

Board Work Programme and Priorities Report for the 2016/17 meeting cycle

Purpose

For discussion and direction.

Summary

This paper sets out proposals for the Children and Young People Board's priorities and work programme for 2016-17. Subject to the Board's views, officers will develop a work programme to deliver these priorities.

Recommendation

Members are asked to discuss and agree the Board's priorities and work programme for 2016-17 and agree that CYP Office Holders should further consider the possible impact of the vote to leave the European Union on the areas that fall within the Board's remit.

Action

Officers to take action as directed by members.

Contact Officer: Ian Keating
Position: Principal Policy Adviser
Telephone No: 0207 664 3032
Email: ian.keating@local.gov.uk

Board Work Programme and Priorities Report for the 2016/17 meeting cycle

Background

1. LGA Boards are asked to consider their priorities for the coming year at their first meeting of the new cycle. Set out below are a list of priorities for discussion, based on the priorities identified last year, and adapted to reflect work that has been completed, recent developments in Government policy and issues raised by member councils.
2. The LGA Leadership Board has asked Boards to consider the impact of the vote to leave the European Union on their policy areas and make appropriate provision within their work programme.
3. An initial analysis would suggest that the kind of issues within the remit of the CYP Board that might be impacted are few, but would include; minimum rules concerning the definition of criminal offences and sanctions in the area of sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children; the protection of young people at work; as well as immigration and asylum rules. The Board is asked to agree that CYP Office Holders consider the detailed list of possible areas of impact at their next meeting, in order to consider whether these will be a priority area within the Board's work programme.

Education

3. In the coming year the Board should;
 - 3.1. Use its position in relation to the Wood Review of the council role in education and the Education for All Bill to lobby for a clear and sustainable council role in supporting local schools to improve and in holding them to account for education standards for all pupils, accompanied by the appropriate resources, powers and flexibilities to support this role;
 - 3.2. Lobby for a stronger role for councils in making sure that new schools are fit for purpose, high quality and value for money, including a stronger role for councils in decisions about new free schools in their areas;
 - 3.3. Respond to the forthcoming consultation on a national funding formula for schools to ensure it is fair, retains an element of local flexibility to reflect local needs and priorities and includes appropriate transitional protections for schools that will see a reduction in funding.

Early years

4. In regards to early years the Board should;
 - 4.1. Support councils to implement the new national funding formula for early years and the government-funded offer of an additional 15 hours of free childcare for working parents;

- 4.2. Secure and define the role of councils and local partners in improving life chances for disadvantaged children, making the case for early intervention and improved integration of services for families.

Children's services

5. When considering children's services, the Board should;
 - 5.1. Support councils to influence and implement the provisions in the Children and Social Work Bill, including the proposals for reform of Local Safeguarding Children Boards;
 - 5.2. Support councils to improve fostering and adoption outcomes and contributing to the Department for Education Fostering Stocktake;
 - 5.3. Continue to work to support councils to protect children and young people from child sexual exploitation and radicalisation and extremism;
 - 5.4. Commission research and influence the debate about new models of Children's Services delivery;
 - 5.5. In conjunction with the Health and Wellbeing Board, support councils to take a place-based approach to children and young people's health issues, including childhood obesity and child and adolescent mental health services.

Financial implications

14. The priorities will be delivered within existing resources.