondary schools**

There is more that can be done to provide support for and through schools and colleges for children and young people to access mental health support such as through [school-based counselling](#).

- **Build early support hubs in each local community**

Many children and young people will not feel comfortable accessing support through schools and provision in their communities or online is essential. The LGA is calling for the roll out of [Early support hubs](#). This approach is already working well in some local areas, for example, the [Hive in Camden](#). Online support already provides some support for children and young people, as shown with [Kooth in Portsmouth](#). However, we know that some young people did not feel supported through the pandemic and the move to digital services as they are either unable to access computers, or they did not have a private space to go to have a discussion. Not one service fits all young people and there needs to be a range of holistic support in place for children and young people.

- **Ensure family hubs are available for every child across the country**

Support across the life course of a child is essential. However, a time that can often be overlooked is very young children. The Start for Life programme prioritises parent-infant mental health and perinatal mental health. Rolling out the funding for family hubs will enable all children and families to benefit from the essential support. This also needs to be long term funding for councils to be able to embed the services to support the local community.

- **Develop the specialist mental health workforce**

Alongside supporting the whole children and young people's workforce to be able to talk to children and young people about mental health, specific focus needs to be taken to build the workforce. Significant progress has been made in expanding the children and young people's mental health workforce, however growth in the workforce still continues to be the biggest risk to the expansion of services. Vital parts of the workforce continue to experience cuts in the face of funding shortages, and issues remain with retention of the workforce.

- **Improve the collection of data to provide an accurate picture of the children's mental health system**

For children and young people, understanding a clear picture of access to mental health services is challenging with no definitive national dataset which covers referrals, access to support and outcomes for mental health at different levels of need. The data which is regularly collected nationally typically only relates to CAMHS or very specialist admissions, with no visibility afforded to the significant activity in supporting children and young people with lower levels of need.

- **Provide support for the most vulnerable children and those with the most complex needs**

Multiple pressures are being presented to the system at once. [Increasing numbers of children are being subject to Deprivation of Liberty Orders \(DOLs\)](#), councils and health partners are seeing more children presenting with emotional wellbeing and mental health needs but without a diagnosable mental health condition and there are increasing pressures on identifying the right support of provision for these children and young people, including placements for children in care. This requires holistic working between different partners to ensure that children get the right support, a review of the way to support children with emotional needs that are not deemed to have a mental health diagnosis.

- **Improve transitions between child and adolescent mental health services into community support and adult mental health services**

The NHS Long Term Plan committed to developing a comprehensive offer for 0-25

year olds and to introduce a new approach to 18-25 year olds. However, there is limited understand of the work that has taken place to introduce this offer and young people still continue to experience challenging transitions between children's mental health services and adults mental health services.

Long term:

- **Address the root causes of poor mental health through tackling poverty**

There is a [strong link between poverty and poor mental health](#) with higher rates of poverty and disadvantage increasing the risk of poor mental health but also being a consequence of poor mental health. For a child growing up in poverty, this can contribute to adverse childhood experiences and can have a long-term impact on their mental health and wellbeing. [Poverty can be a significant risk factor for mental illnesses like schizophrenia, anxiety and addiction](#). Poverty can also act as a barrier to accessing mental health services. This can be due to accessing services during times that work for families or due to the need to follow up or chase support. Furthermore, the stigma of living in poverty can be a deterrent to asking for help. We need to have a strong evidence-based approach to addressing the social determinants of poor mental health, including poverty, inadequate or overcrowded housing, unsafe neighbours, employment and skills, substance use and domestic violence.

- **Investment in prevention, particularly the public health grant**

The model of prevention needs to be enhanced. This includes investing in public health. The grant allocation was [26% less on a real terms per head basis in 2022/23 compared to 2015/16](#). Reversing the reductions to the public health grant and ensuring councils have the resources they need to deliver and commission innovative and effective services is essential.

We continue to make the case for multi-year settlements and for more long-term certainty around public health funding for all councils. An increased focus on prevention through an uplift to the public health grant is needed, as well as a wider review of the adequacy of public health funding. This will support the Government's wider aims by improving health outcomes, reducing health spending and putting social care and the NHS on a better footing for the long term. It will ensure councils are able to provide a consistent service which leads to better outcomes for children and families.

- **Invest in the school nursing workforce**

With greater investment in prevention, we would see more school nurses, who are well placed to provide health promotion, prevention and early intervention to improve young people's emotional health and mental wellbeing. School nurses are trusted and valued by children and young people, have the flexibility to work with them in school and community settings, and provide holistic assessments of needs. They take strengths-based approaches and work in partnership with children and their parents to encourage behaviour change which encourages positive health outcomes.

An example is [Walsall's school nursing service](#) which started running dedicated emotional and mental health support groups more than 10 years ago and is targeted at those struggling with anxiety, low self-esteem and confidence issues.

A properly resourced, integrated workforce plan that underpins the current refresh of the Healthy Child Programme is urgently required, alongside an uplift to the public

health grant.

- **Ensure ICSs have the tools they need to prioritise children's mental health**

The whole system needs to work together to support children and young people's mental health, no one partner can do it alone which means fragmentation of the system needs to be reduced. There are positive steps forward with the Integrated Care Systems, however, further focus on children and young people needs to be part of these discussions as well as joined up funding to ensure that the right support and treatment is in place. A series of examples showing good practice within local systems is shown in the LGA report [Building resilience: how local partnerships are supporting children and young people's mental health and emotional wellbeing](#).

- **Enhance specialist support for children and young people**

Support for children with specific needs is essential particularly given the [increase in children with eating disorders following the pandemic](#). However, we also need to recognise that young people may have comorbid needs. For example, they may have an eating disorder, but also another need such as autism and they need to be supported holistically and not passed from one pathway to another. Too often we see children in siloes and do not constructively build support around them and their needs.

- **Improve inpatient mental health provision**

There are well documented challenges facing inpatient mental health provision for children and young people. A concerted review of how to improve these services needs to be considered with a view of the whole journey of the child. Although the proposals made in the [stable homes, built on love Government proposal](#) to improving the social care system go some way to supporting children and young people in the community, without significant investment this will not go far enough. All partners need to be around the table to support children and young people with the most acute needs.

The LGA and Corporate Parenting

Purpose of Report

For discussion.

Summary

The Chair of the Local Government Association (LGA), Councillor Shaun Davies, has announced that one of his priorities for 2023-24 is corporate parenting, in particular support for care leavers. The Children and Young People will oversee work on this priority, as the responsible board for this policy area. This report outlines current ideas for this programme and next steps, and is an opportunity for Board members to put forward their own ideas.

LGA Plan Theme: Putting people first

Recommendation(s)

That the Board comments on the current plans for this programme of work and suggest any additional ideas, including those based on their own councils' work.

Contact details

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The LGA and Corporate Parenting

Background

1. The new Chair of the LGA, Councillor Shaun Davies, has announced that one of his priorities for 2023-24 is corporate parenting, and in particular how the LGA can support improved outcomes for care leavers and others with care experience.
2. The Children and Young People Board will lead on this work, with regular updates also going to Informal Group Leaders and the Executive Advisory Board for organisation-wide oversight and join-up.

Proposal

3. Colleagues across policy, improvement, leadership and communications have been working to develop a programme of work to support the Chair's priority.
4. Partner organisations are being engaged in this work, including Spectra which runs the Care Leaver Covenant, Become (the national charity for children in care and care leavers) and the National Leaving Care Benchmarking Forum (NLCBF) which connects local authority leaving care teams.
5. Ensuring that the voices of those with care experience directly influence this work is vital to ensure the impact and relevance of the programme. Become and the NLCBF have provided advice on engaging those with care experience, as well as evidence from their own work with care experienced people on key priorities. We will develop a plan as part of this programme to ensure care experienced voices influence the work across the entire year.
6. Work is being considered across three key strands: the LGA as an employer; the LGA as a national organisation with convening power; and the LGA's work in support of local government. Listed below are some initial plans and ideas under each strand (note: these are under discussion and have not yet been agreed)
7. **The LGA as an employer:**
 - 7.1. Improved promotion of employment opportunities to those with care experience.
 - 7.2. Introducing a Special Point of Contact at the LGA for those with care experience to contact for guidance when applying for roles.
 - 7.3. Guaranteed interviews and constructive feedback to applicants who identify as care experienced and meet the minimum criteria for roles (subject to legal advice).
 - 7.4. Tracking progress of care experienced applicants through recruitment processes.
 - 7.5. Specific support to care experienced employees.
 - 7.6. Improving understanding of care experience amongst LGA staff.
 - 7.7. Consideration of work experience and apprenticeship schemes, the latter using learning from the Civil Service Care Leaver Apprenticeship Scheme.

8. The LGA as a convener:

- 8.1. Smith Square Debate on support for care leavers.
- 8.2. Work with the Care Leaver Covenant to promote their work and encourage further sign ups.
- 8.3. Communications campaign to raise awareness of how to improve outcomes for those with care experience, centring the voices of those with care experience.
- 8.4. Work with LAMIT (Local Authorities' Mutual Investment Trust) and CCLA (Churches, Charities and Local Authorities Investment Management) to publicise their work to support care leavers.

9. The LGA's work to support and improve local government:

- 9.1. Dedicated outreach and support for care experienced graduates applying to the National Graduate Development Scheme.
- 9.2. Updated resource packs for councillors on corporate parenting and support for care leavers.
- 9.3. Publication of case studies on support for care leavers.
- 9.4. Lobbying the Government to ensure adequate funding for children's social care, to ensure that children in care and care leavers receive the support they need.
- 9.5. Lobbying the Government to ensure support for care leavers who were formerly unaccompanied asylum-seeking children is fully funded.
- 9.6. Guidance for councils who are considering or have already adopted motions to treat care experience as a protected characteristic.
- 9.7. Ask all policy boards to consider what could be done in their policy areas to improve the life chances of those with care experience.
- 9.8. Training for councillors and officers on corporate parenting, including across the "corporate core".
- 9.9. Consideration of issues around care leavers receiving different levels of support if they leave their 'home' local authority area, for example opportunities to ensure improved coordination and consistency.
- 9.10. Identifying opportunities for those with care-experience to speak at LGA events where relevant.

Implications for Wales

10. Children's social care is devolved in Wales however learning from the programme can be shared with the Welsh Local Government Association

Financial Implications

11. This programme will be delivered within existing budgets.

Equalities implications

12. This programme is focussed on reducing inequalities for those with care experience.
13. Around one quarter of care leavers are former unaccompanied asylum-seeking children. Specific consideration will be given to how the specific needs of this group are recognised in the programme of work.

Next steps

14. Feedback from the Board today will be incorporated into this programme of work, which will be reported on at future Board meetings.
15. A plan will be developed to ensure the voices of those with care experience influence this work on an ongoing basis.
16. The LGA's formal campaign in support of those with care experience will launch in National Care Leavers' Week which takes place from 25 October to 1 November 2023.

Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC)

Purpose of Report

For direction.

Summary

The identification, remediation, and management of RAAC has been subject to substantial public and media concern in recent weeks, following the Department for Education's change in approach to managing the risks associated with RAAC. This paper sets out a brief background to the LGA's work on RAAC, recent developments, and the current key areas of interest to the Children and Young People Board, and seeks member's views on the LGA's next steps.

LGA Plan Theme: **Putting people first**

Recommendation(s)

That the Board notes:

- (a) Recent developments relating to the identification, remediation, and management of RAAC; and**
- (b) Provide views on the LGA's next steps in its work related to RAAC.**

Contact details

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Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) update

Background

1. Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) it is a lightweight, aerated ('bubbly') concrete that was commonly used by municipal architects from the 1950s until the mid-1990s, though there have been cases dating back to the 1930s and some into the 1990s.
2. It was predominantly used in precast panels, which are primarily found in flat-roof construction, but have been found less frequently in pitched-roofs, walls, and floors. It is also found more commonly in buildings with large open spaces.
3. Although the media focus has been on the presence of RAAC in schools, it has been found in a range of private and public buildings. These include a range of local authority-owned settings such as theatres, libraries, leisure centres and sports pavilions as well as in a small amount of social housing. As such it is a topic of interest to a number of LGA Boards.
4. The risks associated with RAAC have been known since the 1990s, where the Building Research Establishment (BRE) commented on issues identified with RAAC planks, including progressive and excessive deflections in their surface associated with extensive hairline cracking and corrosion of reinforcements. Importantly, it was *previously* thought that RAAC planks would give sufficient warning of failure through visual deterioration. A number of notable incidences of RAAC failure- such as, [collapses of school roofs](#)- contradicted this understanding. These incidents have suggested that RAAC planks can collapse with little to no visual warning, and therefore that RAAC is a clear and present risk.
5. Since 2018, the LGA has done substantial work to spread awareness on the risks presented by RAAC, which can be found on the [LGA's RAAC webpage](#). This was created in 2019 and followed a joint communication from the LGA and the Department for Education (DfE) in late 2018 following the collapse of a school roof that year.
6. In 2022, the Office of Government Property wrote a letter to government departments about RAAC, and the LGA replicated the letter on its website and drew it to councils' attention. In the same year DfE started a survey of all schools to raise awareness of RAAC. Responsible bodies, including local authorities, were required to register their schools with DfE, indicate whether they had checked for RAAC, and whether they had discovered any incidences of it.
7. In December 2022, DfE published updated guidance on the identification and management of RAAC in educational buildings.
8. We worked continuously with the DfE to raise awareness of their RAAC survey by cascading it to members, and provided targeted support to those who were having difficulties completing it.

9. This was done concurrently with a number of activities aimed at raising awareness of the risks of RAAC, such as Leadership Essentials courses, webinars, and circulating relevant policy and news developments.

Recent developments

10. DfE's advice to schools changed at the end of August due to three incidents over the summer involving the collapse of RAAC structures without prior warning: two in schools settings and one in a commercial setting. The view of DfE officials was that under previous DfE guidance, as well as the current RAAC guidance from the Institution of Structural Engineers, the planks that collapsed would have been categorised as non-critical and therefore not requiring immediate evacuation. This has led to a shift in DfE's risk management approach whereby any incident of RAAC in a state-funded education setting (community, voluntary-controlled, foundation schools and maintained nursery schools) must be taken out of use until appropriate mitigations are put in place.
11. DfE has put in place a process to support schools where it is suspected there is RAAC present, including access to technical expertise to confirm whether or not there is RAAC present. There is funding available to schools to cover the revenue and capital costs of taking buildings with RAAC out of use and remediating them.
12. As of 14 September 2023, 174 schools and colleges had been identified with cases of RAAC. Of these 148 settings were providing face to face learning for all pupils, 23 had put hybrid arrangements in place and 1 had moved to remote learning. This information was based on responsible bodies having submitted responses to DfE's survey for 98.6 per cent of schools with blocks built in the target era.
13. Since the change in DfE advice councils have been working to support schools in their area identified as having RAAC. In order to provide member authorities with appropriate support and guidance, we have created a RAAC specific e-mail inbox (raac@local.gov.uk) where local authorities can raise issues they are encountering in managing RAAC.

Issues

14. **Funding:** DfE has committed to provide schools with RAAC with the capital and revenue funding to cover all mitigation works and any other associated costs. However there are wider costs implications for councils as a result of DfE's announcement:
 - 14.1. Some councils with schools with RAAC in their areas are reporting they are incurring a range of costs assisting non-maintained schools (for example around school transport, school meals and staffing), and it is not yet clear if they will be able to recover them. The LGA has been raising this issue with DfE.
 - 14.2. There may also be wider costs associated for councils while mitigation and remediation work is undertaken at schools with RAAC such as respite and other costs arising from changes to SEND provision.
 - 14.3. It is not yet clear what the implications of funding RAAC related mitigations and remediation work will have on wider education capital budgets.

15. **Guidance:** The Institute of Structural Engineers are presently reviewing [their guidance](#) in light of the three incidents that prompted a change of approach by the DfE. This review process is expected to be completed shortly. For the moment government departments are keen to stress that the Institute of Structural Engineers' guidance should be considered technically sound for buildings outside and educational setting.
16. In response to the change in approach from the DfE, the LGA is currently producing an advice note for local authorities which sets out the guidance from the Institute of Structural Engineers and from government on identifying and managing cases of RAAC, including key background information, risk profiles. This advice note will be published on the LGA's website in due course.
17. The LGA also sits on and represents the local government sector in the Office for Government Property's (OGP) RAAC Working Group. This is the cross-Whitehall group established to coordinate the approach across government departments to identifying and remediating RAAC, as well as creating a collective understanding and approach to RAAC across the public sector estate. In addition the LGA has been invited to participate in the Construction Leadership Council RAAC Industry Response Group which brings together leading organisations and individuals in the construction sector and academia to coordinate activity, share knowledge and experience and make recommendations to government.
18. Local authorities have raised a number of questions on which it would be helpful to have further guidance from government:
 - 18.1. In particular they have asked for clarity over the approach to be taken where RAAC is suspected as being present or is confirmed as being present, given the current differences between the advice from DfE and that in the Institute's guidance.
 - 18.2. They have also asked what approach should be taken to commissioned services. Should for example care homes or children's homes be asked to confirm that they do not have RAAC present? If they are asked this question and RAAC is found then it is possible residents would have to be moved from the premises, and found alternative accommodation.
 - 18.3. If the Institute of Structural Engineer's guidance remains unchanged there are likely to be instances outside of schools and education establishments where RAAC is identified but stays in situ. However there is little evidence about how quickly RAAC can deteriorate in a UK context, and therefore how frequently it should be reinspected to ensure it will not collapse. In the absence of any advice on this local authority surveyors and engineers will have to make assessments based on their own experience and judgement.
19. The LGA will be lobbying for further guidance from government that addresses all these issues.
20. **Supply of appropriately qualified surveyors:** The DfE currently requires surveyors or structural engineers to have 1-year of experience on RAAC-related projects to be considered 'appropriately qualified' to confirm an incident of RAAC. Prior to the Department's announcement, there was already concern within the sector about the

supply of these surveyors. In light of recent developments, the LGA has highlighted concerns that the substantial increase in demand for surveyors will now drastically outstrip the supply, leading to backlogs and hindering the ability for local authorities to take quick and decisive action on RAAC.

21. **Data sharing:** an issue raised by councils following DfE's announcement at the end of August was the slowness in the flow of information about schools in their area suspected or identified as having RAAC. The LGA called for councils to be given the information they needed to be able to support schools, staff, pupils and their families. While the process of identifying any remaining schools with RAAC continues the LGA will press for a better process for sharing information.

Implications for Wales

22. The Welsh government has been working in Wales to identify and remediate RAAC since 2019, when SCOSS issued their alert and the WLGA notified Welsh local authorities about RAAC following the SCOSS alert in 2020. There has been a programme of work in Wales to identify RAAC in the public estate, but following the DfE decision at the end of August to change their approach the Welsh government has commissioned further surveys of public buildings in Wales.

Financial Implications

23. The costs of remediating RAAC will vary for building owners depending on the extent of its use, but in some cases these will be substantial. The NHS has allocated £698 million between 2021 and 2025 to remediate and put in fail safe measures. It is not currently clear what the costs of remediating RAAC in the school estate will cost local authorities, and we are in the process of gathering information on this.

Equalities implications

24. DfE have been clear in their guidance that the duties under education and equalities legislation to secure special educational provision for pupils with special educational, and also relating to disability continue to apply. Councils and schools therefore have to work to ensure these duties are met.

Next steps

25. Officers will incorporate members' views about the support the LGA is providing to our member authorities into our ongoing work around RAAC.

Local Government White Paper

Purpose of Report

For direction.

Summary

This report outlines the work within the LGA to develop a Local Government White Paper that was announced as an LGA priority at its annual conference, and a process for providing the Board's input to it.

LGA Plan Theme: Putting people first

Recommendation(s)

That the Board members:

- a) **Note the work in the LGA for developing a Local Government White Paper; and**
- b) **Agree the process outlined in paragraph 13 for developing the Board's contribution to the White Paper.**

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Local Government White Paper

Background

1. At the LGA Conference in July, our publication “Make It Local” was launched. The report sets out a range of clear offers from local government in the areas that pollsters are reporting as the biggest issues of concern for the public (and which will form the background to manifesto writing).
2. The “Make it local” children and young people chapter is focussed on improving life chances for all children, calling on Government to ensure all children and young people fulfil their potential and lead fulfilling lives by enabling councils to deliver joined up local support. The specific asks are as follows:
 - 2.1 Give councils the powers and funding to effectively lead local SEND systems, including powers to hold all mainstream schools to account for their work to increase levels of inclusion.
 - 2.2 Fully trial Work Local, co-design an employment and skills devolution framework, and work with local government to plan provision.
 - 2.3 Make a cross-Whitehall commitment to children – ensuring that every department plays its part in creating good childhoods.
 - 2.4 Prioritise children’s health and mental health through investing in early intervention and prevention.
 - 2.5 Ensure councils have the skills, resources and tools available to effectively support providers and partners to deliver high quality early years education and childcare.
3. The July publication was aimed at those developing manifestos for the next election. The LGA will continue this work with all our political groups. Looking beyond manifesto development, manifestos’ headline ideas will be developed into detailed delivery plans by numerous Whitehall departments.
4. The LGA is in a position where it can look to influence the detailed delivery plans of both the first year and the longer-term programme of a new/returning government. It is in this context that the LGA announced the development of a White Paper on Local Government.

Proposal

5. At its meeting earlier in the month the Executive Advisory Board (EAB) considered how the White Paper is developed. It agreed the aim of the White Paper should be to *demonstrate how stronger and more empowered local government could deliver the public’s priorities more effectively and strengthen the value that the public place on the UK’s democratic structures.*

6. The EAB also agreed that each of the LGA's boards use their policy work to make specific offers from the sector to a new/returning minister in their policy area. In particular the EAB wants boards to consider and make proposals on:
 - 6.1. How public services should be reformed in their policy areas to deliver the ambitions set out in paragraph 5; and
 - 6.2. How local government, and central government should change to deliver the public's priorities in their policy areas.
7. This would then inform a narrative for each relevant Whitehall department and new/returning Secretary of State, with the narrative covering:
 - 7.1. Where the department relies on local government to deliver priorities;
 - 7.2. How stronger and empowered local government would provide better value for money; and
 - 7.3. A set of departmental options for the Kings Speech and the first year's delivery plan.
8. The Children and Young People Board will therefore need to develop proposals setting out how a stronger and more empowered local government can deliver more effectively than central government on the public's priorities around improving life chances for all children. In order to do this the Board will be able to draw on the priorities for the Board outlined in the relevant paper in the agenda, and the work programme that will flow from that. However, if members have some early views on what the Board might be putting forward at this stage that would be helpful as the Board's input is developed.
9. The timetable for the development of the White Paper is for views to be sought from the sector and stakeholders over the autumn through a variety of mechanisms, with these being collated at the start of the new year. It is therefore suggested that the Board agrees to the creation of a Member-led task and finish group to lead on this work.

Implications for Wales

10. The LGA will work closely with WLGA on any issues that will impact on both administrations.

Financial Implications

11. There are no direct financial implications arising from this work for the Board. Activity suggested in the options developed by each Board should concentrate on what could be delivered by reprioritising existing departmental budgets.

Equalities implications

12. As the Board develops its proposals it will want to consider their impact on equality, diversity and inclusion.

Next steps

13. Taking account of any views and comments raised by members, the Board agrees that Office Holders should oversee the development of the children and young people-focussed proposals for inclusion in the White paper.