



## Local Government Reform (LGR)



Question	What do you see the impact of local government reform to be on this work?
Answer	<p>This is an important question but difficult to answer as even the recently published Impact Assessments from Government do not reveal anything on this matter. However, the reforms do not necessarily represent a change to what can happen when a region collaborates. It will still be local authorities acting together for the best interests of children.</p> <p>If the reforms brought about greater standardisation and policy alignment, that could hugely assist and support arrangements across the country, including the ERCC. In addition, if the changes bring integration of health and Children's Services (care and education), that may enable the ERCC along with all local authority working to be more cohesive and multidisciplinary. However, there is much to be done to achieve the reduction of bureaucracy, which delays decision making and generally makes it harder to deploy services effectively. Some individual LAs may not support some of the changes.</p> <p>At this stage of development, there are many views of the, as yet to be further defined, proposals and the ERCC, the 2 pathfinder sites and reform are operating within an explorative phase. With any change of this nature, there will be both some real opportunities for local authorities but there is also a risk of reinventing ourselves into a less flexible and overly bureaucratic system of care. To help mitigate the latter and capitalise on the former, we need to communicate clearly and collaboratively to both bring people along the journey and ensure that best practice is our guiding star.</p>