

Summary of Improvement Activity

1. This progress report draws together a summary of significant improvement activity led by other LGA Board's since this was last reported in January:

City Regions and People and Places Boards

2. The LGA's work on devolution is led by the City Regions and People and Places Boards. Under their direction, the LGA has sought to support councils with their devolution ambitions, with activity primarily focussing on: negotiating deals, moving from a deal to implementation and sharing knowledge and best practice. Recent activity has included:

2.1. Continuing to add to the suite of publications and online tools related to devolution:

2.1.1. A workshop in support of the launch of an LGA commissioned ESPRESSO (Estimated and Simplified Public Revenue and Expenditure Standardised Statistical Output) tool by New Economy, which allows local authorities to develop an understanding of total tax and spend within a given area in support of devolution and public service reform initiatives.

2.1.2. The publication of a guide – *Don't be left in the Dark, Devolution and Mayors* – to support councils and the public in advance of mayoral elections this May in six devolution deal areas.

2.2. Working with Universities UK and the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) to:

2.2.1. Take forward the pilot phase of the Leading Places project, which aims to strengthen and develop place-based collaborative leadership between the local government and higher education sectors, in advance of a national conclusion event on 28 March.

2.2.2. Supporting the launch of a new leadership development programme called the Local Growth Academy aimed at building the operational capacity of anchor institutions to support inclusive growth and place-based leadership.

2.3. Continuing to develop and deliver our bespoke support offer to areas looking to secure and advance local devolution, including: leadership support, overview and scrutiny support, policy development, communications and negotiations with Whitehall.

Community Wellbeing Board

Care and Health Improvement Programme (CHIP)

3. The maturing collaboration with NHS Clinical Commissioners on Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) leadership support included the year's final HWB Chairs and Vice Chairs Leadership Essentials on 24 and 25 January co-facilitated by Cllr Jennifer Mein, Leader

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of Lancashire County Council, and Dr Graham Jackson, Chair of NHS Clinical Commissioners. The Annual Chairs and Vice chairs summit on 22 March is due to attract over 50 councillor HWB Chairs and GP Vice Chairs, co-chaired by Cllr Jonathan McShane and Dr Graham Jackson. The theme is “Local Leadership, Local Solutions” with a blend of national and local speakers, workshops and a panel session with contributions from the Department of Health, Think Local Act Personal, the Association of Directors of Public Health, London Councils, acute providers, Salford City and Nottinghamshire. The annual state of the nation research on health and wellbeing system leadership will also be launched. This research, which we commission Shared Intelligence to undertake, is unique in being the only longitudinal study of HWBs.

4. This quarter we have supported HWB/system development and Chairs in: Ealing, Hammersmith and Fulham, Bexley, Stoke, York, Gloucestershire and Bracknell Forest. A growing trend is HWB cluster working and we delivered a highly successful event in Cheshire and Wirral for three HWBs attracting 45 attendees led by Cllr Ruth Dombey. In total this year 29 individual HWBs have received tailored support plus three clusters and including three district based boards.
5. The “Prevention Matters” workshop for all elected members, has been phenomenally well received and 30 have been delivered in the last two quarters, eg for 60 members in Trafford, with 14 expressions of interest for the new financial year when CHIP funding for a Prevention stream is agreed. Prevention Matters has been delivered to clusters of councils, districts, upper tier councils and joint sessions by a trained member peer and public health specialist. This workshop has widened the programme’s reach.
6. We piloted the new approach System Wide Care and Health Peer Challenge with Kirklees and jointly with Coventry and Warwickshire. We are undertaking an evaluation exercise and engaging with NHS partners to build their support for the peer challenge so that it has real traction with the system.
7. Facilitated integration workshops enable local health and wellbeing system leaders to identify their ambitions, capacity, capability and commitment to make meaningful progress to achieving a fully integrated local health and care system, and enable them to identify where they are now and what more they need to do to escalate the scale and pace of integration. The rollout of these workshops has included sessions in: Milton Keynes, Barking and Dagenham, Bromley, Luton, Herefordshire and Northamptonshire bringing the total so far to 18 and with 16 expressions of interest for the next quarter including four clusters. The credibility and experience of the facilitator is paramount in the effectiveness of this offer and we have built up an excellent cadre of NHS and Local Government peers and associates to deliver.

Children and Young People Board

8. The third and final children’s Leadership Essentials course took place in January. A total of 48 members attended the three courses held between September 2016 and January 2017, and planning will soon begin on the next round of courses, due to commence in September this year.
9. The LGA/Association of Directors of Children’s Services/Solace Children’s Improvement Board, met on 24 January, where discussions focussed on developing a sector response

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to the National Audit Office 'children in need of help or protection' report and the effectiveness of the Department for Education's 'Partners in Practice' programme. The Board also received a presentation from the Isos partnership on an LGA-commissioned project looking at the role of different delivery models in driving improvement in children's services.

Culture, Tourism and Sport (CTS) Board

10. Culture peer challenges were completed during January and February in Cheshire West and Chester, Sutton, Reading and Carlisle councils.
11. Leadership Essentials in Sport events were delivered in July and November 2016.
12. Leadership Essentials Culture events were delivered in November and December 2016. There are no further such events planned up to March 2017.

Environment, Economy, Housing and Transport (EEHT) Board

13. The South East housing improvement event was held on 27 January. This very successful event focused on building homes and funding associated infrastructure. The event attracted 90 attendees including councillors and council officers. The Keynote speech was given by
14. Lord Bob Kerslake, President, Local Government Association. The event was an opportunity for councils to share experiences and showcase good practice.
15. A buses conference, 'The Road Ahead for Buses' was held at Layden House on 15 February. Attended by councillors and officers, the event brought together government, councils and the private sector to discuss the future of the sector in the context of the Buses Bill. The Feedback from the event has been very positive.

Safer and Stronger Communities Board

Countering extremism – new Leadership Essentials course

16. We will be holding this at the end of February to explore councils' role in countering extremism. The programme covers understanding extremism, assessing risks, distinctions with delivering the Prevent duty, effective approaches to tackling extremism, scrutiny of local strategies and how to challenge extremist ideologies. The course will encourage members to discuss some of the key issues for councils around this agenda, and provide opportunities to share good practice with members in similar roles.

Taxi licensing

17. We held the last in a series of successful events for councils on taxi licensing in February 2017. The event in Preston was attended by forty Members and officers and provided support to councils around oversight and scrutiny of licensing, the role of the licensing committee, as well as sharing best practice and tackling specialist issues like the role of licensing in preventing child sexual exploitation and supporting disabled access.

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18. We also held our annual LGA licensing conference at the start of February. Over eighty delegates heard from a range of expert speakers about the future of the Licensing Act 2003, using health data in licensing, taxi licensing (in particular accessibility and safeguarding) and managing the night time economy. Afternoon workshops focused on the use of risk assessments and local area profiles which was led by the Gambling Commission, the digitalisation of licensing, and the role of the member on licensing committees.

Fire reform - Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)

19. LGA policy and workforce teams have driven forward the creation of a MoU on equality, diversity, behaviours and organisational culture in the fire service. The MoU commits its signatories to demonstrably uphold and promote the principles it sets out, deliver the commitments within it and take the specific actions it contains within the timetable agreed. In particular the MoU states that the fire and rescue service as a whole should reflect the diversity of the communities it serves. The employment of specific groups within the service, such as firefighting personnel should also meet this requirement. A more diverse workforce is needed at all levels up to and including senior managers.

20. The LGA is one of a number of signatories to the final document who also include:

- 20.1. Asian Fire Service Association
- 20.2. Association of Principle Fire Officers
- 20.3. Chief Fire Officers Association/National Fire Chiefs Council
- 20.4. Fire Brigades Union
- 20.5. Fire Officers' Association
- 20.6. GMB Union
- 20.7. Quiltbag
- 20.8. Retained Firefighters Union
- 20.9. Stonewall
- 20.10. Unison
- 20.11. Women In The Fire Service.

Fire reform - "An inclusive service: the 21st century fire and rescue service"

21. At the LGA's Annual Fire Conference and Exhibition, taking place on 7-8 March in Gateshead, the LGA is launching this new publication to support the fire and rescue service to improve its equality, diversity and inclusion. It includes contributions from a number of organisations as well as case studies and questions for members.

Resources Board

Workforce

22. The Come Back to Social Work pilot has now concluded resulting in 20 people being retrained and ready to re-enter the profession. Councils have been very supportive of the Campaign and we are confident all 20 will soon be offered employment within the sector. The success of the pilot means we are now in discussions with the Department for Education and the Department of Health about running the campaign again on a national basis, providing retraining opportunities for potentially up to 100 former social workers.