

Improvement and Innovation Board – from Cllr Peter Fleming (Chairman)

Press and external communications

1. I was interviewed by the [Disability News Service](#) about the EnAble Fund, which provides funding to support people with disabilities who face potentially greater costs when standing for elections. In 2019, 20 candidates who received assistance from the programme have been elected. In total, 42 grants were administered from the fund.
2. Board member Cllr Joy Allen wrote in '[First](#)' magazine about the launch of the Improvement Hub to help drive continuous improvement in councils.

Sector-led improvement 2018/19

3. The LGA's sector-led improvement offer, overseen by the Board, continues to enjoy high levels of support from the sector, as evidenced by the strong take up of support by councils in the last financial year. Highlights include:
 - 3.1 Delivered 145 peer challenges in councils across the country
 - 3.2 842 councillors attended our leadership courses, including the Leadership Academy, Next Generation, Leadership Essentials and Focus on Leadership
 - 3.3 Recruited over 120 graduates for councils as part of our ngdp programme
 - 3.4 Helped councils save over £100 million through our Productivity Experts Programme
 - 3.5 Supported 60 councils on specific housing projects as part of the new housing experts programme
 - 3.6 Provided financial advice to 42 councils through our Finance Advisers and other means.

Transformation and Innovation Exchange

4. Cllr Ron Woodley, Deputy Chair of the Board, leads on the Board's productivity work. The Board has continued work to create a new [online hub](#) that brings together practical help for local government about innovation and efficiency into one place. This includes a local government self-assessment tool which will help councils identify improvement opportunities and useful support.
5. The self-assessment tool, narrative and support package will complement existing LGA resources and data sets including LG Inform, as well as our peer challenges. This will help councils with their continuous improvement journey. Board members including myself, Mayor Dave Hodgson, Cllr Ron Woodley, Cllr Paul Bettison, Cllr Vince Maple, Cllr Joy Allen, Cllr Liz Green, Cllr Kelham Cooke and Cllr Steve Count have served as reviewers and members of an editorial board to develop the tool. Officers also consulted and engaged with over 70 councils, including 15 councils who have tested out the self-assessment tool. The link to the prototype of the [self-improvement tool](#) is now available to try.

6 June 2019

Behavioural Insights

6. Four councils have recently finalised their Behavioural Insights projects. Their results, full reports and nudges can be found [here](#). The projects include increasing the number of residents using assistive technology in Knowsley, use of independent travel training as opposed to Special Educational Needs transport in Croydon, reducing adult social care debt in Worcestershire and reducing Education Health and Care Plans where appropriate in Warrington.
7. Cllr Joy Allen chaired the Behavioural Insights Conference 2019 and launched new guidance entitled [Nudges for social good](#) which provides practical tips and learning from the LGA's behavioural insights programme.

National Cyber Security Programme

8. The LGA's cyber security programme supports the widening of digital and cyber resilience awareness across local authorities and highlights the importance of cyber security to senior officers and leaders in local authorities.
9. In addition to our usual cyber security work, we successfully bid for funding from Cabinet Office under the National Cyber Security Programme, securing £1.5 million for 2018/19 to carry out a cyber security stocktake of all 353 English councils and put in place support for those councils that self-rated as Red/Amber.
10. A Grant Funding scheme was put in place to enable councils bid for funds to address any issues identified – for Phase 1, we awarded over £1 million of grants to 116 councils. The focus for this phase is to support those councils at greatest risk and to address those issues that can be fixed quickly.

Shared services and collaboration

11. The LGA Shared Services map evidenced £971 million in cumulative efficiency savings from over 559 partnerships 2018/19 – this was up £314 million from £657 million savings and from 486 partnerships in the previous year.

Innovation Zone

12. The Board has approved this year's draft [Innovation Zone](#) programme. Over 30 councils and other organisations will present their brave, innovative ideas through practical and lively small group sessions at this year's [LGA Annual Conference](#) in Bournemouth.

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