

How the LGA Community Wellbeing Board works for you

Purpose of report

For noting and approval.

Summary

This report sets out the role the LGA Community Wellbeing Board plays in the LGA's governance structures and how the LGA works to support the objectives and work of its member authorities. It also gives details of the Community Wellbeing team and Political Group offices which will support you in your role as a Board Member. Lastly the report sets out a proposed approach to portfolio holders and Outside Bodies for Members' comment and approval.

Members are asked to note the Membership and Terms of Reference and Remit of the LGA Community Wellbeing Board for 2013/14. Members are also asked to agree the Board's nominations to Outside Bodies and its portfolio holders for the 2013/14 year.

Recommendations

The Board is asked to:

1. Formally note the membership (**enclosed at the front of Agenda papers**) and terms of reference (attached as **Appendix A**) for the LGA Community Wellbeing Board;
2. Formally appoint to outside bodies and portfolio holder roles in accordance with the role description and suggested areas outlined in **Appendices C, D and E**, ensuring that the outside bodies to which the Board wishes to appoint accurately reflect LGA priorities; and
3. Agree an appropriate mechanism for feedback from members representing the Board at outside meetings and external engagements over the forthcoming meeting cycle.

Action

Officers to inform outside bodies of any changes in, or confirm continuation of LGA representatives. Officers to confirm appointments directly to members via email.

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Background

1. The LGA's Boards seek to lead the agenda for local government on the key challenges and issues within their remit and support the overall objectives of the organisation as set out in the LGA's Business Plan.
2. They take an active role in helping to shape the Association's business plan through extensive engagement with councils and oversight of the programmes of work that deliver these strategic priorities.
3. Each board has full responsibility for its designated policy area(s). Boards are encouraged to find their own most effective way of working that ensures active engagement with councils and groups of councils, and not be restricted by a set timetable of formal meetings in London. However most hold at least 4 formal meetings a year.
4. The LGA seeks where possible to work on the basis of consensus across all four groups.

Community Wellbeing Board membership and terms of reference

5. 2013 has been a momentous year for health and social care, with the Community Wellbeing Board and team playing a vital role in supporting and promoting the leadership role of local government in improving health and social care for their communities.
6. This year we hope to build on our successes in both lobbying, and improvement and support for the sector, as work continues on the transfer of public health responsibilities, sustainable funding for adult social care and integration of health and care services, amongst many other priorities.
7. A draft work programme is outlined at **Item 3**.
8. Members are asked to formally note the Board's Membership (**enclosed at the front of Agenda papers**) and its Terms of Reference and Remit (**Appendix 2A**).

The Community Wellbeing Board team

9. The Community Wellbeing programme team supports the LGA's work on the Board's priorities relating to health and adult social care, and also a number of other discrete issues which are within the Board's remit. The team works with the LGA Press office and political groups to maintain local government's reputation on health and adult social care issues in the media, directs our lobbying work (according to Members' steer) in conjunction with the Parliamentary affairs team, and works with the joint programme boards and improvement teams on systems improvement and implementation.
10. The team also supports Members in person or by briefing when they represent the LGA on external speaking platforms or at Ministerial or Whitehall events. We will provide briefing notes and/or suggested speaking notes as required in advance if each engagement.
11. LGA advisers and senior advisers also participate in a number of working groups and programme boards, representing the sector's interests and putting forward the LGA's agreed policy positions.

12. A table detailing the names, contact details and roles of the Community Wellbeing team is attached as **Appendix B**.
13. The Board and team also provide input to, and receive reports from, a number of joint sector led improvement and implementation programmes, funded by the Department for Health, in the following areas
 - 13.1 Health and Wellbeing System Leadership;
 - 13.2 Towards Excellence in Adult Social Care;
 - 13.3 Winterbourne View Joint Improvement Programme; and
 - 13.4 Care and Reform Support joint programme office (emerging)

Portfolio holders

14. In order to maximise the involvement of Board Members in LGA work, best represent the Board, and to allow the Community Wellbeing Board to best utilise and develop the expertise of Members across the Board's wide-ranging remit, Board Lead Members have agreed to a system of portfolio holders.
15. Portfolio holders will have a variety of roles, all of which are an extension of the role of members of the board and have been grouped into five key areas:
 - 15.1 Health Protection;
 - 15.2 Public health and NHS;
 - 15.3 Health and Wellbeing improvement;
 - 15.4 Adult social care: funding and reform; and
 - 15.5 Dignity in care and personalisation.
16. In order that we establish a pool of interested councillors from varying political groups under each portfolio area it is proposed that each political group should put forward a nominee, or multiple nominees, for each area.
17. The list of portfolio holder areas is attached as **Appendix 2C** and a role description is attached as **Appendix 2D**. The attached document also lists which *continuing* members of the Board have previously expressed an interest in relevant areas.
18. It should be noted that as an LGA spokesperson, a portfolio holder should speak for the Association, and not one particular political Group.
19. Members will be assisted in their role by officers. This will include passing on invitations to meetings and events in good time, preparing briefings, taking notes of meetings, providing press lines and including agenda items for a wider Board discussion at key points to inform policy making.
20. Our aim is to provide appropriate support which is proportionate to the risks of the events and needs of Members, to make best use of limited resource.

Outside Bodies

21. The LGA currently benefits from a wide network of member representatives on outside bodies across all its Boards. These appointments are reviewed on an annual basis across the organisation to ensure that the aims and objectives of the outside bodies remain pertinent to the LGA.
22. A list of the organisations to which the Board currently appoints member representatives, along with a note of the 2012/13 representation, is attached at **Appendix 2E**. Members are asked to nominate the appointments for this meeting cycle, which are to be made in proportion with political representation across the LGA.
23. Members are requested to consider where they have particular interests and expertise and discuss with their political groups which bodies they might best become involved with. Any deviations from political proportionality agreed by all four Lead Members.
24. Please note that responsibility for Adult Learning and Skills is now the responsibility of the Economy and transport Board, and that Board will now provide a LGA representative for the National Institute of Adult Continuing Education (NIACE) Board.
25. The current Board balance is *7 Conservative, 7 Labour, 2 Liberal Democrat, 2 Independent* and there are two outside bodies to which to appoint representatives:
 - 25.1 Skills for Care; and
 - 25.2 the Dignity in Care Commission.

Feedback

26. To maximise the value of Members attending regular or ad-hoc outside engagements it is proposed that Members agree an appropriate mechanism, such as an update report to subsequent meetings of the Board, to allow for feedback from members representing the Board at outside over the forthcoming meeting cycle.

Political Party conferences

27. **Appendix F** gives details of the LGA Members who will be officially representing the organisation on platforms relating to the work of the Community Wellbeing Board at the Conservative, Labour and Liberal Democrat party conferences.

Financial Implications

28. There are no substantial financial implications arising directly from this report.
29. Reasonable travel and subsistence costs will be paid by the LGA for expenses incurred by a member appointee, whilst carrying out a representative role on an outside body or attending an ad-hoc meeting, on behalf of the LGA.