

## **Board Work Programme and Priorities Report for the 2019/20 meeting cycle**

### **Purpose of report**

For discussion and direction.

### **Summary**

This paper sets out proposals for the Children and Young People Board's (CYP) priorities and work programme for 2019/20 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 2019/20.

### **Action**

Officers to take action as directed by members.

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## **Board Work Programme and Priorities Report for the 2019/20 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.

### **Children's social care**

2. Continue to work with partners across the public and voluntary sector on the LGA's Bright Futures campaign, including sharing best practice, sector-led improvement and urging government to act quickly to close the significant children's services funding gap and ensure that councils can continue to provide essential services for vulnerable children and families.
3. Investigate issues around the children's social care placements market, including independent fostering agencies and residential children's homes, to identify areas for improvement in value for money, oversight and support for children.

### **Early Years**

4. Develop an early years policy position paper summarising our policy key asks underpinned by a supporting evidence-base.
5. Call for an improvement on the evidence base around early education and childcare for disadvantaged children and those with SEND to support lobbying around early entitlements.
6. Continue to lobby for appropriate early years funding, including securing sustainability for Maintained Nursery Schools.

### **Children's services improvement**

7. Work with the Department for Education, ADCS and Solace to develop a new, funded system of improvement support that will provide timely and effective support to councils before they are rated as *inadequate* by Ofsted.

### **The Council role in Education and School Improvement**

8. Lobby the Government to ensure that councils have sufficient powers to meet their education duties specifically around powers to direct academies to expand to meet rising demand, powers to direct academies to admit vulnerable pupils and; giving councils a lead role in deciding where new free schools should be sited. Councils with a strong track record in school improvement should also be allowed to create their own Multi-Academy Trusts and maintained schools should be allowed to help failing academies without having to convert to become academies themselves.

### **School funding**

9. Lobby the Government to continue to allow a degree of local flexibility as part of the National Funding Formula for schools and also call for the creation of single, locally held schools capital funding pot to allow for available resources to be used as efficiently as possible.

### **Special Educational Needs and Disabilities**

10. Lobby the Government to undertake a fundamental review of High Needs funding arrangements to ensure councils are sufficiently resourced to meet their statutory duties to children with SEND.

### **Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children**

11. LGA policy in this area is led by the LGA Asylum, Refugee and Migration Task Group, made up of regional member and strategic migration partnership representation covering all of the English regions, Northern Ireland, Wales and Scotland. Chaired by Cllr David Simmonds, the Task Group reports to the CYP and the Community Wellbeing Boards and meets with the Home Office on a regular basis.
12. It will continue to raise issues around unaccompanied asylum seeking children and those leaving care, including contributions to the Home Office-led reviews of funding. The Task Group will continue to push for clearer alignment between and sustainable funding for all the programmes that resettle asylum seekers and refugees to minimise the pressures on local authorities, local communities and vulnerable individuals. Information and updates are provided on the LGA [website](#), with regular updates to be provided to the Board.

### **Child Health**

13. Work with the Government, NHS and partners to develop a system-wide approach to the wider children's health workforce, addressing urgent shortages in the health visiting and school nurses workforce.
14. Make the case for reform and investment in the Healthy Child Programme. This will include supporting councils to move towards an integrated 0-19/25 service, improving capability and skill-mix in delivery team and improving outcomes in the high impact areas i.e. breastfeeding and school readiness.
15. Support the delivery of statutory and comprehensive personal, social and health education programmes, comprising sex and relationship education, across all primary and secondary schools, including free schools and academies. This will include ensuring a full range of supportive local services are built into Health and Wellbeing Education.
16. Ensure learning is shared from the Childhood Obesity Trailblazer Programme and continue to lobby for increased powers for local authorities to tackle junk-food advertising around schools and nurseries.
17. Work with PHE, NHS and the education system to continue to develop system wide responses to tackling and reducing childhood tooth decay.

**Children and Young People's Mental Health and Wellbeing (activities sit across both this Board and the Community Wellbeing Board)**

18. Undertake research and renew the LGA policy position and campaign lines for the LGA Bright Futures Campaign, including calling for a refocus of national policy and funding towards prevention, early intervention and general support for children and young people's mental health and emotional wellbeing, as well as for those with multiple and complex needs, articulating and championing the key role that councils play.
19. Provide particular focus on the role of health and wellbeing boards, improving the transition between children and adult services, the 16-25 cohort, the role of schools, the implementation of the NHS Long Term Plan and the new schools-based NHS-led mental health units.

**Youth Services**

20. Work with the Department of Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) and other partners on reviewing the statutory guidance on youth service provision.
21. Continue to embed the youth service vision by working with partners to develop the evidence base and tools to support local authorities with developing a quality local youth offer.

**Youth Justice**

22. Work with the Safer and Stronger Communities Board to lobby Government to ensure that there is sufficient and sustainable provision for youth justice and to support local authorities to be better equipped to deal with child exploitation, including county lines, and youth violence.

**Financial implications**

23. The priorities will be delivered within existing resources.