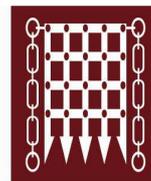


Westminster Education Forum Keynote Seminar: Key issues for children's services in England - new service models, managing financial pressures and next steps for inspections

Timing: Morning, Thursday, 16th November 2017

Venue: Sixty One Whitehall, London SW1A 2ET



**WESTMINSTER
EDUCATION
FORUM**

Agenda subject to change

- 8.30 - 9.00 Registration and coffee
- 9.00 - 9.05 **Chair's opening remarks**
Lord Ramsbotham
- 9.05 - 9.15 **Children's services: the policy context**
Dr Jo Finch, Reader in Social Work and Deputy Director, Centre for Social Work Research, University of East London
- 9.15 - 9.45 **The realities of providing children's services in the current environment and priorities going forward**
Councillor Richard Watts, Leader, Islington Council and Chair, Children and Young People Board, Local Government Association
Questions and comments from the floor with **Dr Jo Finch**, Reader in Social Work and Deputy Director, Centre for Social Work Research, University of East London
- 9.45 - 10.45 **Responding to funding pressures in children's services: best practice in innovation, early intervention, leadership and the use of data analytics**
In view of reports of a potential £2 billion funding gap in children's services by 2020 and concerns regarding increased dependence on unstable sources of funding, how can the Government address concerns about the impact on service provision for vulnerable children, particularly in terms of the future of early intervention services? With Ofsted's finding that strong leadership is vital for improvement in children's services, how can barriers to developing high-quality leadership, including a lack of professional development, be overcome? How can data - such as predictive analytics - be best used to support efficient and effective decision making by commissioners and front-line professionals, and what examples of best practice exist? Following the announcement of funding for a second wave of projects under the Children's Social Care Innovation Fund, what can be learnt from the first round of evaluations - such as in service integration and mobilising leadership at all levels - that could be translated into lessons for other contexts and what should be the policy priorities for the future of the programme?
Enver Solomon, Director of External Affairs, National Children's Bureau
Peter Hay, former Strategic Director for People, Birmingham City Council
Tom Symons, Principal Researcher, Nesta
Wajid Shafiq, Chief Executive Officer, Xantura
Pamela Dow, Chief Reform Officer, Catch 22
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.45 - 10.50 **Chair's closing remarks**
Lord Ramsbotham
- 10.50 - 11.15 Coffee
- 11.15 - 11.20 **Chair's opening remarks**
Julia Yong, Senior Policy Adviser, Local Authority Improvement and Change, Department for Education
- 11.20 - 11.40 **Priorities for inspecting children's services**
Lisa Pascoe, Deputy Director, Social Care Policy, Ofsted
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.40 - 12.30 **The future for service reform in children's social care: local authority improvement and new service models**
As the Government develops an improvement system for local authority children's services, what should be the priorities for reforming failing services in local authority control; how can support be individualised and targeted and best practice effectively shared between councils? Following concerns raised by the Education Select Committee in the last Parliament that the removal of children's services from local authority control is as yet unsupported by an evidence base, what has been the progress in areas where new models are being tested and what lessons can be learnt from their experiences? How can barriers to collaboration between local authorities in children's services, such as political differences, be overcome? In light of the development of Sustainability and Transformation Plans, what is the future of service integration in children's services and how might further integration be encouraged?
Tony Oakman, Deputy Chief Executive and Strategic Director for People, Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council
Miranda Gittos, Interim Director of Family Services, Westminster City Council
Abbie Rumbold, Partner and Head of Public Services & Mutuals and Health & Social Care, Bates Wells Braithwaite
Maria Godfrey, Early Intervention Manager, Oxfordshire County Council
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.30 - 12.55 **Policy priorities for improving children's social care services**
Emily Whitehead, Deputy Director, Local Authority Improvement and Change (Children's Social Care), Department for Education
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 - 13.00 **Chair's and Westminster Education Forum closing remarks**
Julia Yong, Senior Policy Adviser, Local Authority Improvement and Change, Department for Education
Donncha Coleman, Senior Researcher, Westminster Education Forum