

Children & Young People Board – report from Cllr David Simmonds (chairman)

100 days school report

1. I am delighted to announce the launch of our report 'making sure every child has a place at a good local school'. This report sets out what the new government will need to do in its first 100 days to allow councils to offer every child a place at a good local school. This report can be found on the [website](#).

Child Sexual Exploitation

2. I called for the new government to introduce a bill for the introduction of a new type of banning order, where predatory men suspected of grooming children for sex could be stopped immediately. At present sanctions to prevent the grooming of vulnerable children are too limited and we need to make it easier to intervene earlier before harm is done. By making it possible for councils to apply swiftly to the courts for an order to disrupt grooming we can help prevent the lives of children being ruined by sexual exploitation.

Environment, Economy, Housing & Transport Board

3. We have worked with the Environment, Economy, Housing & Transport Board to bring together councils with think tank IPPR to set out a local offer to help government deliver 3 million quality apprenticeships for young people, launched in advance of the Queen's Speech.
4. We also contributed to the publication '[Realising Talent](#): A new framework for devolved employment and skills with a local offer for reforming careers, employment and skills advice and support to deliver the ambitions of the new allowance. We are now beginning to take these ideas forward with the new government.
5. We launched a poll of young people that reveals their willingness to have more decisions about skills, employment and advice services to be taken locally by councils and partners rather than MPs in Westminster. The poll showed young people were particularly dissatisfied by careers advice and jobcentre plus.

Adoption

6. I represented the LGA at the March meeting of the national Adoption Leadership Board, chaired by Sir Martin Narey.

What governing boards should expect from school leaders and what school leaders should expect from governing boards

7. This joint guidance document from the Association of School and College Leaders, the Local Government Association, the National Association of Head Teachers and the National Governors' Association aims to improve the effectiveness of school governance.

Specifically, the paper addresses four key areas: the respective roles of governance and management, developing and supporting the governing board, effective ways of working, and understanding the school and engaging with stakeholders. This report can be found on the [website](#).

Recent Media

8. I responded to the Queen's Speech proposals for an [Education](#) and [Adoption](#) Bill, voicing our concerns that the Department for Education is unable to effectively support a rapid expansion in schools converting to academy status and encouraging the government to build on the success of recent years on adoption, which has seen record numbers of children adopted and delays cut significantly.
8. In May I spoke to the [BBC](#) on the consequences for children's centres as funds are cut. "We welcome the fact that more children and families are using children's centres but at a time when budgets are stretched there are limits to what can be achieved when councils are having to serve more families and children with less money."
9. My contribution to the House of Commons education committee were quoted in [The Guardian](#), where I argued that even where money was allocated under the Priority Schools Building Programme, local authorities have still been expected to meet significant parts of the cost for rebuilding projects – including asbestos removal.
10. I was quoted across numerous [media](#) on how "councils face an uphill battle when their hands are tied by red tape" and funding shortages to provide enough school places.

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