

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

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

1. On 16 April I spoke at the National Education Union annual conference on what a National Education Service could look like. I took the opportunity to stress the continued importance of the council role in education and to build on this and the role of the Lead Member and Director of Children's Services as key single lines of accountability in a democratically-accountable education system. Discussions also covered the impact of the National Funding Formula for schools, the high needs funding pressures facing councils in providing support to children and young people with SEND, the council role in school improvement, and sufficiency of good school places.

Updated 'must knows'

2. We have updated a range of our 'must know documents for chief executives and lead members for children's services, covering education, special educational needs and disability, youth services, and what to do if your children's services are rated inadequate. These are all available [online](#).

Guide for new Lead Members for Children's Services

3. We have also launched a [guide for new lead members for children's services](#), which was developed with current lead members, and we worked with the Early Intervention Foundation on a new resource pack for all councillors looking at [early help](#).

Children and young people's mental health

4. We have launched our [report](#) into the findings from the LGA's peer learning programme into improving children and young people's mental health and emotional wellbeing.

Research comparing academies and council-maintained schools

5. We launched [new research](#) showing that schools which remain under council control are more likely to keep a good or outstanding Ofsted rating than those which become an academy. It also found that schools that were rated as requires improvement or inadequate were more likely to become good or outstanding if they remained council-maintained and did not convert to an academy. As part of our #CouncilsCan campaign, the Board are calling for councils to be given powers to intervene and improve all school types found to be inadequate, regardless of whether it is a maintained school or academy.

6 June 2019

Youth services

6. I spoke out in the LGA's [report](#) on youth offending services for preventing young people from getting involved in knife crime and county line drug dealing as councils remain in the dark on youth offending budgets. I stressed that the unacceptable uncertainty is making it extremely difficult for councils to plan the services which play a vital role in supporting young people and preventing them from getting involved in criminal activity.

Children in care

7. I responded to new figures from the Fostering Network showing the desperate need for foster families. I stressed that with 88 children entering care every day, it is vital that we have the right foster carers to keep children safe, happy and well.

Children's health

8. At our Annual Public Health Conference on 21 March we launched our [health visiting publication](#) which shares good practice.
9. On the 25 March we launched a [joint publication with Public Health England](#) on supporting young parents to reach their full potential.
10. On the 1 April the Prime Minister opened the Serious Youth Violence Summit at 10 Downing Street, bringing together partners from the health service, education sector, local government, criminal justice and the police. Councillor Hudspeth represented the LGA at the roundtable focused on health and chaired by the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, Rt Hon Matt Hancock MP. Cllr Hudspeth highlighted the importance of taking a multi-agency approach to support vulnerable young people.

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