

10 January 2018

Vision for Youth Services

Purpose of report

For discussion and noting.

Summary

The LGA has developed a Vision for Youth Services in order to set its aspirations for youth services, support lobbying of government, and guide future work in this area. This is attached at **Appendix A** and was formally launched at the Youth Services Conference on Wednesday 6 December 2017.

Recommendation

That the Children and Young People Board note the report.

Action

Officers to take any action arising from discussion of the report.

Contact officer: Louise Smith
Position: Adviser
Phone no: 020 7664 3163
E-mail: louise.smith@local.gov.uk

Vision for Youth Services

1. At its meeting on 23 March 2017, the Board also approved a roundtable meeting with partners to support the development of LGA policy around youth services. In light of changes both to local authority funding and the needs and experiences of young people, it was considered an appropriate time for the LGA to look at how councils could best deliver their duties towards young people, and how it could support them to do so.
2. A roundtable was held on 16 August 2017, with feedback from this forming the basis of a vision for youth services. The vision outlines the LGA's aspirations for youth services in order to help shape support to local authorities, and to help make the case for additional government funding for youth services. It also provides a starting point for local discussions by outlining six principles for effective youth services, and key areas for consideration.
3. The vision was developed in consultation with national partners, regional youth work groups, councils and lead members. We have also held discussions with both the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, and the Department for Education.
4. The document includes a range of recommendations for action by the Government and the National Citizen Service Trust, along with our offer of support to councils, which will guide our future work in this area.
5. Since its launch, the Vision document has been well received by the sector. For example, Leigh Middleton, CEO of the National Youth Agency commented "I'd like to congratulate the LGA on showing essential leadership on this often overlooked area"¹, and the Partnership for Young London stated that it was "a really positive long-term vision for youth services and provision [and] a great step towards a more asset-based approach towards youth service provision."²

Implications for Wales

6. As Children's Services are devolved there are no implications for Wales arising.
7. A representative of the Welsh Local Government Association spoke at the Youth Services Conference on 6 December 2017 to support the link between services in both countries, and officers are continuing discussions with WLGA counterparts on this.

Financial Implications

8. None.

Next Steps

9. Members are asked to note the Vision for Youth Services.

¹ <http://www.nya.org.uk/2017/12/nya-responds-lga-vision-youth-services/>

² <http://www.partnershipforyounglondon.org.uk/blog/response-to-lgas-bright-futures-youth-strategy/>