

1st February 2010

Responding to the interim report of the Munro review into child protection, Marion Davis, President of ADCS said:

“Professor Munro’s report is comprehensive and consistent in its description of the ideal child protection system and the steps required to move from the current system to one with learning and professional judgment at the heart. There is clearly some more development work to be done on specific recommendations but the direction of travel should be warmly welcomed by all those involved in child protection – social workers, managers partner agencies and of course children and their families. Reforms to the workforce, including management and supervision, will require time, resource and strong leadership to implement. Directors of Children’s Services are committed to sustained sector-led improvement, building on the experiences of and innovations in local authorities and on lessons drawn from the reformed inspection and serious case review processes, as we all develop the systems required to support these important changes.

“We are particularly pleased to hear the role of universal services, such as schools and health services, reiterated in such clear terms, since the message that child protection is everybody’s business risks getting lost in the fast paced reform of wider public services and reform to inspection must ensure that all partners are inspected on their contribution to keeping children safe. Professor Munro notes the risks associated with changes to the health and education system - this underlines the importance of clear lines of accountability across all services for children and young people and we welcome the statement of the importance of the role of the Director of Children’s Services in achieving this”

Notes to editor:

- 1) The Association of Directors of Children’s Services (ADCS) is the professional leadership organisation for Directors of Children’s Services and their senior management teams.
- 2) Marion Davis is the ADCS representative on the Munro Review Expert panel.