

25 March 2015

Other Business Report

Purpose

For information

Summary

This report provides reports on other business relevant to the Board.

Recommendation

That the Board note the updates on:

- i. Child and adolescent mental health
- ii. Investing in Our Nation's Future: The First 100 days of the next Government

Action

LGA officers to action as necessary.

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Other Business Report

Update on Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services

1. On 10 February 2015 the Government responded to the Health Committee's report into Children's and adolescents' mental health and Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) which was published on 5 November 2014. The LGA submitted a written submission to the Health Committee. Our submission included the following key concerns:
 - A lack of investment in CAMHS
 - Poor quality and out of date data
 - Lack of accessibility to specialist services and long waiting times.
 - Poorly planned transitions.
 - Serious concerns about the quality in safeguarding and admissions practice.
2. The Government accepted many of the Health Committee's recommendations and stated that improving child and adolescent mental health is a key priority for the Government. Its key responses to the Health Committee's report included
 - 2.1 Setting up a Taskforce to bring together experts on children and young people's mental health services from across education, social care and health sectors to considering how we can provide more joined up, accessible services built around the needs of children, young people and their families. The Taskforce is due to publish its report with recommendations to Ministers in March.
 - 2.2 Announcing that NHS England has funded eight pilots into collaborative, joint commissioning arrangements for children and young people's mental health.
 - 2.3 As part of the Autumn Statement announcement, the Government announced additional investment of £30 million a year over the next five years in England, to improve services for young people with mental health problems. This will place particular emphasis on eating disorders and other issues such as self-harm.
 - 2.4 The Government is expanding and updating a prevalence survey and anticipates publication of the findings in 2017.
3. We welcome the strong focus and prioritisation of child and adolescent mental health issues and we urge the future Government to prioritise and build upon this work to deliver improvements as quickly as possible. Whilst the plans to commission a national prevalence survey of child and adolescent mental health is a positive step forward, the anticipated publication of the findings in 2017 does not satisfy the urgent need for better quality data.
4. Public mental health is now the responsibility of local authorities and Health and Wellbeing Boards have a key leadership role to play in bringing together all partners to create a shared vision for child and adolescent mental health services. The LGA is

keen to work with partners to identify and facilitate development of locally led actions which could be progressed now by the sector(s) to keep the momentum going.

Investing in Our Nation's Future: The First 100 days of the next Government

5. Our report 'Making sure every child has a place at a good local school' was published on 20 March 2015. Following our report 'Investing in our nation's future: the first 100 days of the next government', this publication further details the commitments the next government will need to make to secure a bright future for the children and young people of this country. It calls on the next government to mend the broken system of two-tier school accountability and decision-making by:
 - 5.1 Supporting the creation of local education trusts to drive school improvement.
 - 5.2 Streamlining top-down Ofsted inspection and putting peer challenge at the heart of school-to-school improvement.
 - 5.3 Restoring to councils the powers to hold all local schools to account for education standards and to intervene when they start to slip.
 - 5.4 Returning to councils responsibility for safeguarding and special educational needs provision in academies and the power to direct them to admit hard-to-place pupils.
 - 5.5 Allowing councils to open new schools and paying schools capital into single local capital pots to allow councils and schools to work together to make the best use of scarce resources.