



annual conference

ADCS The Association of Directors of Children's Services
The Midland Hotel Manchester July 2017

A country that works for all children

ADCS Annual Conference, Thursday 6 July 2017

ADCS
Leading Children's Services

A country that works for all children

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Children's Inter-Agency Group (CIAG)

Brings together public and voluntary sector leaders to drive reform and collaboration to improve children's services.

Chaired by the President of ADCS.

Background: Too many unmet needs

- Demand outstripping resource
- £2bn funding gap by 2020 (LGA)
- Pressure on child protection
- Cuts to non-statutory services
- Intervention getting later
- Future funding streams uncertain

What do all children need?

A country that works for all children

'let them enjoy their lives and make their own decisions, let them make their own mistakes so they can learn from them.'

'Supportive family that cares but gives you some freedom and trusts you.'





Physiological Needs



- **Air**
Air quality; Asthma; Allergies; pollution link to mental health?
- **Food**
Foodbanks; Eating disorders; Poor diets; Malnutrition; Vitamin deficient illnesses
- **Water**
- **Shelter**
Homelessness; Unfit living conditions; Overcrowding
- **Warmth & Clothing**
- **Sleep**



- **Health**
NHS crisis, including Paeds Unit closures; Rising CAMHS needs
- **Employment**
Insecure and part time jobs; low pay; zero hours contracts; multiple job households – impact on
- **Family**
Stresses of [un]employment, poverty, ‘Just About Managing’ – family time. Childcare – costs, logistics, flexibility
- **Home**
Does home feel safe, peaceful, fun – a ‘haven’, not just a house?
- **Stability**
[un]Affordable housing; social housing shortages; short term tenancies; lack of private rental protections; moving homes moving schools, continuity of professional contacts? (teacher, GP, SW?)



- **Friendships**
- **Family relationships**
- **Intimacy**
- **Sense of connections**

Quality of life and love - relationships

Rising 'loneliness', even among young

Changing 'era' of friendship and connection 'online'

What are our 'collective / community' ties, events and rituals, and are children included in them?

Is where you live a community or a [poor / emerging / up and coming] property market?



- **Confidence**

Concern over rising levels of youth anxiety, insecurity, body image and career worries

- **Achievements**

SATs, testing, ranking, competing over academic 'achievement' – but what of *every* child's need for a sense of achievement?

- **Respect for, and from, others**

Do children and young people get a voice, hearing, and respect for their views and contributions?

- **Sense of Individuality**

'Batch' based services and programme models? – move towards more personalised...



- **Morality**

Are cyp encouraged to learn and explore right and wrong, reasons for rules and boundaries? Do they have good role models in family, community and professionals?

- **Creativity & Spontaneity**

Do we value and empower children and young people making things, making a difference, acting on their ideas?

- **Experience and Explore purpose, meaning and potential**

Do children and young people have diverse career and life paths open to them?

Is your area working for all children?



Everything – from your housing and environment teams, to local commercial employers, the whole health service, police and civil society - are what it takes to make a country and a locality that works for all children!

Do they all have a sense of how they do / could contribute to children's development?

Starting from the bottom of the pyramid upwards, what are the particular conditions, benefits and challenges for children growing up in your region / town / community?

How could this inform 'whole place' strategies and priorities that would help make our society work better for all children?

Key barriers

- Structural
- Cultural
- Environmental

What's in your control?

Dragon's Den Challenge



How would you spend the £2bn?

What's on the horizon?

- New minister
- Section 17 review
- Changes to funding
- Brexit!
- APPG inquiry
- Keeping children's needs on the agenda

Thank you

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Have you considered joining an ADCS Policy Committee?

Visit www.adcs.org.uk/committees for further details or email info@adcs.org.uk

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