

Children and Young People's Health update

Purpose of Report

To provide an update on the Children and Young People's Health work programme.

Summary

The report gives a summary of Government policy announcements and LGA work undertaken since January 2013.

Recommendation

Members are asked to note the update and share their views on the LGA's future work on the system-wide response to the CYP health outcomes Forum's report.

Action

LGA staff to action as necessary.

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Children and Young People's Health update

Background

1. Children's health services have traditionally received a 'disproportionately low priority'¹ within the NHS. The Health and Social Care Act 2012 (the Act) offers an opportunity for children and young people's health services to be prioritised in the new health system.
2. Children's health is a Board priority for the Children and Young People's Board, and the work is overseen and co-ordinated by the Joint Children and Young People and Community Wellbeing Board.
3. Over the past 18 months we have worked with the Government, the health sector and local government to ensure councils and health bodies understand their statutory duties and responsibilities following the passing of the Act, we have worked to ensure transitional issues are addressed, and to ensure that other key non transitional issues are addressed.
4. In January 2012 the Secretary of State for Health asked a forum of independent experts from local government, the NHS and charities to develop a strategy that would set out the contribution each part of the new health system needed to make to improve care and health outcomes for children and young people. The Children and Young People's Health Outcomes Forum published its report in July 2012. A summary of the Forum's report and the LGA's response can be found [online](#).
5. Since November 2012 we have also delivered a series of conferences to help councils deliver their public health responsibilities, and a number of resource sheets aimed at elected members and officers focusing on specific public health issues.

Update on the Children and Young People's Health Outcomes Forum Report

6. On 19 February 2013 the Government published a system-wide response to the Children and Young People's Health Outcome Forum's report. The system-wide response sets out the progress made by the new health system and longer-term development work which is planned. The LGA response and a summary can be found [here](#).
7. A system-wide pledge was also published alongside the response to bring partners together to create a shared ambition for children and young people's health. The LGA has signed up to the pledge to demonstrate local government's commitment to improving health outcomes for children and young people (CYP).
8. The system-wide response details some good progress by bodies within the new health system. For example: new partnership arrangements are emerging, overall the system has a greater focus towards improving integration of services, and there is a greater focus on improving the health outcomes of looked after children.
9. However, many of these bodies such as Public Health England (PHE) and the NHS Commissioning Board (NHS CB) are still establishing their structures and determining how they will function. Therefore further work is needed by these bodies and others to ensure CYP health services transition properly and that key issues are addressed. The

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

system-wide response is not a strategy and does not hold the system to account so there is a danger that the drive for this work may be lost in the midst of other pressures.

10. We are currently considering the document in depth and considering its implications, our initial reaction includes:
 - 10.1. A single, coherent and integrated set of outcomes for CYP and absolute clarity about who is responsible for each outcome and where ultimate responsibility lies is still required.
 - 10.2. Local authorities are facing increasing funding pressures and will not be able to meet any new financial burdens within existing budgets. The recent announcement of further funding cuts to local authority early intervention funds in 2013-15 threatens local authorities' ability to deliver targeted early support to CYP and their families, and councils' ability to improve health outcomes. The LGA is calling on the Government to explain why the new cuts have been introduced, why the initial money is being withheld and what it will be used for, at the soonest possible date.
 - 10.3. We have a number of concerns about how safeguarding will operate in the new health system and the lack of clarity about safeguarding leads and where accountability for safeguarding will ultimately sit. We also seek clarification about the mechanisms for information sharing between health and social care services, which should enable effective information sharing. The system-wide response did not sufficiently demonstrate the concept that safeguarding children is everybody's responsibility - this must be clearly understood by all bodies in the new health system and demonstrated through their work.
 - 10.4. We also want to ensure that the Children and Families Bill is clear about how health bodies will be held to account and challenged if they do not deliver the provisions within Education Health and Care Plans.
 - 10.5. A number of new outcomes framework indicators have been introduced to the Public Health and NHS Outcomes frameworks. These should not be used to performance manage health outcomes for CYP at a national level because local authorities need the freedom to determine the public health priorities and strategies needed to improve health and wellbeing in their local area.
 - 10.6. Close and effective working between key government departments including the Department for Education (DfE) and the DH, in addition to a wider range of organisations, is required to bring together and effectively integrate health, social care and education.
11. We remain concerned about the split in commissioning responsibilities for 0-5 year olds which will move to the NHS CB until 2015 when they will transition to local authorities. We want to see ensure robust transition plans are in place and that these are communicated to local authorities. We will work with partners to ensure interim measures and adequate transition plans are put in place.
12. Finally a new CYP Health Outcomes Forum has been established to provide expertise in child health and constructive challenge. The LGA has been invited to join the Forum. The Forum will hold an annual summit involving the Chief Medical Officer (CMO) to monitor progress on child health outcomes and make recommendations for their improvement.

Update on other work

13. We are promoting local government's views with the DH, NHS CB and DfE on safeguarding issues, specifically around the production of a Safeguarding Assurance and Accountability document for the health sector.
14. We have successfully lobbied DH to replace several DH Programme Boards with a single, more co-produced board involving the LGA, NHS CB, PHE, SOLACE, DH and ADCS. It will cover improved integration of public health and care for 0–19 year olds. It also plans to involve representatives of the DfE in discussions in future. Discussions about transition planning for the transfer of commissioning services for 0-5s to LAs in 2015 will take place under this board.
15. A free public health conference on mental health is taking place on 27 March. Following feedback from lead members at the last Joint CWB and CYP Board we have secured a young person to come and speak at this event. We are also holding a free conference on Teenage Pregnancy which is taking place on 23 April, Anna Soubry, Health Minister is confirmed to speak and a young parent will also be contributing her perspective.
16. We are working with the DH to develop and disseminate a briefing for elected members on the National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP) which will be a mandated function of local authorities from April 2013. It will help councillors understand what the NCMP is and what it does and how they can successfully engage with parents, children and families who may require follow-up advice and support following the receipt of a results letter containing the status of their child's weight which will be issued directly by the local authority, should the local authority choose to issue a results letter as how results are communicated should be a matter for local determination.
17. We are continuing to share knowledge and information about children's health issues on the Knowledge Hub for Health and Wellbeing Boards and updating the LGA's dedicated children's health webpage.