

29 September 2016

The Wood Review of the council role in education and children's services

Purpose

For information

Summary

This paper provides background information to support the presentation and discussion on the Wood Review of the council role in education and children's services.

Recommendation

That the Board note the information provided.

Action

Officers to take action as directed by members.

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The Wood Review of the council role in education and children's services

Background

1. Alan Wood was appointed by the then Education Secretary Nicky Morgan MP to chair an External Advisory Board to feed into a Department for Education (DfE) review of the role of councils in relation to children, including the role of the Director of Children's Services (DCS) and the Lead Member for children, in line with the commitment in the *Educational Excellence Everywhere* white paper (March 2016).
2. The end product of the review will be a consultation paper which sets out an overarching narrative and vision describing the future role of councils in relation to children. It will aim to set out a coherent set of expectations and responsibilities on councils and their relationship to children and the powers councils will need to carry out those responsibilities.
3. The External Advisory Board will feed into a DfE Directors' Steering Group which will shape the project and sign off key decisions. The group's purpose is to advise the DfE and provide insights based on best practice and evidence. The Secretary of State for Education and the DfE review team will remain responsible for the content and process of the review.
4. The membership of the External Advisory Board includes LGA, ADCS, Solace, teaching unions, a Chief Executive of a Multi-Academy Trust, a representative of a children's charity and the Chief Executive of the Educational Endowment Foundation. The LGA is represented by the CYP Board Chair Cllr Richard Watts and Sally Burlington, LGA Head of Policy.
5. Alan Wood is the former DCS at Hackney and a former President of the ADCS. He will make a brief presentation about the work of the External Advisory Group and progress to date. The discussion that follows will provide the Board with an opportunity to make an input into the review.