

Meeting: Children and Young People Board

Date: 24 January 2023



LGA Plan 2022-25

Purpose of report

For discussion.

Summary

On 19 October 2022, the LGA Board signed off a new 3-year business plan for 2022-25. The [LGA Plan 2022-2025](#) sets the direction for the LGA as a whole and includes our policy and campaigning priorities for the period.

The Board is asked to review the Plan and to discuss any changes to its workplan to reflect the overall LGA direction and priorities.

Recommendations

That the Children and young People Board reviews the Plan and discuss any changes to its workplan to reflect the overall LGA direction and priorities

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LGA Plan 2022-25



Background

1. On 19 October 2022 the LGA Board signed off the LGA's new 3-year business plan – [LGA Plan 2022-2025](#). The development of the Plan was led by a joint officer/member task and finish group, who considered feedback from consultations and discussions with member councils, lead members, group executives and staff.
2. The new LGA Plan clearly sets out our vision to be **the Voice of Local Government** and our purpose to **Promote, Improve and Support** local government. A copy of the Plan is attached at **Appendix 1**.

Content

3. The LGA Plan is in three parts:

Part 1:

- sets out the LGA's overarching vision and the golden thread that runs through the plan - to be **the Voice of Local Government**;
- sets out our purpose - to **Promote, Improve and Support** local government. These form the three pillars of all our external facing work, including the work of the eight policy boards and the Improvement and Innovation Board.
- emphasises our commitment to work more collaboratively across the whole of local government to strengthen our voice on behalf of the sector;

Part 2:

- Promoting **local government** sets four policy and campaigning priorities
 - ✓ A sustainable financial future
 - ✓ Stronger local economies, thriving local democracy
 - ✓ Putting people first
 - ✓ Championing climate change and local environments;
- **Improving local government** sets out our main grant-funded commitments;
- **Supporting local government** highlights the excellent technical and professional support and services we deliver to councils in fields such as workforce, pensions, legal, communications and procurement and a range of place-based services.

Part 3:

- **Our business** – sets out our internal organisational priorities, including actions to support our political leadership and enhance our membership, increase our financial resilience and our commitment to Net Zero.

Delivering the LGA Plan

4. Members are invited to review the LGA Plan and to discuss any amendments or additions to the Board's work programme to align with the LGA's priorities.
5. The Plan contains a number of priorities which relate to, and are aligned with, the work of the Board:
 - 5.1. Councils have a clear ongoing role in promoting and supporting high educational standards and the resources, powers, and flexibilities to ensure every child has fair access to a place at a good local early years setting, school or college.
 - 5.2. Councils have the powers and funding to meet the needs of all local children and young people including looked-after children and those with Special Educational Needs and Disability and ensure that children and families have access to the help they need and the opportunities they deserve.
 - 5.3. Our Children's Services Improvement programme supports councils to help children, young people, and families to achieve the best possible outcomes. We will continue to offer:
 - 5.3.1. leadership training, networking opportunities, mentoring and coaching for political and corporate leaders with responsibilities for children's services
 - 5.3.2. improvement support and diagnostic activity framed around specific themes and issues (including peer challenge)
 - 5.3.3. Early Years Speech and Language programme.
6. The LGA Plan will remain a flexible document that will be reviewed and updated annually, and with the agreement of the LGA Board, may be updated to reflect changing circumstances.

Implications for Wales

7. The LGA Plan includes the support that we provide to the 22 Welsh councils, in membership of the LGA through the Welsh LGA. However, some central government grant-funded activities do not include support to Wales, where funding may be allocated through the Welsh government.

Financial Implications

8. Delivery of the LGA Plan is reflected in the LGA's medium term financial strategy. Our internal business priorities include priorities to ensure the financial sustainability of the LGA.

Equalities implications

9. Our internal business priorities include the delivery of the LGA's equalities strategy and action plan.

Next steps

10. Subject to members' comments, the Board's work programme will be updated to reflect the priorities of the LGA Plan 2022-25.