

Children and Young People Board – report from Cllr Roy Perry (Chairman)

Education

1. On the 7th June, the Children and Young People Board Lead Members: Councillor Roy Perry, Councillor Richard Watts, Councillor Liz Green, and Councillor Helen Powell, attended a roundtable meeting with the Education Secretary Nicky Morgan MP. The meeting was called by Nicky Morgan MP in response to Councillor Roy Perry's letter to the Department for Education Secretary of State on the 31st March which outlined the LGA's concerns regarding proposals set out in the Government's *Educational Excellence Everywhere* White Paper. The meeting covered the LGA's concerns with the government's plans for academisation, the diminishing role of councils in school improvement, and the proposed national schools funding formula, among other issues pertinent to the *Educational Excellence Everywhere Bill*, and the *Education for All Bill*.
2. Councillor Helen Powell attended a conference organised by Inside Government on the 22nd June, entitled: *Supporting Local Authorities to deliver school improvement*. Councillor Powell addressed the conference on local government's role in school improvement, how this will be impacted on by the reforms set out in the Education White Paper and Education for All Bill and; and about work that Lincolnshire County Council is undertaking to drive school improvement.
3. On the 13th of July, Councillor Richard Watts, Vice-Chair of the Children and Young People Board, attended an event organised by Inside Government entitled: *Improving School Place Planning*. Councillor Watts addressed attendees concerning the government's ambition to end councils' role in school improvement and hand this responsibility to Multi-Academy Trusts overseen by a tier of Regional Schools Commissioners. Cllr Watts outlined the recommendations of the CYP Board's Five Point Plan, including: a single capital pot locally; five-year allocations; local decision-making about new schools; local decisions about academy sponsors; councils given a greater role in approving free schools so they serve areas of the greatest need.

The LGA Independent Group - Information and Development Seminar

4. Councillor Helen Powell, the Deputy Chair of the Children and Young People Board, spoke at the LGA Independent Group's Information and Development Seminar at the end of May and provided members with a summary of the Children and Young People Board's successes in influencing government policy during the last three years, engaging in debate and discussion with attendees on these achievements.

Children's services

5. Researchers at the Rees Centre University of Oxford and University of Bristol, funded by the Nuffield Foundation, found that the stability provided by carers helped children to achieve consistently better results when compared to children living with their families while receiving social work support. To explore this work, the LGA held a roundtable event on the 12th July which was attended by Councillor Roy Perry, the

Chair of the Children and Young, the Chair of the Improvement and Innovation Board, ADCS, DfE, TACT, The Nationwide Association of Fostering Providers, CoramBAAF, and the Fostering Network.

6. The LGA published a report on the 29th June entitled: Action Research into Improvement in Local Children's Services. The report was commissioned by the LGA and undertaken by the ISOS Partnership, and sought to answer two central questions:

- 6.1 What are the key enablers of (and barriers to) improvement in local children's services?

- 6.2 How can the system as a whole facilitate and support improvement in local children's services?

The final report sets out detailed evidence and case studies about how local areas have brought about and sustained improvement, as well as recommendations about how the national system can support local children's services to improve. The authors Ben Bryant and Simon Rea from the ISOS Partnership, presented their findings at the Children and Young People Board meeting on the 29th June.

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