

16 January 2017**Agenda Item: 09****REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND
CULTURAL SERVICES****NATIONAL CHILDREN AND ADULT SERVICES CONFERENCE 2016:
2 – 4 NOVEMBER 2016****Purpose of the Report**

1. To report back on Member and officer attendance at the National Children and Adult Services Conference, which took place in Manchester between 2nd and 4th November 2016.

Information and Advice**Background**

2. The County Council's representatives were Councillor John Peck, Chair of the Children and Young People's Committee; Councillor Muriel Weisz, Chair of the Adult Social Care and Health Committee; Colin Pettigrew, Corporate Director of Children, Families and Cultural Services; David Pearson, Corporate Director of Adult Social Care, Health and Public Protection; and Paul McKay, Service Director, Adult Social Care, Health and Public Protection.
3. The report is supported by reference to the speeches and presentations which are on the conference website, hosted by the Local Government Association (LGA).

Purpose/Aim of the Event

4. The National Children and Adult Services Conference is the major annual national conference for adults' and children's services. Organised by the Association of Directors of Social Services (ADASS), the Local Government Association (LGA) and the Association of Directors of Children's Services (ADCS), the National Children and Adult Services Conference considers issues in relation to social care, children's services, education, health and related fields.
5. The Conference is designed to provide an opportunity to further understand and get up-to-date information on proposals to deal with issues in adults' and children's services.
6. The programme included a mix of keynote and ministerial addresses, including government ministers, opposition spokespeople, the Schools Commissioner, Ofsted,

Care Quality Commission (CQC), NHS England and the Greater Manchester Health and Social Care Partnership. Major topics covered included: workforce issues, the educational progress of looked after children and a sub-plenary topic on supporting unaccompanied children.

Summary

7. The Conference opened on Wednesday 2nd November with speeches from ADCS president, Dave Hill; ADASS immediate past president, Ray James; and LGA Vice Chairman, Councillor Nick Forbes.
8. In his speech, Dave Hill touched on some of the challenges facing councils, including rising demand for children's social care and creating the conditions where successful social work can thrive with limited resources. The golden thread throughout his speech was the importance of meaningful, lasting relationships in improving outcomes for children, young people and their families.
9. Other themes included: doing better for children in care and care leavers, the importance of early help and prevention, and partnership working. He also praised local authorities for their commendable efforts in helping to support hundreds of unaccompanied children following the closure of the Calais camp.
10. On Wednesday afternoon, ISOS Partnership shared emerging findings from a new study they are undertaking on behalf of the LGA on models of support and intervention in children's services. Other topics included transition planning and how best to prepare children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) for adulthood; a session on grooming, controlling and coercive behaviour chaired by BBC Radio 4's Jane Garvey; and improving the mental health and wellbeing of children in care, care leavers and adopted children.
11. On Thursday, Debbie Barnes, chair of the Association's Educational Achievement Policy Committee, led a discussion on the development of a new data tool to measure the progress and attainment of children in care.
12. Later that day, the Secretary of State for Education, Justine Greening, and the Minister of State for Vulnerable Children and Families, Edward Timpson, addressed the conference. In her speech, Justine Greening highlighted the importance of stability in promoting children's longer-term outcomes and the crucial role of social workers in supporting vulnerable children and families. She announced eleven new teaching partnerships and the publication of the first evaluation reports from some of the innovation fund programmes. This was followed by a closed session on unaccompanied asylum seeking and refugee children.
13. The day ended with a series of evening fringe meetings.
14. A variety of sessions ran throughout the Friday morning, including Education Question Time, which looked at the ever-changing education system and delegates discussed the future role for councils in education. We also heard from the National Schools Commissioner, Sir David Carter, and there was an interesting session on innovation in children's social care, which highlighted creative practices being used

by local authorities in order to improve outcomes for children and young people. A session with Ofsted on what will replace the Single Inspection Framework brought the conference to a close.

15. Speeches and presentations from the event can be found on the conference website:

www.adass.org.uk/ncasc2016

Other Options Considered

16. The report is for noting only.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

17. The report is for noting only.

Statutory and Policy Implications

18. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (Public Health only), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults, service users, sustainability and the environment and ways of working and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1) That the report on Member and officer attendance at the National Children and Adult Services Conference, which took place in Manchester between 2nd and 4th November 2016, be noted.

Colin Pettigrew

Corporate Director, Children, Families and Cultural Services

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Constitutional Comments

19. As this report is for noting only, no Constitutional Comments are required.

Financial Comments (TMR 06/12/16)

20. There are no financial implications arising from this report.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

National Children and Adult Services Conference 2016 – report to Children and Young People’s Committee on 21 March 2016.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

C0915