

18 October 2018

Children and Young People Board – from Cllr Anntoinette Bramble (Chair)

Conferences, meetings and external events

1. Recently I spoke at a number of events at Labour party conference. On Monday 24 September I attended a Barnardo's reception on lost childhoods. I also outlined details of the funding cuts to children's services and our vision for children's services in Bright Futures. My speech was well received and a number of MPs, including Shadow Early Years Minister, Tracy Brabin MP and Lucy Powell MP commended her knowledge and passion for issues affecting children and young people.
2. On Tuesday 25 September, I was a panellist for a debate on supporting children in need into adulthood where she highlighted the rising demand facing children's services. The event was organised by Children's Society and British Association of Social Workers. I also spoke at another panel debate on that day on children's early years, organised by Action for Children and attended by Shadow Early Years Minister, Tracy Brabin MP and Lucy Powell MP. I highlighted the importance of early years provisions in improving social mobility and the need for greater investment in early years provision.
3. On Monday 24 September, CYP Board member Cllr Clare Coghill spoke at a roundtable organised by the National Youth Agency at Labour party conference. Cllr Coghill highlighted the role of councils in helping young people transition into adulthood. The event was also attended by Lloyd Russell-Moyle MP, Labour MP for Brighton, Kemptown and Chair of the APPG for Youth Work and Tracy Brabin, Shadow Early Years Minister.
4. Cllr Teresa Heritage chaired the LGAs panel debate at Conservative party conference. The event on Monday 1 October, focussed on the spending review and what it could provide for communities.
5. Cllr Heritage also spoke at a number of other events at the conference including, a roundtable organised by UK Youth on youth loneliness on Sunday 30 September. At the roundtable, she highlighted our call for the Government to prioritise child and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS) with sustainable funding. Other attendees included Andrew Bowie MP and Alex Burghart MP, the Prime Minister's former adviser on social justice. On Monday 1 October, Cllr Heritage attended a Barnardo's reception. The event also attended by Secretary of State for Work and Pensions Esther McVey MP, Victoria Atkins MP, Crime, Safeguarding and Vulnerability Minister and Nadhim Zahawi MP, Children and Families Minister and focussed on children's services. On Tuesday 2 October 2018, Cllr Heritage spoke at a roundtable on addiction and family resilience. She highlighted the vital public health services that local councils provide, including in commissioning targeted and effective substance misuse services. She also outlined our calls for the Government to reverse reductions to the public health grant to councils.
6. On Monday 1 October, Cllr Natasha Airey spoke at a roundtable at Conservative party conference organised by the National Youth Agency. The event focussed on youth work and services and Cllr Airey highlighted current funding reductions to children and youth services. Ben Bradley MP who is a member of the APPG on Youth Affairs also attended.

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7. Cllr Lucy Nethsingha spoke at a National Youth Agency roundtable at Liberal Democrat party conference on Monday 17 September. The event focused on youth work and services and was an extension to her earlier appearance at the APPG for Youth Work inquiry in July. Cllr Nethsingha spoke on the important role of youth work as part of a broader package of services for young people, the £3 billion funding gap faced by children's services and the reduction in funding for the Early Intervention Grant. She also attended a visit to the Brighton Young People's Centre as part of this.

Publications and correspondence

8. In September we responded to the Health and Social Care Committee inquiry into the First 1000 days of Life. We welcome the committee's inquiry and submitted evidence on the wider role councils play in supporting and improving people's mental and physical wellbeing through addressing the wider determinants of health and delivering support that wraps around children and their families. We raised our concerns about the funding cuts to local government and the impact this is having on councils' ability to deliver these services.
9. In August I called for the [Government's National Citizen Service to be devolved to local youth services](#), which was reported on **BBC Radio 4's Today programme** and on **BBC Breakfast**, **BBC Victoria Derbyshire Show**, **BBC Radio 2**, **LBC** and across **BBC local radio** news bulletins, together with the [Independent](#), [Guardian](#), [Telegraph](#), [i paper](#), [Express Online](#), [Mirror Online](#) and [BBC Online](#). I was also interviewed about this on **LBC**.
10. Our press release in August with my warning that [England is facing a secondary school places "emergency" with more than 130,000 children at risk of missing a place over the next five years](#) was reported on **BBC Radio 4's Today programme** and in the [Times](#), [Guardian](#), [Independent](#), [i paper](#), [Mail \(twice\)](#), [Mirror](#), [Sun](#), [ITV Online](#), [Sky News Online](#), [LBC Online](#) and [Huffington Post](#). Our analysis of government figures showed that by 2023/24, 71 English councils (52 per cent) may not be able to meet the need for 133,926 secondary school places. LGA Deputy Chairman Cllr David Simmonds was also interviewed on **Good Morning Britain** and **Sky News Sunrise**.
11. The [Mail](#), [Mirror](#), [Sun](#), [Telegraph Online](#), [Independent Online](#) and [ITV Online](#) in August featured our [response to Children's Society research about the number of boys and girls who have self-harmed in the past year](#), calling for councils and schools to be given funding to offer independent mental health counselling so pupils have access to support when they need it, which was also reported on **BBC Breakfast** and **Good Morning Britain**.
12. The [Observer](#) on 1 September featured our warning on its front page that children's services are reaching a tipping point and urgent funds are required to address the problem, after councils in England had to spend £816 million more on children's social care than they had budgeted for. This was also referenced in newspaper reviews on the **BBC News channel**, **Sky News** and on **BBC Radio 4**.
13. I featured on [Guardian Online](#) in September with our [response to a National Association of Head Teachers report on pressures on schools supporting children with special educational needs and disabilities](#) and our call for an urgent review of funding to meet the unprecedented rise in demand that councils are experiencing.
14. In September, **BBC Breakfast** reported our Bright Futures lines that councils are facing a £3 billion funding shortfall in children's services by 2025, in a piece about support for young carers.

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15. The [Independent](#) in September featured my [response to the latest Department for Education figures showing that spending on children at risk of neglect or abuse has reduced by 26 per cent over the past five years](#), about how children's services are under huge and increasing financial pressures, with many councils being pushed to the brink by unprecedented demand.
16. As new Chair of the Children and Young People Board I was recently interviewed by [CYP Now](#) and I used the interview to reiterate our call for additional funding to help meet the £2 billion children's funding gap facing councils. I also highlighted the need for additional powers for councils to ensure we can meet our remaining education duties and called for more to be done to understand the impact of informal school exclusions on children and young people.
17. [National Children's and Adult Services Conference 2018](#) - This year's NCAS conference is taking place on Manchester from the 14th – 16th November, with our Lead Member meeting taking place from 5pm – 6pm on the afternoon of the 15th. I have invited the Children's Minister, Nadhim Zahawi MP to join us for this meeting for a Chatham House discussion of the challenges facing councils in delivering effective children's services and I would like to encourage those of you attending the conference to come along and contribute to this discussion.

Contact officer: Ian Keating
Position: Principal Policy Adviser
Phone no: 020 7664 3032
E-mail: ian.keating@local.gov.uk