

Other Business Report

Purpose

For information

Summary

This report provides reports on other business relevant to the Board.

Recommendation

That the Board note the updates on:

- i. The Child Care Act
- ii. Charlie Taylor review of youth justice - interim report
- iii. Franco-British Cooperation on NEETs
- iv. Roundtable on Mandatory Reporting of Suspected Child Abuse
- v. Roundtable on Review of Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs)
- vi. Analysis of Ofsted Inspection Reports
- vii. Home Office Expert Panel on Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)
- viii. Media update

Action

LGA officers to action as necessary.

Contact officer: Ian Keating
Position: Principal Policy Adviser
Phone no: 020 7664 3032
Email: ian.keating@local.gov.uk

Other Business Report

Childcare Act

1. The Childcare Act received Royal Assent on 16 March. The Act sets out the framework and duties in relation to the implementation of the 30 hours free childcare extension for working parents. During the passage of the Bill the LGA successfully lobbied against excessive prescription for how local councils should secure flexibility and sufficiency. We are currently working closely with DfE and local authorities on the practical implementation of the extension. Key issues include ensuring a more effective approach to funding and incentivising providers, alongside the review of the EY funding formula; expanding wrap-around provision, and implementing a fair and effective eligibility regime, in particular for those families who move in and out of entitlement. More information can be found [here](#).

The Government also announced a number of Early Implementation pilots for the 30 hours extension. We are due to meet with DfE in the next couple of weeks to get more detail on the scope of the pilots and will update members as soon as more information is available. More information can be found [here](#).

Charlie Taylor review of youth justice - interim report

2. Charlie Taylor was commissioned by the Ministry of Justice in September 2015 to conduct a review of the youth justice system. The [review](#) is examining evidence on what works to prevent youth crime and rehabilitate young offenders, and how this is applied in practice; how the youth justice system can most effectively interact with wider services for children and young people; and whether the current delivery models and governance arrangements remain fit for purpose and achieve value for money.

Following meetings with a range of stakeholders, including the LGA, Charlie Taylor published an interim report in February 2016. The report made a range of interim proposals, including:

- 2.1 re-designing the youth estate so that it can cater for a smaller, but more challenging, group of children in custody;
 - 2.2 placing education at the centre of youth custody, by drawing on the culture of aspiration and discipline which is evident in the best alternative provision schools;
 - 2.3 replacing youth prisons with smaller secure schools which help children master the basics in English and maths as well as providing high quality vocational education in a more therapeutic environment;
 - 2.4 giving local areas greater say in the way children are managed by devolving responsibility, control and money from Whitehall.
3. The review is due to conclude in July 2016.

Franco-British Cooperation on NEETs

4. The Chair attended a meeting arranged by the Franco-British council in Paris to discuss differing approaches to training and supporting for those not in education, employment or training (NEETs) on 25 January. The discussion focussed on how the two countries

currently manage young people's transition from school into the labour market, how they might cooperate to improve outcomes, and how best practice could be shared going forward.

Roundtable on Mandatory Reporting of Suspected Child Abuse

5. The Chair attended a roundtable on mandatory reporting of suspected child abuse organised by Professor Michael Preston-Shoot, Executive Dean of the Faculty of Health and Social Sciences, Bedfordshire University on 22 February. The event was attended by academics and senior staff from relevant government agencies. Participants considered evidence from countries where mandatory reporting is already in operation; heard from advocates on both sides of the debate; and considered alternative solutions, such as a new duty to act.

Roundtable on Review of Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs)

6. Cllr Richard Watts and Cllr David Simmonds attended a multi-agency roundtable discussion about LSCB governance and accountabilities, hosted by the Association of Independent LSCB Chairs (AILC) on 13 January. The purpose of the discussion was to inform the various parties' responses to the ongoing review of the role and functions of LSCBs being undertaken by former Director of Children's Services Alan Wood on behalf of the Department for Education (DfE). The LGA submitted a corporate response to the formal consultation prior to the deadline of 22 February, and Cllr Watts attended a follow-up meeting to the initial roundtable event on 16 March. Alan Wood was due to issue his final report to Ministers on 31 March.

Analysis of Ofsted Inspection Reports

7. The Board commissioned a piece of work analysing the outcomes of all Ofsted Single Inspection Framework (SIF) inspections to date, alongside a textual analysis of the key judgments set out in the inspection reports. The [resulting research](#) highlights seven characteristics of an authority that is likely to be judged as good, which will help to inform local authorities' improvement work.

Home Office Expert Panel on Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

8. A report summarising the meeting of the Home Office Expert Panel on CSE and local delivery that the Chair attended in December has been shared with officials across Government, submitted to ministers, and presented to the cross-Government directors group on CSE.

Media update

9. Councils call for powers to provide all children with **secondary school places**. More information can be found [here](#). This story featured in: Good Morning Britain, Channel 4 News, Channel 5 News, BBC Radio 5 Live, BBC Breakfast, BBC News, BBC Radio 2, BBC Online, ITV Online, Telegraph, Guardian, Mirror, Mail Online, Sun Online, i paper.
10. Proposed changes to Ofsted inspections don't go far enough. More information can be found [here](#).

11. LGA responds to reports about plans to convert all schools to academy status. More information can be found [here](#).
12. LGA Responds to Education White Paper. More information can be found [here](#). This story featured in: BBC Question Time, BBC Radio 5 Live, BBC Online, BBC News, BBC One O'Clock News, Channel 5 News, Guardian, Mirror, FT, New Day, Mail Online, Independent, ITV Online, Sky News Online.
13. A letter from the leaders of all political groups at the LGA opposing forced academisation, published in The Observer, can be found [here](#). This story was reported in: The Observer, BBC Online, BBC Breakfast, BBC News, BBC Radio 2, 4, 5 Live, Times, Mirror, Sun, i paper, FT, Guardian, Independent, Independent Online.
14. 2,500 academies yet to sign up to healthy school meal standards. More information can be found [here](#). This story featured in: Mail Online, BBC Online.