

## **Children and Young People Board – report from Cllr Roy Perry (Chair)**

### **National Children and Adult Services (NCAS) Conference**

1. I chaired an Education Question Time panel at the 2015 National Children and Adult Services (NCAS) Conference. The panel included the President of the Association of Directors of Children's Services (ADCS), Alison O'Sullivan, and the Department for Education's National Schools Commissioner, Frank Green. The discussion was lively and productive, with the audience and panellists covering a range of topics including school places, the Government's plans for 'coasting' schools and academisation.
2. The LGA worked with partners to organise the NCAS Conference programme. This year's conference took place in Bournemouth from 14 – 16 October and it included a mix of keynote and ministerial addresses and a closed meeting of the Children and Young People Board that lead members of children's services from across the country attended. I invited the Executive Director of iMPower, Amanda Kelly, to give a presentation to the Board on new research into the effectiveness of the current Ofsted Single Inspection Framework.

### **Public Health Services for Children**

3. In October we published *A new home for public health services for children aged 0-5: A resource for local authorities*. There is overwhelming evidence that tells us that the first few years in children's lives shape their future development, and influence how well children do at school, their ongoing health and wellbeing and their achievements later in life. This briefing for officers will help councils to deliver their new statutory responsibility for commissioning children's public health services for children aged 0-5. It contains information about the transfer and the opportunities it brings to join up public health functions for children aged 0-19. - [http://www.local.gov.uk/web/guest/publications/-/journal\\_content/56/10180/7507693/PUBLICATION#sthash.EZYP26SV.dpuf](http://www.local.gov.uk/web/guest/publications/-/journal_content/56/10180/7507693/PUBLICATION#sthash.EZYP26SV.dpuf)

### **Education Select Committee Inquiries**

4. The Vice-Chair of the Children and Young People Board, Cllr Richard Watts, gave oral evidence to the Education Select Committee on 21 October as part of their inquiry into the Role of Regional Schools Commissioners (RSCs). We also submitted written evidence for the inquiry in which we argued that RSCs should work closely with councils to ensure that all schools are supported to improve, but expressed concerns that the RSCs do not have the capacity of local knowledge to deal with failing academies as well as maintained schools.
5. We submitted written evidence to the Education Select Committee inquiry into the work of Ofsted expressing councils' concerns over Ofsted's ability to undertake robust, transparent and credible inspections of local authority children's services and schools.

### **'Must knows' for Lead Members for Children's Services**

6. We comprehensively revised the "Must knows" for lead members for children's services so that they have the latest information for 2015/16. The "Must Knows" comprise of 11 separate documents that between them focus on the key issues facing lead members for children's services and the current and planned reforms impacting on children's services. The two following documents were published in September:

7. *"Must knows": Children's public health transfer.* This document helps lead members for children's services to navigate the changes to public health responsibilities. Councils now have a statutory responsibility for commissioning children's public health services for children aged 0-5 following the transfer of these responsibilities from the NHS on 1 October 2015. This joins up with the much larger transfer of public health functions to local government which included responsibility for 5-19 year olds, which took place on 1 April 2013. – [http://www.local.gov.uk/web/guest/publications/-/journal\\_content/56/10180/7505714/PUBLICATION#sthash.xcfw3fBJ.dpuf](http://www.local.gov.uk/web/guest/publications/-/journal_content/56/10180/7505714/PUBLICATION#sthash.xcfw3fBJ.dpuf)
8. *"Must knows": successfully embedding the Care Act 2014.* This revised briefing document for councillors and other senior local leaders provides a number of timely key messages to ensure that councils successfully realise the aspirations of the Care Act in their local change programmes. It recaps the Care Act's main features and duties, sets out the implications for councils, and provides a number of questions for decision-makers and scrutinisers to consider. - [http://www.local.gov.uk/web/guest/publications/-/journal\\_content/56/10180/6683815/PUBLICATION#sthash.6q6VdluY.dpuf](http://www.local.gov.uk/web/guest/publications/-/journal_content/56/10180/6683815/PUBLICATION#sthash.6q6VdluY.dpuf)

#### **Post-election Education Roundtable**

9. I participated in an education roundtable at the think tank Compass on 19 October. The roundtable was hosted by Stephen Twigg MP and the conversation focussed on the challenges facing early years, schools, colleges and adult education. The discussion was measured and informative, with participants identifying the scope for collaborate action to improve the legislative and funding climate, whether in specific localities or policy areas.

#### **Youth Offending Teams Funding Consultation**

10. The Youth Justice Board (YJB) held a consultation on proposals to cut the Youth Justice Grant provided to youth offending teams (YOTs) by £9m, or 10.6%, in the current financial year (2015/16). We submitted a collective response to this consultation with the Association of Directors of Childrens Services (ADCS) and the Association of Youth Offending Team Managers (AYM) before the deadline of 16 September 2015, whilst also urging local areas to submit their individual comments to the YJB.

#### **Leadership Essentials**

11. We are holding a two-day Leadership Essentials event for children's services from 28 – 29 October. The event will provide portfolio holders, service committee chairs and interested council leaders with a chance to develop leadership skills specific to the area of children's services and share their experiences among colleagues dealing with similar challenges.

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