

10 September 2018

CYP Board Policy Priorities for 2018-2019

Purpose

For discussion and direction.

Summary

This paper sets out proposals for the Children and Young People Board's priorities and work programme for 2018-19. Subject to the Board's views, officers will develop a work programme to deliver these priorities.

Recommendation

Members are asked to discuss and agree the Board's priorities and work programme for 2018-19.

Action

Officers to take action as directed by members.

Contact Officer: Ian Keating
Position: Principal Policy Adviser
Telephone No: 0207 664 3032
Email: ian.keating@local.gov.uk

CYP Board Policy Priorities for 2018-2019

Background

LGA Boards are asked to consider their priorities for the coming year at their first meeting of the new cycle. Set out below are a list of priorities for discussion, based on the priorities identified last year, and adapted to reflect work that has been completed, recent developments in Government policy and issues raised by member councils.

Children's social care

1. Continue to work with partners across the public and voluntary sector on the LGA's Bright Futures campaign, urging government to act quickly to close the significant children's services funding gap and ensure that councils can continue to provide essential services for vulnerable children and families.
2. Further build the evidence base around the impact of early help for children and families, working with partners such as the Early Intervention Foundation and undertaking research into current and emerging practice in the design and delivery of local early help offers.

Early Years

3. Continue to highlight its concerns around the funding available for the Government's 30 hours free childcare policy.
4. Work to ensure councils receive an appropriate funding solution for maintained nursery schools to ensure their ongoing viability.

Children's services improvement

5. Work with the Department for Education, ADCS and Solace to develop a new, funded system of improvement support that will provide timely and effective support to councils before they are rated as *inadequate* by Ofsted.

The Council role in education and school improvement

6. Lobby the Government to ensure that councils have sufficient powers to meet their remaining duties on education, specifically around powers to direct academies to expand to meet rising demand, powers to direct academies to admit vulnerable pupils and; giving councils a lead role in deciding where new free schools should be sited. Councils with a strong track record in school improvement should also be allowed to create their own Multi-Academy Trusts and maintained schools should be allowed to help failing academies without having to convert to become academies themselves.

SEND

7. Lobby the Government to undertake a fundamental review of High Needs funding arrangements to ensure councils are sufficiently resourced to meet their statutory duties to children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.

School funding

8. Lobby the Government to continue to allow a degree of local flexibility as part of the National Funding Formula for schools and also call for the creation of single, locally held schools capital funding pot to allow for available resources to be used as efficiently as possible.

Unaccompanied asylum seeking children

9. Continue to push for clearer alignment between and sustainable levels of funding for all the programmes that resettle asylum seekers and refugees to minimise the pressures on local authorities, local communities and vulnerable individuals.

Children and young people's mental health and wellbeing (activities sit across both this Board and the Community Wellbeing Board)

10. Work with partners at national and local level to promote health and wellbeing boards in ensuring local accountability for the spend on CYP mental health and wellbeing services.
11. Work with partners at national and local level to embed the role of health and wellbeing boards specifically their oversight role for the delivery of Local Transformation Plans and the implementation of the Government's Green Paper
12. Continue to highlight our concerns as articulated in the LGA Bright Future CAMHS campaign.
13. Continue to input into the ongoing implementation of the Green Paper – transforming children and young people's mental health provision.
14. Continue to support councils to ensure that early intervention and prevention CYP mental health services are adequately funded and their role in providing these services are recognised.
15. Continue to address the gaps within the Green Paper and the potential gaps in the NHS long term plan such as focusing on improving transitions and the 16-25 cohort.

Financial implications

16. The priorities will be delivered within existing resources.