

## **Children and Young People– report from Cllr Anntoinette Bramble (Chair)**

### **SEND**

1. On the 27 November I gave evidence to the Education Select Committee inquiry on school and college funding, alongside representatives of the County Councils Network and London Councils. Discussions focussed on the impact of the National Funding Formula for Schools and the challenges that councils are continuing to face in meeting the increased demand for high needs support for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).
2. In December [LGA-commissioned research](#) was published which found that councils are facing a high needs funding shortfall of £472 million this year, which could rise to an estimated £806 million next year and between £1.2 billion and £1.6 billion in 2020/21. The Government announced on the 16 December that an additional £350 million was to be made available to support children with SEND : £250 million over the next two years for high needs budgets and £100 million for SEND capital, creating more specialist places in mainstream schools, colleges and special schools. While this is welcome it does not bridge the funding gap and the Board's work on high needs will continue.

### **Early Years**

3. On 18 October, I spoke to the APPG for Children in response to their "Storing Up Trouble" report on the pressures facing local authority children's services. The report backed the LGA's call for government to act urgently to fill the growing children's services funding gap. I emphasised that funding cuts coupled with a growing demand for services has created a hugely challenging environment for councils all over the country as they seek to intervene with families earlier, recruit more social workers and ensure sufficient placement choice to meet the often complex needs of children and young people.
4. On 30 October, Vice Chairman Cllr Roy Perry spoke at the launch of the Early Intervention Foundation's report "Realising the potential of early intervention". The report seeks to reframe the narrative around early intervention to focus more clearly on the long-term impact of early support for children and families, and Cllr Perry particularly highlighted the LGA's call for government cuts to the Early Intervention Grant to be reversed.
5. The LGA has commissioned the ISOS Partnership to review the factors that facilitate an effective early help offer, aiming to learn more about how practice is currently developing across the country while also exploring how the delivery of early help to children and families could evolve in future. The research is due for launch in February 2019.
6. In November, the LGA published "Bright Futures: One Year On". Coming a year after the launch of Bright Futures, our vision for the future of children's social care, this update highlights what we have achieved over the past year but also, importantly, looks at where there is still more work to do. The report is available at: <https://local.gov.uk/bright-futures->

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[one-year](#)

7. On 21 November, Deputy Chair Cllr Gillian Ford spoke at the APPG for Nursery Schools, Nursery and Reception Classes, speaking on the future of maintained nursery schools. In particular, she highlighted that these provide significant support for children with special educational needs and disabilities, and for children from disadvantaged backgrounds. With supplementary funding due to end next year, these schools are at significant risk, and we are calling on the government to extend supplementary funding for an additional year while a long-term funding solution is found.
8. We have recently launched two more resource packs to support all councillors to find out more and engage in the delivery of services for children and young people. These focus on [permanence](#), and [early education and childcare](#)

### **Youth Services**

9. The LGA has commissioned the Centre for Youth Impact (CYI) to produce a new Framework of Outcomes for Young People, and Cllr Gillian Ford chaired a session at NCAS to give delegates the first opportunity to see the draft framework. The CYI will be working with the National Youth Agency to roll out and refine the framework in the first quarter of 2019. More information is available at <http://www.youthimpact.uk/news--events/a-framework-of-outcomes-for-young-people-20>

### **Children Services**

10. On 21 November, I met with Anna Turley MP and her colleagues who have formed the Kinship Care Taskforce to improve support for kinship carers. I explained what support is already provided by councils to kinship carers, and outlined the issues facing children's services more broadly, in particular the £3 billion funding gap faced by 2025. I was pleased to hear that members of the taskforce were very clear on the funding issues and the difficult choices faced by councils in supporting all children, their families and carers. I have offered to support the taskforce in its work as this moves forward to make sure that councils are properly represented.

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