

Priorities and Work Programme for 2013/14

Purpose

For discussion and agreement.

Summary

This report sets out proposals for the Board's priorities and key areas of work for discussion. It identifies outcomes, priorities, key activities and partners in each case. Once amended in line with comments from the Board, this will form the work programme for the year ahead.

Recommendation

That the Board **agrees** its priorities and work programme for the 2013/14 meeting cycle.

Action

Over the course of the next year officers to progress the Board's agreed priorities and projects in line with available resources.

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Priorities and Work Programme for 2013/14

Introduction

1. The LGA Business Plan for 2013/14 sets three corporate priorities, to which the work programme of CWB contributes. They are:
 - 1.1 Funding for local government that is sustainable and fair and that promotes greater collective working across public sector agencies;
 - 1.2 Economic growth with local government leading locally; and
 - 1.3 Public service reform in which independent councils work with their communities and partners to determine their own priorities.
2. The work of the Community Wellbeing Board makes a significant contribution to all of these issues: we have continued to press for fair and sustainable funding for adult social care and for the public health ring-fenced grant to local authorities; better health and support to people with long-term conditions is vital to the economic growth agenda; and to use our work on shaping and supporting the new health and wellbeing system to help councils to improve links with local communities and make a difference to health outcomes.
3. Rewiring Public Services: Rejuvenating Democracy, launched at the 2013 LGA Annual Conference, further develops and refines our priorities for the future. It lays out the LGA's vision for transformed and sustainable public services that rebuild democracy and participation through local leadership and a revitalised economy. It has a strong focus on adult social care and health as essential components of a transformed public sector, shaped by the needs and assets of local people.
4. The proposed work priorities for the CWB outlined below all contribute to the LGA's corporate priorities for 2013/14 and beyond.

Proposed 2013/14 Work Programme and Resources

5. The LGA will continue to horizon scan and to identify emerging issues and lobbying opportunities in health, including those coming from government departments, parliament, national and local campaigns and other initiatives in partner organisations;
6. The proposed work programme is ambitious and has been scoped to be deliverable within the resources available to the Board. We will have a limited reactive capacity outside these areas to respond to key issues and developments that may arise, however the resource implications of work outside this work programme will need to be considered on a case by case basis and if necessary identified projects will need to be downscaled, postponed or dropped if new priorities arise.
7. Based on the Business Plan priorities, Rewiring Public Services principles, and feedback from the Community Wellbeing Board and its Lead Members through 2012-13, this paper suggests the Board's work programme for the coming year be focused on the following priorities and projects:

Public Health

7.1 The transfer of many public health responsibilities to local government which occurred in April 2013 represents the most significant expansion of local government responsibilities in a generation. The new public health system is now in place but we will need to continue to develop relationships with existing and new partners in the health and care system at national and local level.

7.2 Proposed work priorities:

- 7.2.1 Undertake joint work with Public Health England, Department of Health and NHS England to ensure that all key partners in the new health system, including health and wellbeing boards, public health and other local authority officers and elected members, are properly supported and resourced to effectively deliver their new responsibilities;
- 7.2.2 Work with PHE, DH and local authorities to develop a framework for ensuring that local authorities are making an effective contribution to the public health system;
- 7.2.3 Support councils in the delivery of their new mandatory functions i.e. Sexual Health, NHS Health check, Child Measurement Service and develop a series of events and products looking at the new challenges that will impact on public health;
- 7.2.4 Develop and maintain strong alliances with professional societies, academia and networks such as Association Directors of Public Health, Faculty of Public Health, Association Directors Adult Services and Royal Colleges by ensuring regular flows of communication and engagement;
- 7.2.5 Identify leading experts and commentators both from within local authorities and across the public sector who can contribute to our policy development and/or lobbying; and
- 7.2.6 Promote ways of engaging district councils in the new public health system.

Public health funding

7.3 The LGA continues to work with the local government sector to make a strong case for adequate funding to carry out our new public health functions.

7.4 Proposed work priorities:

- 7.4.1 Continue to work with LGA Finance Advisers and DH to develop a strong business case for maintaining LA public health funding and refining the formula to ensure that it is related to the level of public health need rather than historic public health spend by PCTs;
- 7.4.2 Represent the interests of local government in developing arrangements for the health premium incentive payments;
- 7.4.3 Secure adequate resources to take on the public health responsibilities for children aged 0 – 5 in 2015.

Implementation of the health reforms / Children's health

- 7.5 Though the majority of the health reforms of the Health and Social Care Act 2012 came into effect in April 2013, there are some new duties on local government which have not yet been implemented. In particular: the proposed new duty on upper-tier authorities to appoint medical examiners to oversee the death certification process.
- 7.6 April 2015 will mark the last public health function to transfer to local government; local authorities will take on responsibility for commissioning children's public health services for under 5 year olds and commissioning the health visiting service and Family Nurse Partnership. More important than ever will be the need for councils' to effectively and efficiently receive and embed these new public health functions for young children and to join up services across existing council functions across childhood (0-19 years).
- 7.7 Furthermore the new health landscape presents further opportunities for councils and partners to improve the experience of children and their families and to integrate public health, social care, and school services with wider council led work to deliver seamless services which deliver lasting improvements to the health and wellbeing of local children, young people and their families.
- 7.8 Proposed work priorities:
- 7.8.1 Work with local authority advisers to support and inform councils to implement the new duty.
- 7.8.2 Negotiate a transition and assurance process for the 2015 transfer (including providing effective assurance to Ministers regarding Health Visitors and other top governmental priorities) whilst delivering a proportionate and collaborative approach appropriate for local government.
- 7.8.3 Develop and promote good practice examples, resources and conferences.
- 7.8.4 Working with partners influence policy and implementation of Government priorities on Children's Health including integration, prevention and early identification, effective commissioning, good transitions and making the new health system work for children.
- 7.8.5 Continue to represent the interests of local government in the implementation of the new duty on LAs to appoint medical examiners to oversee the death certification process, and secure adequate resources and a realistic time scale for implementation.

Healthwatch and patient and public engagement in health and social care

- 7.9 Healthwatch works at national and local level to ensure a strong voice for patients and the public in the commissioning and provision of healthcare, public health and social care services. Local Healthwatch is commissioned by upper-tier councils and the LGA has developed the Healthwatch Implementation Team to support councils in this role.

7.10 Proposed work priorities:

- 7.10.1 Develop an understanding of best practice in patient and service user engagement, and how different approaches can improve service standards and outcomes.
- 7.10.2 To support the goal in the 'Rewiring Public Services to promote consumer champions.
- 7.10.3 Continue to support local authorities in commissioning effective Local Healthwatch through the Healthwatch Implementation Team.
- 7.10.4 Respond to the outcome of the Caldicott review into information governance will contribute to the context in which council confirm their local information governance arrangements.
- 7.10.5 Respond to the report of the Clywd Inquiry on NHS Complaints in partnership with the Centre for Public Scrutiny.
- 7.10.6 Continue to respond to the recommendations relating to local government that came out of the Francis Inquiry.

Health and Wellbeing Boards

- 7.11 Health and Wellbeing Boards are in their first year of full operation. Bringing together local leaders from health and local government, they are becoming the focal point for local decisions on health priorities, health service reconfiguration and integration. As a result of negotiations with DH, NHS England, Public Health England, and Healthwatch England, the LGA was able to bring together separate funding strands into a single funding grant of £1.925 million for 2013-2014 to provide a health and wellbeing system support programme.

7.12 Proposed work priorities:

- 7.12.1 To demonstrate to the Government and associated health agencies the important of independence and sufficient resourcing for health and wellbeing boards, particularly avoiding top-down performance management in favour of a sector-led improvement approach, so that they can make genuinely local decisions on health that transform health services for the benefit of local people.
- 7.12.2 To deliver the £1.925 million health and wellbeing system improvement support programme.
- 7.12.3 To share and align resources and support programmes on health and wellbeing between key national partners, particularly NHS England, Public Health England and Healthwatch England to provide a coherent and joined up offer at the local level.
- 7.12.4 To secure additional resource for 2014-2015, and further if possible, to the LGA from DH to continue to support Health and Wellbeing Boards, Public Health and Local Healthwatch.

Adult social care is reformed so that the individual's experience of care and support is improved

7.13 After a number of years lobbying for changes to care and support we are now in a position of real opportunity. Legislation, in the form of the Care Bill, is currently working its way through Parliament, and proposals for how individuals pay for care are the subject of a major consultation. A satisfactory outcome for the LGA would deliver a system that supports people to plan ahead for the future, is easier to navigate, is fairer, and has a greater focus on prevention and keeping people well.

7.14 Proposed work priorities:

7.14.1 **Influencing:** we will need to continue to influence both the Bill and the funding reform proposals to ensure the best deal for local government. This will link to the priority above regarding the costs of reform but will also need to look at potential barriers to implementation and possible implications of some of the proposed system changes.

7.14.2 **Preparing for implementation:** the care and support reform agenda is complex and wide-ranging. We will need to support councils by raising awareness of the agenda (both to the sector and beyond), gathering intelligence on 'ground level' issues as they emerge, and sharing best practice.

7.14.3 Joint working to co-design and manage, with ADASS and DH, a Care and Support Programme Office, funded by DH. This office will support the delivery and implementation of the Care Bill and related reforms in a way which ensures that they fully reflect the views of local government.

Sustainable funding for adult social care

7.15 Adult social care is facing considerable pressure. Budgets have reduced by £2.68 billion over the last three years, there are demographic pressures stemming from an increase in the number of older people and working age adults with a disability, and options to offset shortfalls in resources are becoming increasingly limited. Alongside these pressures the sector is facing a programme of major reform, the cost implications of which are still uncertain, and is attempting to take forward integration at scale and pace.

7.16 Proposed work priorities:

7.16.1 **The Integration Transformation Fund:** £3.8 billion was announced in the June Spending Round to improve integration between health and social care. This is a significant opportunity to improve the lives of some of the most vulnerable people in our society and make savings for the public purse. A good deal of work is needed on the detail of how the fund will operate, the conditions that are attached to it, and how the performance-related element might work.

7.16.2 This will require close working with national partners, particularly NHS England, and local authorities to capture and share learning and best practice.

- 7.16.3 **Understanding the costs of reform:** the Care Bill and the proposals around funding reform (including the Dilnot 'capped-cost' model and universal deferred payment) carry cost implications for local authorities. This was a point we made strongly in our Spending Round submission and the Government responded by providing £335 million for the cost of reform. Work is needed to understand whether this amount is likely to be sufficient.

Integrated care

- 7.17 Delivering integrated care and support is crucial to delivering on a number of the LGAs business priorities and is the key theme in the LGA's Rewiring Public Services campaign. At its heart it is about improving care and support by working together to design services around people, making the best use of resources and jointly planning and commissioning services. The LGA has been working very closely with a range of national partners (Department of Health, NHS England, Monitor, ADASS among others) to develop plans around supporting the delivery of integrated care locally.
- 7.18 This has resulted, amongst other things, in a joint work programme, joint governance arrangements and a joint publication entitled 'Our Shared Commitment' which included commitments from national partners and corresponding expectations from local areas. A 'Narrative' which defines integrated care from the individual's perspective underpins all of the work of the national partners. In addition we have supported DH's ambitions to select and support integrated Care 'Pioneers', and negotiated the £3.8bn 'Integration Transformation Fund' which will be available for all local areas from 2014.
- 7.19 Proposed work priorities:
- 7.19.1 Continue to work jointly with key national partners on a joint work programme for integrated care, including supporting the Pioneer areas and others.
- 7.19.2 Continue to lead, in partnership with NHSE, on the implementation of the Integration Transformation Fund, and produce accompanying guidance and support materials.
- 7.19.3 Continue to influence and shape the work of other national partners, including NHS England and the Department of Health, to ensure that it aligns with the interests of local authorities, Health and Wellbeing Boards and the people they represent.
- 7.19.4 Develop resources for local areas including a toolkit to support joint business planning across the health and care system.

Adult Social Care improvement.

- 7.20 Supporting the Business Plan aim of public service reform and the aim to end flawed tick-box inspections by bureaucrats in Rewiring Public Services, the adult social care improvement project contains a range of grant funded improvement programme and a focus on supporting local leadership.

7.21 Proposed work priorities:

- 7.21.1 Deliver the DH-funded Towards Excellence in Adult Social Care (TEASC) programme of sector led improvement in adult social care. The work will have a focus on the role of innovation, peer challenge and new ways of engaging with local people and data, to driver improvement in the quality of local services. Deliver the LGA's safeguarding adults programme to support councils in their lead roles in safeguarding by influencing policy, sharing good safeguarding practice and providing support for improvement.
- 7.21.2 Co-deliver, with NHS England, the two-year Winterbourne View Joint Improvement Programme. The Programme aims provide leadership and support to transform services locally to ensure that services are personalised, safe and local, building on current good practice.
- 7.21.3 Continue to provide leadership support to lead members of adult social care and health. An induction event for new portfolio holders has been held, to be followed by a leadership academy which several Board members are attending and a revision of the online 'must knows' for lead members.
- 7.21.4 Continue to support regional lead member networks to share best practice and provide mutual support.
- 7.21.5 Continue to support, along with the Children and Young People Board, the LGA Asylum, Migration and Refugee Task Group, which is chaired by the Cllr David Simmonds, Chair of the Children's Board.

Equalities

- 7.22 The Government's recommendations on the review of the effectiveness of the Public Sector Equality Duty are due to be announced immediately after the summer recess. Understanding local government's role in equality is essential to the effective design and delivery of local services. It is at the heart of effective, efficient and transparent decisions, including how to implement spending cuts, devolve power to communities and move to new ways of working.

7.23 Proposed work priorities:

- 7.23.1 A conference in November 2013 to focus on the Government's recommendations on the Public Sector Equality Duty, the implications for local government and how local authorities can improve their performance.
- 7.23.2 Develop a response to the Government's recommendations of the Review of the Public Sector Equality Duty.
- 7.23.3 Refresh the Local Government Equalities Framework toolkit

Financial Implications

- 8. We believe that the above projects can be delivered within the available resources. However, the work programme will be constrained by the overall resource envelope of the LGA, which may have implications for the scale and timing of the work to be delivered should unforeseen reactive work be required or new priorities arise during the year.

Next Steps

9. Members are asked to comment upon the suggested priorities and projects set out at above and to agree a final work programme for the year.
10. The Board's work programme will be a standing item on every agenda to enable the regular review of priorities and monitoring of progress.
11. As the body with responsibility for holding all Boards to account, every quarter the LGA Executive will receive an overview of all Board's work programmes and progress to date.