

## Children and Young People Board activity at LGA annual conference 2023

### Purpose of Report

For information.

### Summary

This report provides information on the children and young people-focussed sessions that are taking place as part of the LGA annual conference from the 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> July 2023.

**LGA Plan Theme:** Putting people first

### Recommendation

**That the Board notes the contents of the report.**

### Contact details

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## Children and Young People Board activity at LGA annual conference 2023

### Background

1. At the request of Children and Young People Board Lead Members, this paper provides a summary of the children and young people-focussed sessions that are taking place as part of the LGA annual conference from the 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> July 2023.

### Sessions

#### 2. Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> July

Tackling the crisis in children's social care – the role of chief executives and council leaders, 16:45 – 17:35, Bayview Suite

Cllr Patricia Bradwell OBE, Vice Chairman LGA Children and Young People Board and Executive Councillor for Children's Services, Community Safety, Procurement and Migration; Cllr Louise Gittins, Chair LGA Children and Young People Board and Leader, Cheshire West and Chester Council.

The Department for Education published its plan for children's social care reform in February 2023. While it indicated a positive direction of travel, it failed to deliver the scale of funding needed or to address the urgency of the crisis facing services. This session will consider the role of chief executives and council leaders in delivering the services our vulnerable children and families need, in a continuing context of soaring demand and spiralling costs. We will look at those issues all chief executives and council leaders need to be thinking about, as well as discussing the latest updates from Government on its children's social care implementation plan.

#### 3. Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> July

Supporting people to have good mental health throughout their life, 11:30 – 12:15, Purbeck Lounge

Kadra Abdiniasir, Associate Director of Children and Young People's Mental Health, Centre for Mental Health; Phill Adams, Service Manager, Economic Inclusion, Skills and Knowledge Economy, Devon County Council

Councils are essential to supporting people to have good mental health throughout their life. They are working hard with the NHS, schools, employers, and other local partners, to support the mental health and wellbeing of their residents of all ages.

Mental health has an impact on all aspects of life including education, training, accessing and sustaining employment, community, and family. It is estimated that mental health problems cost the UK economy at least £117.9 billion annually. This is equivalent to around 5 per cent of the UK's GDP. So, there is both a social and economic case for prevention of mental health conditions and supporting people early when it occurs. We will explore how mental health needs affect individuals throughout their lives and what the touch points are for councils to support them, thereby reducing long-term service involvement and promoting positive mental health. We will look at the current policy landscape and how council's leadership, statutory and non-statutory roles and responsibilities and understanding of place can help promote good mental health; and how young people are being supported into education, employment or training.

Improving the SEND system for children, young people and their families, 12:25 – 13:10, Bayview Suite

Deborah Glassbrook – SEND Improvement Adviser, Local Government Association;  
Dame Christine Lenehan, Director, Council for Disabled Children

The Government's Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and Alternative Provision (AP) improvement plan contains a number of proposals that seek to improve the performance of the systems that support children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities. This session will allow delegates to discuss the likely impact of those proposals and whether it will be possible to come to a shared understanding of what a 'good' local SEND system and how it can best meet the needs of children with SEND.

Conference plenary, the Rt Hon Gillian Keegan MP, Secretary of State for Education, 15:45 – 16:15, Windsor Hall

Skills, skills, skills... for life and work: local government's role in making education, employment and training work for people, places and the economy, 16:25 – 17:10, Tregonwell Hall seminar suites

Cllr Lucy Nethsingha, Deputy Chair, LGA Children and Young People Board, Leader, Cambridgeshire County Council and Board Member, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority; Cllr Kevin Bentley, Chair, LGA People and

Places Board and Leader, Essex County Council and; Jane Gratton, Head of People Policy, British Chambers of Commerce

Good education and training is vital to help people realise their potential, whether it's to deal with everyday life and access online services, or to keep up with an ever-changing jobs market. It is crucial to employers too as they consider their skills needs right now and in coming years, and whether they continue to stay in an area or move elsewhere. Local government wants the best for its residents, communities and local economy so good and accessible local services – early years, schools, further and higher education and adult learning centres – are all essential for residents, whatever their age, to learn new skills. But critically important is how they connect up with one another, meet the needs of employers and can adapt to the needs of local people. How do we enable this to happen and what is the role of local government in joining all of this together?

### Implications for Wales

4. There are no implications for Wales arising from this report.

### Financial Implications

5. There are no implications for the LGA arising from this report

### Equalities implications

6. Every effort is made to ensure that a diverse range of speakers participate in LGA annual conference sessions.

### Next steps

7. There are no next steps arising from this report.