**Westminster Education Forum Keynote Seminar: Reforms to the child protection system**
*Timing: Morning, Thursday, 10th May 2012*
*Venue: Sixty One Whitehall, London SW1A 2ET*

*Agenda subject to change*

8.30 - 9.00        Registration and coffee

9.00 - 9.05        **Chairman's opening remarks**
                   **Catherine McKinnell MP**, Shadow Minister for Children and Young Families

9.05 - 9.35        **Safeguarding children at risk - the Government's consultation**
                   **Fiona Harrow**, Deputy Director, Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy Division, Department for Education
                   Questions and comments from the floor

9.35 - 10.35       **The next steps for 'Working Together'**
                   *Perspectives on initial government proposals for the reform of the statutory guidance for child protection, 'Working Together to Safeguard Children', following the recommendations of the Munro Review to radically reduce the level of central prescription. Will the proposals achieve their aim of 'reducing bureaucracy' and increasing the amount of social workers time spent dealing with families face-to-face? What is the likely impact of reducing the level of detailed, central prescription, and what are the potential risks? Would a less detailed set of guidance affect confidence in dealing with safeguarding issues amongst groups working with children? Will the reduction in statutory requirements encourage local authorities and other organisations to innovate and create their own models of safeguarding best practice, as suggested by the Munro Review?*
                   **Owen Davies**, Special Policy Advisor, General Social Care Council
                   **Kate Smith**, Deputy Headteacher, Stratton Upper School, Bedfordshire
                   **Catherine Williams**, Child Protection Solicitor, Coram Children's Legal Centre
                   **Dr David N Jones**, Director and Consultant, People Need People Consulting and Independent Chair, Leicester Safeguarding Children Board
                   **Dr Minoo Irani**, Consultant Paediatrician, Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust
                   **Rory McCallum**, Head of Child and Adult Safeguarding, Devon County Council
                   Questions and comments from the floor

10.35 - 10.40      **Chairman's closing remarks**
                   **Catherine McKinnell MP**, Shadow Minister for Children and Young Families

10.40 - 11.10      Coffee

11.10 - 11.15      **Chairman's opening remarks**
                   **Earl of Listowel**, Vice-Chair, All-Party Parliamentary Group for Looked after Children and Care Leavers

11.15 - 11.45      **The quality of child protection services in England - an analysis of current performance and the new inspection framework**
                   **Jacky Tiotto**, Divisional Manager, Social Care Inspection Development, Ofsted
                   Questions and comments from the floor

11.45 - 12.25      **Assessing children in need - reforming the timescales for action**
                   *Perspectives on the proposed reform of the 'Framework for the Assessment of Children in Need and their Families' following the Munro Review's recommendation to remove initial and core assessments in favour of ongoing, case-by-case assessments. If the system proposed in the Munro Review were implemented, what accountability systems should be put in place to ensure assessments are still carried out to appropriate timescales? Would the reforms require greater entry requirements for trainee social workers, due to the increased reliance on professional judgment? What alternative model assessment frameworks could be considered?*
                   **Professor Corinne May-Chahal**, Professor of Applied Social Science, Lancaster University
                   **Helga Pile**, National Officer for Social Care, UNISON
                   **Temporary Detective Superintendent David Gray**, Head, Paedophile, Intelligence and Tasking, Child Abuse Investigation Command, Metropolitan Police
                   **Helen Dent**, Chief Executive, Family Action
                   Questions and comments from the floor

12.25 - 12.55      **The way forward for child protection**
                   **John Brownlow**, Head of Partnerships and Representation, NSPCC
                   Questions and comments from the floor

12.55 - 13.00      **Chairman's and Westminster Education Forum thanks and closing remarks**
                   **Earl of Listowel**, Vice-Chair, All-Party Parliamentary Group for Looked after Children and Care Leavers
                   **Sean Cudmore**, Senior Producer, Westminster Education Forum