

26 June 2017

LGA future of community safety services review: summary and draft report

Purpose

For discussion and direction.

Summary

The Board reviewed a draft report on the LGA's review of community safety services at its meeting in March. This paper summarises the changes to the draft report made in the light of members' comments and sets out proposed next steps.

Recommendation

That the Board approves the revised report on review of community safety services and the next steps identified.

Action

Officers to progress as directed.

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Background

1. The Board's review of local community safety services concluded earlier this year. An initial draft report summarising the findings was reviewed by the Board at its meeting in March.
2. A number of comments regarding the draft were made at the March meeting, with some suggestions for further amendments.
3. This paper briefly summarises the changes made to the draft report to incorporate the Board's comments.
4. A revised draft report is attached for further discussion.

Summary of changes to the draft report

5. A number of changes have been made to the draft, including substantial amendments to the final section on LGA response and next steps. The following summarises the changes made to the draft report in response to members' comments:
 - 5.1. References to the limited and short-term resourcing of community safety services have been strengthened in the sections on funding and proposals for next steps and additional figures have been added to illustrate reduced funding for other partners. The proposal to lobby for longer-term funding, originally set out in the March Board paper, has now been included in the report.
 - 5.2. A proposal to further explore models (and barriers) for working with safeguarding boards and Health and Wellbeing boards, originally set out in the March Board paper, has been incorporated. The paragraph on leadership has also been expanded to include further references to working across agencies.
 - 5.3. The issue of insufficient continuity/clarification of funding from Police and Crime Commissioners has been expanded on and an additional proposal, originally in the March Board paper, around lobbying for longer-term of funding certainty has been incorporated.
 - 5.4. The section on two-tier collaboration has been expanded to strengthen the argument that issues should be addressed at the most appropriate local/regional level.
 - 5.5. Further references have been added to the new priority issues Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) are dealing with and the pressures this places on them, along with additional references to the role of council community safety teams in coordinating work across agencies.

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- 5.6. References to developing partnerships of place have been expanded on and further exploration of this concept could be included as part of the case studies. There is also a proposal to lobby government to undertake broader pilots that test this model as part of wider service transformation.
- 5.7. It is proposed that the revised discussion paper, to be developed separately as part of the next steps as a tool to support local areas in their conversations around this agenda, could include further prescription around the fundamental elements of what a CSP should do, eg data sharing, and establishing effective links with the police.
- 5.8. Further changes have been made throughout in response to manifesto pledges and the general election outcomes (primarily to support local government's role in service delivery) - although this is, of course, still an emerging picture. This includes a final proposal around advocating for local government's involvement in this field, should proposals be announced by central government that affect community safety service delivery.

Next steps

6. The revised draft report now proposes the following further work:
 - 6.1. explore whether existing LGA leadership programmes provide sufficient support to elected members, in particular around making links between community safety and related areas such as safeguarding and health and wellbeing
 - 6.2. develop and publish the discussion paper used as part of this review, to help frame local discussions
 - 6.3. commission more detailed case studies of some of the examples cited in this report – in particular, incorporating examples of how areas are making links to safeguarding and health and wellbeing boards
 - 6.4. look at how to offer further peer support to local areas
 - 6.5. explore further lobbying opportunities around the provision of longer-term multi-year funding arrangements to support local services and joint-working across partners
 - 6.6. explore the potential for local areas, in particular combined authorities, to look at how the range of local partnership boards can be brought together to best effect with CSPs to address vulnerability, promote early intervention, prevention and community resilience and fill any gaps around safeguarding and health
 - 6.7. develop further some models around the more substantial reforms outlined in the draft report, such as whole systems approaches
 - 6.8. lobby the new government to undertake broader pilots (outside of a combined authority area) that test the one public service/partnerships of place model as part of broader service transformation

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6.9. continue to advocate on behalf of local government around the vital importance of sector involvement in delivering safer communities.

7. Members are asked to review and comment on the updated report and proposals for next steps.

Appendices

8. Appendix A - LGA review of the future of community safety services: Draft summary report

Implications for Wales

9. Since this review was originally commissioned, the Welsh Government announced a review of arrangements in Wales with an aim to develop a shared vision for safer communities across the country. This is expected to be completed in the autumn.

10. Further work undertaken leading on from the LGA's review may need to incorporate changes depending on the outcomes of the Welsh Government's review; this will be considered once the Welsh Government's review has been completed.

Financial implications

11. The review is being supported through normal staff budgets. Further commissioned work will be funded through existing team budgets.