

## Note of last Children & Young People Board meeting

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<b>Title:</b>	Children & Young People Board
<b>Date:</b>	Tuesday 12 March 2019
<b>Venue:</b>	Beecham Room, 7th Floor, 18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ

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### Attendance

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

Item	Decisions and actions
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### 1 Declarations of Interest

The Chair welcomed all members to the Children and Young People Board meeting. Apologies were noted and are listed in Appendix A.

A declaration of interest was raised by Vice Chair Cllr Roy Perry in relation to item 5: Update from the LGA's Asylum, Refugee and Migration Taskforce, in which Cllr Perry stated that his daughter, Rt Hon Caroline Nokes MP who, at the time of this Board meeting, was the Minister of State for Immigration.

### 2 ISOS early help research: presentation of final report ahead of 19 March launch

The Chair welcomed Isos Director, Natalie Parish, to the meeting. Natalie provided the Board with a summary on the findings of the high needs funding research which was commissioned by the Local Government Association in July 2018.

Natalie explained that the Isos Partnership was commissioned to undertake research to explore the enablers and barriers to developing and sustaining an effective local early help offer and was asked to look at three areas: reviewing the existing material and research in terms of what works in Early Help; understanding in practical terms the activities and actions that contribute to the development and sustainability of an effective and partnership-based early help offer; and supporting local areas through an action-research based approach to develop their own early help offers and to contribute to the wider system knowledge of effective early help. Natalie outlined a local 'early help offer' was defined as:

*"Each local area had taken their own distinctive approach to developing their early help offer. However, there were some clear similarities between the eight areas in terms of organisation and principles."*

Natalie outlined that the findings showed that each of the local areas had

taken their own distinctive approach to developing their early help offer in their own unique ways, but despite differences there were clear similarities in organisation and principles between the eight areas, with differences mainly being in the bulk of the activity taking place. These similarities were:

(organisation):

- Community based support networks
- Partners as lead professionals
- Central key working service

(principles)

- The earliness of early help
- Working with families, rather than individuals
- Building resilience
- An integrated – joined up offer

Natalie outlined the lifecycle and evolution of early help, and that the findings showed that local authorities were at different phases in this cycle. A number of the authorities were at the third phase of development 'consolidation and integration' and therefore were looking at improving consistency through better integration across a wider range of partners, and realign skills and targets, in order to enter the fourth phase 'achieving a 'multiplier effect'.

Natalie concluded her presentation by explaining that there is a strong logical and principled case for continuing to invest in early help so that it does become 'everyone's business'. But to achieve this in the current climate local areas will need to strike the right balance between the following criteria:

1. Investing to achieve long-term impact or shorter term gains?
2. Predicting need set against responding to demand
3. Universal, additional or intensive support?
4. Wider or deeper integration?

The following discussion took place with members:

- Members asked for further details of the local authorities which were identified as having best practice. Natalie identified the eight councils used in the research: Barking and Dagenham, Greenwich, Kent, Lincolnshire, Oldham, Southend, West Sussex and Wigan.. Natalie told members that the final report will include vignettes and descriptions of these council's early help offers.
- In response to another question, Natalie clarified that Ofsted was not a defining criteria for councils within this research study.
- In response to a question raised on how children services engage with other partners, Natalie explained that these local authorities worked with partners to include them in their governing structure,

- identifying strategies to improve the services by integrating teams.
- In response to a question raised on how councils can encourage residents to contact early help services, Natalie described the approach from Southend-on-Sea Borough Council who produced one minute referral guides for families to self-refer.
- It was stated by the Board that it was important to acknowledge the loss of £5million funding from central government which has most likely impacted local authorities early help models and stalled council developments in this area.

The Chair thanked Natalie Parish for presenting ahead of the launch of the report on 19<sup>th</sup> March 2019.

### **3 CAMHS future work programme**

The Chair welcomed Abigail Gallop, Senior Advisor to the Board.

Abigail introduced the report that set out:

- Proposals for the children and young people's mental health work programme for the LGA
- A proposals for gathering evidence and commissioning a piece of work to identify issues and areas of good practice
- Proposal for a joint steering group made up of members across the Children and Young People Board, The Community Wellbeing Board and the Safer and Stronger Communities Board

The Board was asked for comments and feedback on:

- Whether there should be anything added or removed from the proposed aims and objectives, and to agree them.
- Comments on the funding picture within councils on children and young people's mental health to inform the development of this piece of research.
- Comments on the identification of issues and good practice, and is asked if there are any other key lines of enquiry or questions

Members provided the following feedback:

- Members confirmed their support for establishing a joint steering group on CAMHS to take the work forwards.
- Local authorities need to ensure that there is a focus on children and that government departments need to engage with each other on this to make progress.
- On behalf of the Board, the LGA should enquire into the factors that are resulting in children's mental health not being prioritised or getting the support they need.
- On behalf of this Board, the LGA should investigate data to see if there is a correlation between cuts in early help offers as a result of funding constraints and an increase in children accessing CAMHS and other Adult Social Care services.

- One member raised that in their authority, mental health funding goes through the CCG which is a challenge to get that money directed to more holistic and preventative services.
- It was acknowledged that there was little support for children who were in the interim period of CAMHS on long waiting lists with no access to services while in this period.
- The impacts of delays in mental health treatment is having a detrimental effect on children's education, and this is not being addressed. This often results in long-term impacts on individual's schooling.
- It was acknowledged that CAMHS is a last resort service, and that there should be more emphasis on earlier interventions.
- In reference to point 21 which refers to the approach to identify issues and good practice, the report needs to consider the delivery and accessibility in CAMHS, in particular the services offered to those who do not meet NHS thresholds for treatment.
- Concerns over the quality of CAMHS was raised and what structures are in place to monitor and scrutinise these services.
- Members raised the point that councils have to take responsibility for supporting children and young people in the whole, but have no influence or authority about how CAMHS funding is invested.
- The programme needs to reflect clear asks from this board, with key points including county lines, increase in street crime and domestic violence.
- The cross-cutting issues around support for children with autistic spectrum disorder, SEND and unaccompanied asylum seekers was also noted.

**Decisions:**

Officers will modify the proposals to reflect direction from the Board.

Officers will confirm the commissioning of the research based on comments from the Board.

Officers will contact the nominated or volunteered members of the Board to set up the children and young people's mental health steering group.

**4 Update from Children's Social Care Taskforce (Verbal Update)**

In the absence of Cllr Dick Madden, Cllr Ford was invited to the Board to provide members with an update on the work of the Children's Social Care Taskforce to date. Cllr Ford outlined the new evidence on the funding crisis and need for additional investment that has come to light.

The following points were raised by members:

- One member highlighted that it was noticeable that charities are stepping in to help fund youth services and youth clubs, but in higher deprivation areas they do not have access to these

resources.

- It was also highlighted that the Board have concerns over £10 million to be spent on the National Citizen Service (NCS) brand refresh.

The Chair thanked Cllr Ford for the update.

**Decision:**

Members noted the verbal update.

**5 Update from the LGA's Asylum, Refugee and Migration Taskforce**

Cllr Gillian Ford updated members on the progress of the work from the LGA Asylum, Refugee and Migration Task Group.

Cllr Ford informed members on the outcome of the Taskforce meeting with the Minister for Immigration last Wednesday 6 March that focussed on concerns delivering better engagement with, and funding for councils as part of the new contracts for accommodation and advice for asylum seeking adults and families. It was acknowledged at the meeting councils need support in this area.

It was also mentioned that there will be a review over concerns of accessibility, age assessments, and a review of relevant Home Office programmes.

Members will receive a full briefing and information to support councils between this and the next Board.

**Decision:**

Members noted the update.

**Action:**

A further update will be provided at the next Children and Young People Board meeting.

**6 Note of the Previous Meeting**

Members noted the previous minutes from the last Board meeting 16 January 2019.  
Members agreed the minutes.

**7 Understanding the Middle Tier: Comparative Costs of Academy and LA-maintained Sectors**

The Chair welcomed Professor Peter Earley (PE) and Jonathan Crossley-Holland (JCH) from Sara Bubb Associates to the Board to present their

research to date.

The Board discussed initial findings of the research, which will be published in due course.

**Decision:**

Members noted the presentation.

**Appendix A -Attendance**

Position/Role	Councillor	Authority
Chairman	Cllr Anntoinette Bramble	Hackney London Borough Council
Vice-Chairman	Cllr Roy Perry	Hampshire County Council
Deputy-chairman	Cllr Lucy Nethsingha	Cambridgeshire County Council
	Cllr Gillian Ford	Havering London Borough Council
Members	Cllr Natasha Airey	Windsor & Maidenhead Royal Borough
	Cllr Susie Charles	Lancashire County Council
	Cllr Laura Mayes	Wiltshire Council
	Cllr Roger Gough	Kent County Council
	Cllr Teresa Heritage	Hertfordshire County Council
	Cllr Bob Cook	Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council
	Cllr David Mellen	Nottingham City Council
	Cllr Clare Coghill	Waltham Forest London Borough Council
	Cllr Barry Kushner	Liverpool City Council
	Cllr Carl Cashman	Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council
	Cllr Lesley Williams MBE	Gloucestershire County Council
Apologies	Cllr Dick Madden	Essex County Council
	Cllr Megan Swift	Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council
	Cllr John Kent	Thurrock Council