**Appendix C: Supporting Councils’ improvement**

1. Leading members from LGA Boards and members of the Improvement and Innovation Board participated in a workshop on 2 June to discuss the future of sector-led improvement and the role of the LGA Boards in the light of the outcome of the LGA Governance review that the Improvement and Innovation Board should take responsibility for all improvement activity.

1. At the workshop members felt that the Improvement and Innovation Board should hold an “overarching” umbrella remit on LGA improvement activity, providing the strategic framework for the approach to sector-led improvement and maintaining oversight of the support provided. Individual Boards would continue to lead on improvement activities and support within their “service” areas. This approach builds on the expertise already held by existing Boards and the established linkages/relationships already developed at political and officer level.

1. In order to give effect to this and to help the Improvement and Innovation Board develop and maintain a strategic overview, the Board agreed on 15 July that:
   1. officers be asked to coordinate the flow of business through the Boards so that the Improvement and Innovation Board is invited to express strategic views about any significant improvement issues before other Boards;
   2. during the year the Improvement and Innovation Board receives suitably timed progress reports on the major improvement programmes, for example:
      1. Children’s: around the Annual Ofsted report.
      2. Corporate/Finance: around Budget time.
      3. Adults/Health: around the annual Towards Excellence in Adult Social Care (TEASC) report of performance in adult social care.
   3. Relevant Board Chairs would be invited to attend as far as possible, the Improvement and Innovation Board meets towards the end of each quarterly cycle of meetings so it can consider any significant issues put before other Boards and then report back to Boards at their next meeting.

1. It is not the intention that these arrangements should limit or delay the work of individual Boards but that our approach to supporting councils’ improvement across a wide range of subject areas should be consistent and coherent and that the lessons we learn about what works for improvement in one area should inform our wider approach. The Improvement and Innovation Board will take updates on service improvement issues from time to time and would need to be involved, for example, if there was any suggestion of moving away from our core principles of sector led improvement in any area.

1. The Improvement and Innovation Board has also agreed to review and refresh our current approach to sector-led improvement in the light of the recent evaluation and in the context of the forthcoming General Election. The Board will be keen to engage councils and a wide range of stakeholders in this process, including other LGA Boards.

1. In addition the Leadership Board on 16 July approved the LGA campaigns for 2014/15, including a campaign on sector-led improvement. This will provide an opportunity for the LGA to refresh the way it communicates councils’ improvement and our efforts to support them.