



## 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>

Question	Why is there no focus on LGR and that 3 of the largest LAs will no longer exist by 2028 as a result of local government reform?
Answer	<p>All LAs will be working hard on this internally to establish the model and implementation strategy. However, there are a lot of unknowns currently so it is difficult to really understand what the regional impacts will be. What we do know is that the need prior to LGR will almost be the same post LGR, so whilst LGR will reconfigure councils at a higher level the services will still need to operate and deliver. The work Commission East is undertaking is how we better deliver those services as a region, not how those services are governed locally. One impact for Commission East is that post LGR there may councils to engage to with, which may make decision making more complicated or more straightforward.</p>