



Title: **Needs & Redistribution Technical Working Group**

Paper: NR TWG 18-12: Progress update on the Children's services research project

Date: 18 May 2018

Venue: MHCLG, 2 Marsham Street, London

POLICY DEVELOPMENT: NOT A STATEMENT OF GOVERNMENT POLICY

1. At the previous Technical Working Group LG Futures attended to present the two options for taking forward the Children's Services multi-level model. These were the Person-Based Resource Allocation (PBRA) or the Area-Based Approach. Our preferred approach is PBRA. This approach (as well as an Area-Based Approach), is likely to involve extensive matching of existing datasets with some data collection from a sample of local authorities.
2. Much work has been done in the time since the last meeting to secure access to the large (and sensitive) datasets – primarily the National Pupil Database and datasets on access of social care services – which are needed for this research. We now have our access to these datasets signed off from the relevant Board. This means we can begin to test the feasibility of the approach including identifying potential data gaps. Once these have been identified, we can allow contractors to begin data collection.
3. LG Futures plan to pilot the likely data collection requirements with a smaller group of five pilot LAs initially, in order to assess the feasibility of any data requests and identify the most efficient way of collecting the relevant data. No new data collection will be required by local authorities as any data required will already be held. Pilot interviews will involve a more in-depth discussion with these five authorities to discuss what data we require, availability and if so how we can best help authorities to provide this.
4. Many thanks to all of those who have volunteered to provide data for the data collection phase, we have selected five pilot authorities to represent different classes of authority and different regions. LG Futures will be in touch very shortly to

discuss in more detail what will be required and confirm that LAs are still content to take part.

5. For the main data collection we are hoping to collect data from 40-50 authorities. An email will be sent to all Directors of Children's Services and Finance Directors in the coming weeks with further information on the timings and what the data collection will involve. Please do contact LG Futures when you receive the invitation email if your authority would be willing to provide data as part of this process. We will provide a further update on progress in advance of the next Technical Working Group.