

Business Plan Priorities 2012/13

Purpose of report

For review and direction.

Summary

1. Work has begun on the LGA's Business Plan for 2012/13. As part of this, each of the Programme Boards is asked to identify the headline priorities for their areas of work for next year in the light of the LGA's overall direction of travel.
2. An outline business plan, attached as **Appendix A** to this paper, was presented for initial review at the January meeting of the Executive. This has been developed in discussions at Leadership Board and through the political group offices. This work has informed the statement of our vision for local government and, given this, initial proposals as to where the LGA can have most impact.
3. Through this work, six priorities have emerged as the focus for the LGA's work in 2012/13:
 - 3.1 public service reform;
 - 3.2 growth and prosperity;
 - 3.3 funding for local government;
 - 3.4 efficiency and productivity;
 - 3.5 sector-led improvement;
 - 3.6 the LGA's own effectiveness and efficiency.
4. Heads of Programmes have provided the known priorities for their area in the light of the Board issues identified by Members in September 2011. For the Children and Young People Board, these were:
 - 4.1 council role in education;
 - 4.2 children's health;
 - 4.3 implementation of the Munro review;
 - 4.4 sector led improvement;
 - 4.5 reducing youth offending;
5. At the time Members agreed that these were the biggest children and young people issues facing councils, but the Board continues to oversee work across

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its remit. In addition, the Children and Young People Board oversees the top-slice funded programmes delivered through the National Youth Agency and the National Foundation for Educational Research.

6. Boards are asked to review these business plan priorities for 2012/13. The draft business plan currently identifies the following priorities for children and young people:
 - 6.1. Supporting councils in their role in education with the expansion of academies and free schools to ensure councils can ensure a fair system for all. This could include:
 - 6.1.1. the DfE/LGA funded action research on the changing role of councils in education;
 - 6.1.2. LLDD/Special Educational Needs/Alternative Provision;
 - 6.1.3. education improvement support to councils;
 - 6.1.4. Raising the Participation Age/Careers guidance/employment.
 - 6.2. Lobbying for fair funding for all schools and arguing the case for councils to be the mediating layer between central government and schools. This could include:
 - 6.2.1. schools capital and the implementation of the James review;
 - 6.2.2. revenue funding and the new national funding formula for schools;
 - 6.2.3. pupil premium;
 - 6.2.4. Education Funding Agency.
 - 6.3. Responding positively to the anticipated White/Green paper on the care system, supporting councils to share best practice. This could include:
 - 6.3.1. implementation of the Munro review;
 - 6.3.2. implementation of the Family Justice Review;
 - 6.3.3. identifying ways to reduce delays;
 - 6.3.4. the role of corporate parents.
 - 6.4. An improvement programme for children's services. This could include:
 - 6.4.1. the Children's Improvement Board programme;
 - 6.4.2. supporting councils with community budgets;
 - 6.4.3. safeguarding peer reviews;
 - 6.4.4. lead Member development.
 - 6.5. Supporting councils in the transfer of public health to local government. This would be led by the Community Wellbeing Board but would include

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children's health which is a shared priority with the Children and Young People Board.

Recommendation

To provide a steer on priorities for Children and Young People services for 2012/13 in the light of the direction of travel for local government and the LGA presented in the outline business plan.

Action

To feedback the Board discussion to Leadership Board, to inform the final business plan which is due to be signed off by the LGA Executive in March.

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