

COVID-19 Panel Discussion

Background

1. The COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on the local government sector, with high levels of demand being compounded by stretched resources.
2. The Local Government Association has worked closely with member authorities and partner organisations to lobby Government for the necessary support to enable local authorities.
3. LGA Policy Boards have been central to the organisation's efforts to support councils and address the challenges arising from the pandemic. Throughout the pandemic there has been substantial cooperation across Policy Boards on issues that cut across their remits.
4. At the request of the LGA Community Wellbeing Board a discussion of this work has been brought to the Councillor's Forum. The Chairs of the following Boards have been invited to discuss the cross-cutting issues that have arisen throughout the pandemic:
 - 4.1 Cllr Judith Blake – Chair – LGA Children & Young People Board
 - 4.2 Cllr Ian Hudspeth – Chairman, LGA Community Wellbeing Board
 - 4.3 Cllr Gerald Vernon-Jackson – Chair, LGA Culture, Tourism & Sport Board
 - 4.4 Cllr Richard Watts – Chair, LGA Resources Board
 - 4.5 Cllr Nesil Caliskan – Chair, LGA Safer & Stronger Communities Board
5. Members are invited to comment on issues arising from the COVID-19 pandemic relating to the work of these Boards and on issues that might sit between their respective remits as outlined below;
 - 5.1 *Children & Young People Board* - has responsibility for LGA activity on the wellbeing of children and young people, including education, social care, health and early years.
 - 5.2 *Community Wellbeing Board* - works to support local government in delivery of its public health, health protection and mental health responsibilities, as well as issues relating to an ageing society and the reform and funding of adult social care.
 - 5.3 *Culture Tourism & Sport Board* - provides strategic oversight of all the LGA's policy and improvement activity in relation to libraries, the visitor economy, sport and physical activity, the arts, museums, public parks, and heritage, in line with wider LGA priorities.
 - 5.4 *Resources Board* - shapes and develops the Association's policies and programmes in line with the LGA's priorities in relation to: Local Government Finance; Welfare Reform; Workforce issues and EU Funding.
 - 5.5 *Safer & Stronger Communities Board* - has responsibility for the LGA's activity in the promotion of the health and safety of local communities. This includes issues of crime & anti-social behaviour, police governance & accountability, community safety, public protection; the fire service & emergency planning, licensing and regulatory activities.

Next Steps

6. For the latest information for councils on coronavirus COVID-19 please visit www.local.gov.uk/coronavirus-information-councils.