

**Item 2**

**Youth Policy and NYA Improvement Support**

**Purpose of report**

For information.

**Summary**

This report provides members with an update on the work of the National Youth Agency. Fiona Blacke, Chief Executive of the NYA will be attending the meeting to discuss their work.

**Recommendation(s)**

That the Board notes the report.

**Action**

LG Group officers to action as necessary.

**Contact officer:**

David Pye

**Position:**

Lead Analyst LGAAR: Professional Services

**Phone no:**

020 7664 3267

**E-mail:**

[david.pye@local.gov.uk](mailto:david.pye@local.gov.uk)

## **Youth Policy and NYA Improvement Support**

### **Background**

1. The National Youth Agency (NYA), as part of its work commissioned by the Local Government Group, has launched a new programme to support local authority young people's services. *Routes to Success – Supporting the Change Journey for Young People's Services* is a free package of materials and opportunities for senior local authority youth work managers, commissioners and members, which has been developed by the NYA.
2. The package provided by *Routes to Success* has been created by building on the success of five pilots, held in Sheffield, Leeds, Gateshead, Shropshire and Croydon. Each area has supported the development of this offer through sharing the challenges, knowledge and learning each of them gained through this work.
3. NYA's current work plan for the coming year is attached as **Appendix A**.

### **Routes to Success programme**

4. The activity from the NYA, since their last report to the Board on the *Routes to Success* programme, includes:

#### Strand 1: Foundation Strand

5. Their 'Supporting Services for Young People' Community of Practice now has approximately 120 members representing close to 60 local authorities and councils. On 1 September 2011, Peter Mucklow Deputy Director Young People's Division (Department for Education), will be hosting a 'hot seat' on the Government's forthcoming youth strategy paper. They have also produced and distributed the first of our 'new look' Edge magazine.

#### Strand 2: Tailored Support

6. They have now agreed to offer a package of tailored consultancy to 12 further local authorities (bringing the total number of local authorities benefitting from our offer to 19). They have extended their original offer of tailored support (within existing overall budget) to 21 councils. This means that there will be a final round of applications in October. The 12 local authorities benefitting in this latest round of consultancy will be: Barnet, Bolton, Bournemouth, Brent, Cumbria, Haringey, Islington, Leicester, Medway, Oxfordshire, Peterborough and Suffolk.

**Item 2**

Strand 3: Emerging themes and development

7. The NYA ran a successful commissioning master class in June based around their new draft guidance and the toolkits that they have produced. The resources have been produced with the involvement of four local authorities – Tower Hamlets, Sefton, Southwark and Nottinghamshire. They have also agreed to work with Cumbria, Liverpool, Bolton and NE Lincolnshire on the NYA's Peer to Peer Assessment Programme.

Strand 4: Policy and Advocacy

8. Group membership for the overarching Routes to Success Support and Challenge Group has now been finalised – membership includes four local authorities, Ofsted, Confederation of Heads of Young People's Services and the DfE. The first meeting will be in September.

**Conclusion and next steps**

9. The NYA will continue to work with the LG Group to ensure that councils are fully supported.

**Financial Implications**

10. There are no financial implications from this report.