

10<sup>th</sup> May 2011

**Responding to the publication of the final report of the Munro Review – “A child centred system”, Matt Dunkley, President of ADCS said:**

“Local authorities feature strongly in Professor Munro's recommendations, and Directors of Children's Services will welcome the emphasis on partnership working and on early help and intervention in providing better and more appropriate services to vulnerable children and their families. The report proposes substantial and long term changes to the way that social work is provided for children and families and it will take substantial time and resource to get this right.

“We strongly support the primarily local focus in shaping the future delivery of such services, but it is important to note that Professor Munro makes recommendations for the whole system, including central government, and it will be important that the recommendations are implemented in their entirety. This is necessary to produce a culture of learning, rather than blame; an environment supportive of professional judgment rather than prescriptive guidance and sufficient investment in the long term development of social work and social workers to build a strong and confident workforce. Some recommendations, such as those relating to serious case reviews, could be implemented immediately and we urge government to act quickly where this is possible.

“It is right that providing early help can reduce the need for child protection interventions that are more complex and more expensive, but this is over a long period, at a time when referrals to children's social care continue to rise and funding for early intervention has been reduced. If local authorities and their partners are to invest in early help, in developing the workforce and in developing a broader vision for providing help to children and families, central government will need to provide additional funding to make this possible.”

ENDS

**Notes to Editors**

- 1) The Association of Directors of Children's Services (ADCS) is the professional leadership association for Directors of Children's Services in local authorities and their senior management teams.