

Children and Young People's Health work programme

Purpose of report

To provide an update on the work programme and the priorities for the year ahead to inform the Board's discussion.

Summary

The report outlines the direction for the future work of the LGA's Children and Young People's Health Programme.

Recommendation

Members are asked to discuss the priorities and identify any additional issues.

Action

LGA staff to action as necessary.

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Background

1. Children's health services have traditionally received a 'disproportionately low priority' with international comparisons of outcomes suggesting that the NHS in England does not do as well as it should for children and young people¹. The Health and Social Care Act 2012 offers an opportunity for children and young people's health services to be prioritised in the new public health system.
2. Children's health is an agreed Board priority for the Children and Young People Board. The work is overseen and co-ordinated jointly by the Children and Young People Board and Community Wellbeing Board.
3. Over the past year the LGA has worked with Government, the health sector and local government during the transition phase to ensure councils and health bodies understand their statutory duties and responsibilities.
4. The first phase of the children and young people's health support offer was delivered to councils in 2011-12. This included a conference on reducing health inequalities for children and young people, a toolkit for Health and Wellbeing Boards, a report on Children's Trusts and how they are working with emerging health structures and updating LGA products to ensure they reflect the health reforms.
5. The second phase of the support offer to councils has been agreed jointly by the Board's office holders, delivery is scheduled for August 2012 – April 2013.
6. We are working with partners and the Government to raise the profile of children's health issues, in particular we are engaging with the Department of Health and Department for Education on the health reforms and safeguarding issues. We have also submitted our views to the Children and Young People's Health Outcomes Forum to contribute to the development of the forthcoming Children and Young People's Health Outcomes Strategy.

Priorities for the year ahead

7. The priorities for the LGA that we believe will help to improve children and young people's health outcomes and prioritise children's health services in the new health system are:
 - 7.1. **Safeguarding:** Greater clarity is needed on how safeguarding arrangements will function in the new health system; there is a danger that safeguarding functions

¹ Getting it right for children and young people, Kennedy Review, September 2010:
http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/@dh/@en/@ps/documents/digitalasset/dh_119446.pdf

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will be lost during the transitional phase. In particular we are concerned about the delay in the publication of the Safeguarding Accountability Framework; Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs), the NHS Commissioning Board and the wider system need to fully understand their role and responsibilities for safeguarding children and young people. The delay in the framework has implications for CCGs' authorisation process.

- 7.2. **Children and Young People's Health Outcomes Strategy:** The Government is due to announce its response to the Children and Young People's Health Outcomes Forum's report in September. This will include a new children and young people's health strategy. The LGA will seek to ensure the strategy optimises the impact that local government can make, and will help local authorities to understand how the strategy will affect them.
- 7.3. **Commissioning:** Transitional arrangements need to be in place to ensure a safe transfer of commissioning responsibilities for 0-5 year olds from the NHS Commissioning Board to local authorities in 2015. Local authorities will need to understand the arrangements and be prepared for the transfer.
- 7.4. **Transition:** A local public health system is being established in which all local partners will be an integral part of delivering health improvements to the local community. This is an opportunity for partners to take children and young people's health and wellbeing needs into account when designing the new local public health system.

Outline of scheduled work

8. The second phase of the support offer for councils has been scheduled for delivery in 2012-13. It includes:
 - 8.1. A series of public health conferences scheduled for Nov – March to assist Health and Wellbeing Boards to reduce health inequalities for children, young people and adults. The themes will focus on local authorities' public health responsibilities for obesity, mental health, tobacco, drugs treatment services and sexual health services including teenage pregnancy. The conferences will be accompanied by a toolkit for local authorities and partners; identifying key success factors and case studies.
 - 8.2. We will continue to press Government for clarity around safeguarding roles and responsibilities and how they will function in the new health system. We will develop a response to the consultation on the statutory guidance 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' and will ensure the roles and responsibilities of the wider health sector is reflected in the guidance. We will develop tools for councils and CCGs and other partners explaining and promoting their safeguarding roles and responsibilities.

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- 8.3. We will work with the NHS Commissioning Board to mitigate the risks of fragmentation of commissioning services. We will also produce case studies and contribute to the jointly organised LGA and NHS Commissioning Board conference on integrated commissioning scheduled for October 2012.
- 8.4. Working with the Department of Health to ensure the Government's response to the Children and Young People's Health Outcomes Forum's Report is sufficient and reflects the role of local government. We will update existing LGA products to reflect new policies and will work with local authorities to help them understand their role and responsibilities for delivering the strategy.
- 8.5. Over the coming months we will work with the Department of Health and key stakeholders to raise and address key transitional issues affecting children and young people's health services.
- 8.6. We will continue to share knowledge and deliver online discussions with relevant speakers on the children and young people's forum on the Knowledge Hub for Health and Wellbeing Boards. We will also continue to use the dedicated children's health webpage on the LGA's website to host children's health related resources from across the LGA and partners.