

# SSRG Welcomes the New Association of Directors of Children's Services (ADCS)

On 5th February 2007 the Association of Directors of Children's Services (ADCS) was formally launched, bringing together Confed and the children's element of the Association of Directors of Social Services (ADSS).



John Coughlan

## Purpose

The purpose of ADCS is to provide a national leadership organisation in England for Directors of Children's Services (DCSs) appointed under the provisions of the Children Act 2004. The Association will provide a national voice as a champion for children with local and central government and with the public. Within local government ADCS is the professional contact point on children's services issues with central government.

## How it will make a difference?

ADCS will be the single association working with the leadership role for local authority children's

services. For the first time, the new Association will enable statutory DCSs (and children's services leaders at 2nd and 3rd tier) to come together with a strong common voice, both nationally through the ADCS and locally through the regional branch structure of ADCS and will provide a single focus for national and local government, the public, media and leaders of other national statutory and voluntary organisations on the leadership of LA children's services as we all work together to improve outcomes for all children and young people.

## Origins

Since the tragic death of Victoria Climbié, both ADSS and Confed, along with key voluntary organisations and children's charities, have worked together on the influential Children's Inter-Agency Group. In recognition of the creation of the new statutory post of DCS, created by the Children Act 2004, ADSS and Confed established joint membership arrangements for DCSs.

ADSS and Confed had in the past dealt with

social care and education functions respectively. However, in April 2006, the elected officers of Confed and ADSS agreed, through what became known as the Hinckley Accord, that a new single professional association should be created to represent DCSs and other senior leaders in local government children's services. A ballot of all members in both associations soon followed, the result of which was overwhelming support for the creation of the new association ADCS.

## ADCS Policy Committees:

There are seven Policy Committees. Please see the ADCS website for more information, including details of the Chair of each Committee.

1. *Educational Achievement* – has lead responsibility for 'Enjoying and Achieving' and covers all aspects of education achievement from pre-school to adult and continuing education. The Committee will lead on work with the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority.