

Children and Young People Board – End of Year Board Report

Purpose

For information and discussion.

Summary

This report provides an overview of the issues and work the Board has overseen during last year.

Recommendation

Members of the CYP Board are invited to note the achievements for 2018/19.

Action

Officers to action as appropriate.

Contact officer:

Ian Keating

Position:

Principal Policy Adviser

Phone no:

020 7664 3032

Email:

ian.keating@local.gov.uk

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Background

1. The Children and Young People Board provides strategic oversight of the LGA's policy, regulatory and improvement activity in relation to education and schools, children's social care, children's health and early years in line with the LGA priorities as they relate to this activity. This report sets out the Board's achievements over the past year.

Early Years

2. Following extensive lobbying by the LGA, the Government agreed to extend supplementary funding for maintained nursery schools to the end of the academic year 2019-20. An additional £24 million was provided, giving councils and nursery schools the certainty they needed to remain open for the full school year, providing much-needed spaces for children, particularly those in deprived areas and those with special educational needs.
3. We published a resource pack for councillors on early education and childcare, highlighting key issues and lines of enquiry for all councillors to ensure local areas are providing the best possible services for young children and their families.

Children's Social Care

4. As a result of sustained lobbying by the LGA and its partners, councils were awarded an additional £410 million in the 2018 Budget for children's and adult's social care. £84 million was also announced to support up to 20 local authorities to implement new programmes to reduce the number of children coming into care.
5. We published two new resource packs on children's social care, focussing on permanency and early help. The early help pack was produced in partnership with the Early Intervention Foundation and aims to support councillors to look at how evidence is used to inform local early help offers. We also produced a document entitled "Your first ten days as a lead member for children's services" which supports new lead members through their first few days in office. This has received excellent feedback.
6. We commissioned the Isos Partnership to carry out research into the enablers of an effective local early help offer. The Partnership visited eight local authorities to carry out "deep dive" exercises and published their final report in March 2019. A launch event was held with member councils in London, and a series of regional workshops has been arranged to share the learning further.
7. We held a conference in July 2018 on county lines to support local authorities in developing their responses to this. The conference was fully booked, and received excellent feedback from councils.

8. We have updated our “must know” guides for children and young people services, including guides on what to do if your children’s services are found to be inadequate, and a guide for chief executives.

Youth services

9. Following feedback from councils and partners, we commissioned the Centre for Youth Impact (CYI) to produce a Framework of Outcomes for Young People, to support commissioners and providers to ensure local youth services were designed to deliver the right outcomes. A draft framework was launched in November 2018, and this has been consulted on through a series of workshops with both practitioners and commissioners facilitated by CYI and the National Youth Agency. A final framework, with accompanying training guides, will be published in the Summer.
10. We have continued our work, alongside sector partners, to raise the profile of youth services and the impact of cuts to these. As a result, the Government has committed to reviewing the statutory guidance for the youth services duty on councils, and will be developing a Youth Charter to set out the government’s ambitions for young people as we called for in our Vision for Youth Services. The NCS Trust, which oversees the National Citizen Service, has also committed to improving links with local authorities through its new delivery model.

Grant funding for unaccompanied asylum-seeking children

11. Following sustained lobbying from the LGA, councils and partners, Government [announced](#) that more funding for councils supporting unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASC). From 1 April 2019, the grant will be uplifted to £114 per child per night from the current rates of at £71, £91 and £95. We welcomed this increase in our [response](#) but restated our call for Government to ensure all costs for children and children leaving care are fully funded, particularly as councils have seen an increase of more than 50 per cent in two years in unaccompanied children leaving care.

Education and Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

12. We published *'Improving schools: Moving the conversation on'* at last year’s LGA Annual Conference, together with new evidence showing that councils have an excellent track record in school improvement. This called for a reset in relationships between DfE and councils and for councils to be able to set up MATs and for council maintained schools to be able to sponsor academies without having to convert to academy status themselves.
13. We published updated research in May this year on the excellent council track record in school improvement which looked at how primary and secondary schools’ Ofsted grades have fared over the past five years, comparing those which remained council-maintained to those that academised. This showed that schools that remained with their council were more likely to keep a good or outstanding Ofsted rating than those which become an academy.

14. We published action research: *Developing and sustaining effective local SEND system; a practical guide for councils and partners* to highlight the key issues facing councils in providing support to children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and providing case studies of best practice. This was informed and disseminated through a series of regional workshops.
15. We published research in December *Have we reached a 'tipping point'? Trends in spending for children and young people with SEND in England* report, that showed councils are facing a high needs funding shortfall of £472 million this year, which could rise to an estimated £806 million next year and between £1.2 billion and £1.6 billion in 2020/21, based on historical trends. To build on these findings we held a roundtable with DfE and MHCLG officials to discuss high needs funding pressures. The findings of this report contributed to the Department for Education announcing that an additional £250 million was being made available for council high needs budgets for the 2018-19 and 19-20 financial years, as well as £100 million for additional SEND school places.
16. We published a revised 'must know' for Lead Members for Children's Services on SEND, which was produced in conjunction with the Council for Disabled Children and National Network of Parent-Carer Forums.
17. A project looking at the demand and cost drivers for home-to-school transport is on-going looking at both mainstream and SEND home-to-school transport with the findings expected to be published before the end of the summer.
18. Following extensive lobbying, the government have published a consultation on proposals to create a register for home educated children. It includes proposals for a duty on local authorities to maintain a register and a duty on parents and providers to provide information to inform the register.

Children and young people's mental health and emotional wellbeing

19. As part of our support for councils, we held an LGA [peer learning programme](#) on improving children and young people's mental health and emotional wellbeing for eight councils and published the main findings as part of national mental health awareness week in May. We have also launched a [guide](#) on leadership and accountability in children and young people's mental health and wellbeing services.
20. We have continued to champion the role of local government in children and young people's mental health through our [Bright Futures](#) Campaign. The Board has taken the decision to review our policy work around children and young people's mental health to give it more of a local government focus, and a cross-board steering group with the Community Wellbeing Board and Safer Stronger Communities Board has been established. We have also commissioned Isos to undertake research with councils to understand the spending profile on children and young people's mental health and emotional wellbeing; and to work with councils to develop a local government perspective on the policy changes needed to better support our children and young people.

21. We held a very successful event in January on improving the transition between children and adult mental health services and a review of the event will be launched over the summer. We also met with Government departments to discuss transition in children's mental health services as part of work on the spending review.
22. The Budget announced an additional investment of up to £250 million a year by 2023/24 into mental health, including new mental children and young people's crisis teams. As part of NHS England's Long Term Plan, we have been contributing to the development of the new schools-based mental health support.
23. We have briefed for debates in the House of Lords on the mental health of children and young adults in the UK, and debates in the House of Commons on eating disorders and mental health.

First 1000 days of a child's life

24. In September we submitted written evidence to Health Social Care Select Committee inquiry into the First 1000 Days. We highlighted the improved outcomes and innovation which councils have achieved since taking on responsibility of the Healthy Child Programme in 2015 and stressed the need for a sustainably resourced, integrated approach to early intervention.
25. In January Cllr Hudspeth and Cllr Bramble met with Andrea Leadsom, Leader of the House of Commons and Chair of the First 1001 Days cross-party working group and again stressed the leadership of local government in joining up health, care and taking a whole family approach to support within the 1000 days.
26. In line with the current Government focus on the importance of the First 1001 days of a child's life, we published 2 timely reports [A Better Start: supporting child development in the early years](#) setting out the measures being taken by local authorities to bring together health, social care and early education services to create a holistic approach to meeting the needs of young children and families and [Fit for and During Pregnancy: A key role for local government](#), demonstrating the importance of local authorities in delivering maternity and neonatal care through health visitors, family workers, midwives, social care and children's centres staff.

Children and early intervention in the NHS Long Term Plan

27. Alongside the wider LGA submission to the Long Term Plan, we submitted responses to the Children's work stream. We welcomed the greater focus on children and young people in the published plan. The LGA is now a board member on the newly created Children and Young People Transformation Board and continues to stress the need for greater partnership working and investment in prevention and early intervention through reversal of the public health budget reductions.

Serious Youth Violence

28. In April the Prime Minister opened the Serious Youth Violence Summit, bringing together partners from the health service, education sector, local government, criminal justice and the police. Councillor Hudspeth represented the LGA at the roundtable focused on health and highlighted the importance of taking a multi-agency approach, the need to invest in CAMHS and wider public health interventions to prevent children and young people becoming more vulnerable and reaching crisis points.

Other publications

29. A joint publication with PHE [National Child Measurement Programme: a briefing for elected members](#) to share how councils are helping children to achieve a healthy weight and lifestyle.

30. At our Annual Public Health Conference we launched our [Health visiting](#) publication with ADPH.

31. A joint [publication](#) with PHE on supporting young parents to reach their full potential.

Financial Implications

32. All work programmes are met from existing budgets and resources.

Implications for Wales

33. None – education and children's services are a devolved matter in Wales.