

8 November 2011

Item 5 (b)

Taking the Lead Evaluation

For discussion and direction

The Board is asked to consider and approve the proposed approach to the evaluation of *Taking the Lead* and the LGA's offer of support to the sector.

Summary

The Improvement Programme Board has previously expressed the importance it attaches to evaluating "Taking the Lead". The **attached** specification outlines the proposed evaluation of *Taking the Lead* over the next two years and before the next RSG settlement. It will be made up of two parts:

- overall evaluation of the approach
- evaluation of the LGA's offer of support to the sector.

Recommendations: The Board is asked to comment on and approve the proposed approach to evaluation.

Action

Officers to progress the approach in the light of members' discussion.

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Taking the Lead Evaluation

Background

1. The Improvement Programme Board has previously expressed the importance it attaches to a proper evaluation of the approach to self regulation and improvement set out in Taking the Lead – and this has been reinforced by the independent Advisory Board.
2. The Research and Information Team has considered how the evaluation could be undertaken. The attached specification (Annex 1) outlines the proposed evaluation of *Taking the Lead* over the next two years and before the next RSG settlement.
3. It is proposed that the evaluation will be made up of two parts:
 - 3.1 evaluation of the overall approach
 - 3.2 evaluation of the LGA's offer of support to the sector.
4. The specification has incorporated feedback from the Sector Self-regulation Advisory Board.
5. Board members are invited to discuss the proposed evaluation, and reflect on whether it meets the needs of the organisation and sector. In particular, Board members are asked to note the proposed perceptions audit of ministers and senior officials, which will require us to commission independent researchers.

Conclusion and next steps

6. Subject to the Improvement Board's approval the Research and Information Team will proceed as outlined in the specification.

Financial Implications

7. Much of the work outlined in the specification will be conducted in-house, and the additional costs to the organisation will be small. However, the perceptions audit of ministers and senior officials, the telephone survey and the public opinion polling will require some external research services, the cost of which can be met within existing budgets.