

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

### **SEND**

1. On the 12<sup>th</sup> February I gave oral evidence to the Education Committee inquiry on Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND). I stressed that SEND funding pressures are one of the biggest funding pressures facing councils and highlighted the findings of LGA-commissioned research which found that councils are facing a high needs funding shortfall of £472 million in the 2018-19 financial year and this funding gap could rise to £1.6 billion by 2021.
2. I responded to the analysis by the National Deaf Children's Society warning that England's deaf children are falling behind their hearing classmates at GCSE level. I warned that Councils are reaching tipping point when it comes to funding the demand for children with SEND.

### **Early Years**

3. On 25 February, Councillor Gillian Ford gave evidence to the APPG for Childcare and Early Education on the financial sustainability of the nursery sector. Cllr Ford highlighted our concerns around the levels of funding available to pay for early entitlements such as the 30 hours childcare offer for children of working parents, in particular the impact insufficient funding council have on the quality of services available to children, and the availability of placements for disadvantaged children and those with SEND.
4. I responded to the Childcare Survey 2019 by Coram Family and Childcare emphasising that good quality early years education is vital in helping children get the best start in life, and stressed that in this year's Spending Review, the Government must make sure that councils have enough funding to make sure that all families can access the high quality early education that meets their needs. The full report can be found [here](#).

### **Children's Mental Health**

5. On 28 February, I chaired a fully-booked LGA event, held jointly with the Coalition on Children and Young People's mental health, on 'improving transition between children and adult mental health services'. Key themes emerged, such as the importance of partnership working, family, and wrapping support around the young person. A report on the event is due to be published in May.

### **Children Services**

6. On 26 February I responded to the children's services funding analysis, highlighting that councils have worked hard to protect vulnerable children and families from the full scale cuts, with spending on children's services falling far less than the funding available from

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government. The full report can be found [here](#).

7. I responded to the Children's Commissioner report on children educated at home, highlighting alarming concerns for a minority of children who fall through the cracks. Councils have long-called for the powers and appropriate funding to enter homes or other premises to check a child's schooling, and make sure they aren't being taught in unsuitable or dangerous environments.

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