

07 June 2018

Children and Young People Board – from Cllr Richard Watts (Chair)

Conferences, meetings and external events

1. On 17 May I attended a roundtable organised by the Children's Minister, Nadim Zahawi, to discuss Special Educational Needs and Disability. Discussions focussed on the progress of councils to date in implementing reforms set out in the Children and Families Act, tackling rising demand and the need for additional funding.
2. I spoke alongside sector leaders at Kings College's annual Children in Need conference on 21 May, highlighting the LGA's work on *Bright Futures* and continuing to make the case for enhanced funding to meet rising demand for children's services.
3. The LGA Chairman, Lord Porter, spoke alongside the Children's Minister Nadhim Zahawi at the launch of our Parliamentary exhibition on *Bright Futures* on Monday 21 May. Several elected members, including members of the Children and Young People Board, joined LGA staff on the stand throughout the work, helping to highlight the excellent work of councils across the country on early intervention with children and families in need.
4. Cllr Gillian Ford and Ian Dean spoke at Coram BAAF's annual staff away day on 17 April, outlining the LGA's recent work on children's services, talking attendees through our *Bright Futures* campaign and answering questions on the current challenges facing local government.
5. Ian Dean represented the LGA at a Youth Justice Roundtable chaired by the Children's Commissioner at 10 Downing Street on 27 March, joining a range of organisations and the Prime Minister's Special Adviser to discuss improving outcomes for children and teenagers in custody.

Publications

6. I chaired a conference at Smith Square on the early findings from the LGA's research into the factors that drive variation in council spend on children's services on 13 March, attended by over 50 members and officers from councils across the country. The final report of the research, commissioned from Newton Europe, will be published in the summer.

Press Releases and Statements

7. I have recently made public statements on the [special educational needs funding announcement](#), [the need to tackle academy finances](#), [Responding to a report by the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman on special guardianship orders](#), [the NSPCC report on school referrals for mental health treatment](#), [the DfE announcement on school places](#), [A potentially life-changing initiative for children leaving care only has enough funding to support one in five young people](#), [the Education Policy Institute report on school funding pressures](#), [the latest school capacity figures for the academic year 2016 to 2017](#) and on the [report from the Care Quality Commission \(CQC\) on children's and young people's mental health needs](#).

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8. Cllr Roy Perry also made public statements on the [NAHT report on the Government's 30 hours free childcare offer](#), [the number of children who secured their first choice primary school place](#) and [the package of measures announced by the Department for Education around home education](#).

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