

## Children and Young People Board – Report from Cllr Antoinette Bramble (Chair)

### *SEND Green paper*

1. On the 22<sup>nd</sup> March CYP Board Lead Members and the LGA Chairman met with the Minister for Children and Families to discuss the SEND Green paper that was published the following week. We used the meeting to stress that councils, with sufficient levers and funding, are ideally placed to lead reformed local SEND systems and hold partners to account for the support they provide to children and young people with SEND. Our briefing on the proposals set out in the SEND Green paper is available [here](#).

### *Schools White paper/Bill*

2. The Schools White paper was published on the 28<sup>th</sup> March and in our response we welcomed the acknowledgement that councils have a continued role in local education systems and need powers to fulfil their remaining duties. We also welcomed proposals for councils to be able to set up their own Multi-Academy Trusts (MATs), something the LGA has been calling for over a number of years, as well as proposals to introduce a duty on parents to register home-schooled children with their council. Our briefing on proposals set out in the White paper is available [here](#).
3. We have also published research that show council maintained schools outperform academies. The [research](#) found 92 per cent of council-maintained schools were rated outstanding or good by Ofsted as of 31 January 2022, compared to 85 per cent of academies that were graded since they converted.

### *Children and Young People Board*

4. The Board met on 15 March to consider a wide-ranging agenda, including the Competition and Markets Authority report on children's social care placements, the National Food Strategy and the use of foodbanks, and our new [research on SEND dispute resolution](#).

### *Youth Justice*

5. We have published new research looking at [what works to support younger children in the youth justice system](#), in order to support our calls for the minimum age of criminal responsibility to be raised to 14. On 27 April we held a [webinar](#) for over 100 councillors and youth justice practitioners to discuss the research and to consider good practice in this space.
6. On 21 April I joined the Chairman of the LGA for a meeting with the Chief Executive of the Youth Justice Board (YJB) where we discussed the adultification of black children, local authority budgets and restructures of youth justice services. We used

the meeting to further our relationship with the YJB particularly around a joined up narrative on good practice and the need for greater investment in early intervention services.

#### *Mental health and emotional wellbeing*

7. Vice-Chair Cllr. Heritage attended a roundtable hosted by the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care with other third sector and sector leaders to discuss the mental health and wellbeing 10-year plan. The roundtable discussed the importance of early intervention, access to the right support at the right time and the need for access to specialist support.

#### *Adoption and Special Guardianship Leadership Board*

8. On 5 May Councillor Mark Sutton attended the meeting of the Adoption and Special Guardianship Leadership Board. The Board discussed a wide range of issues, including a detailed discussion around how to improve outcomes for children who wait the longest to be matched with their adoptive parents.

#### *Independent Review of Children's Social Care*

9. On 10 May, I met with the Chair of the Independent Review of Children's Social Care, Josh MacAlister, alongside the Vice-Chair of the Children and Young People Board Councillor Teresa Heritage, to discuss the review's forthcoming publication. We discussed a range of likely recommendations from the care review and welcomed the review's consistent emphasis on early help and improving support for children in the care system and care leavers. We also noted the need for significant financial investment into children's social care in order to deliver improvements.
10. The Review's [final report](#) was published on 23 May. I issued a [statement](#) welcoming much of the review, though noted that reform would not work without transformational investment in the system, while all of Whitehall must commit to tackling the issues children's social care cannot solve alone. I also highlighted that we need urgent action on workforce challenges and the need for suitable homes for children in care with particularly complex needs – these issues cannot wait for the long-term reform outlined in the report.
11. Going forward, I will be working with the Government to ensure that local government's voices are heard in the planning and delivery of reform, and together with the Children and Young People Board will hold government to account for its commitment to improving services.

**Contact officer:** Ian Keating  
**Position:** Principal Policy Adviser  
**Phone no:** 02076443032  
**Email:** [Ian.Keating@local.gov.uk](mailto:Ian.Keating@local.gov.uk)