

A Vision for Children and Young People

Purpose of report

For discussion

Summary

This report seeks the views of the Children and Young People Board on a potential medium to long-term vision for children and young people, which can be used to guide the LGA's policy work in this area and influence the Government and the manifestos for the next general election.

Is this report confidential?

No

Recommendation

Members are recommended to give their views on what should be included in an ambitious vision for children and young people.

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A Vision for Children and Young People

Background

1. In addition to working on the immediate issues facing councils, including the cost-of-living crisis, the LGA is now considering those medium to long-term challenges and ambitions that its members are considering.
2. This work was kick-started at the LGA Conference in June with the publication of "[Signals of the future – horizon scanning for local government](#)", which provides insights into what the leading drivers of change are in the country today and how these might play out over the coming years. These drivers include supporting the next generation of more diverse young people, addressing the digital divide, harnessing the power of communities and considering environmental issues including green energy and biodiversity.
3. To support this longer-term view, we are seeking to develop a Vision for Children and Young People. This vision, to be developed in partnership with the Board and building on feedback from councils, will guide the LGA's policy work in relation to children and young people in the lead up to the next general election and beyond. Our intention is that this work will develop a clear and compelling narrative around the role of councils in supporting children and young people, and their families. This will build on the successful work carried out by the Board through the [Bright Futures campaign](#).

Proposal

4. It is proposed that a vision for children and young people is developed focussing on what a new government could deliver by the end of a fixed term, that is by 2029 (assuming there is no change to the current schedule of elections).
5. Members are asked to consider what an ambitious vision for children and young people could look like, including:
 - 5.1. What outcomes councils want to see for children and young people, what outcomes children and young people want for themselves
 - 5.2. What factors impact upon those outcomes
 - 5.3. What levers and funding councils need to deliver those outcomes.
6. Some initial suggestions for a high-level vision, based on existing policy and evidence in relation to what makes a difference to children's lives (including what [children told the Children's Commissioner](#) mattered to them in the Big Ask), are outlined on the next page to help begin this discussion.

By 2029, every child should have five things every day:				
Love	Fun	A chance to learn and grow	Safety	The best health they can
We can get there by helping children to have:				
Stable, loving homes and trusted relationships	Play, leisure and friendships	Formal and informal learning	Safe places to live	Good homes and good health
Support for families Children in care & care leavers Welfare Immigration	Playgrounds, parks & leisure facilities Access to digital technology Youth services	Early education, schools, home education SEND Alternative provision Culture Further education & jobs	Tackling abuse, neglect & exploitation Youth justice Community safety Online safety	Affordable housing Physical & mental health services Disability support Climate change Healthy food
Cross-cutting themes: Childrens rights & participation * Workforce * Partnerships * Equality, diversity & inclusion * Funding				

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Chairman: Councillor James Jamieson OBE **Chief Executive:** Mark Lloyd CBE **President:** Baroness Grey-Thompson

7. The vision and each theme underpinning it will be supported with evidence to build a clear narrative as to why each strand is important, along with case studies of good practice and clear asks of Government (costed where possible and appropriate) for any legal, financial or other levers that councils need to deliver the vision as effectively as possible.

Implications for Wales

8. Children's social care and education are devolved in Wales, however areas of commonality will be sought and where the vision includes non-devolved policy areas such as immigration we will work with our colleagues in the Welsh LGA to ensure appropriate join up.

Financial Implications

9. Work to develop the vision will be carried out within existing LGA resources.

Equalities implications

10. It is recommended that equality, diversity and inclusion is a key theme running across all elements of the vision. There is significant evidence around the differing access to and experience of different services by children and young people of different backgrounds and protected characteristics and it is therefore important to consider this evidence to identify where work must take place to ensure equity of provision and opportunity.

Next steps

11. Comments made by the Board will be incorporated into a high-level vision document which will be agreed by Lead Members in the first instance with the aim of launching this at the National Children and Adult Services Conference in November. Members of the Children, Welfare, Equalities and Democracy team will then work to draw together evidence underpinning the proposed high-level vision. The evidence will ensure clarity over how to achieve the overarching vision, and be used to develop outcomes and asks of Government rooted in the evidence as to what matters to and for children and young people.

12. The Board will receive regular updates on progress of the vision work including final sign off for key documents.