

Improving children's social care

Cllr Dick Madden

Cabinet Member for Children and Families, Essex CC

Chair, LGA Children's Social Care Task Group

Some context...

- Huge increases in demand over the past decade:
 - CP enquiries up 140%, CP plans up 91%
- £2bn funding gap for children's services by 2020
- Early help services important to manage demand, but Early Intervention Grant cut by £400m since 2013 and will lose another £300m by 2020.
- Need for a more holistic approach to improvement across children's social care, building on wealth of recent research and experience of what makes the biggest difference.

LGA Children's Social Care Task Group

- Cross-party task group under remit of the LGA Children and Young People Board
 - Cllr Dick Madden (Essex, Conservative)
 - Cllr Anntoinette Bramble (Hackney, Labour)
 - Cllr Jon Hubbard (Wiltshire, Liberal Democrat)
 - Cllr Gillian Ford (Havering, Independent)
 - Developing a 10 point plan for improving children's social care, highlighting how LGA and others can help. Wrote to all Lead Members for views earlier in the year, and all councils will be invited to comment on the draft plan over the summer.
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Areas for priority action

- We must set a clear expectation that the safety and wellbeing of children will be a corporate priority for all service areas and organisations across the public sector.
 - We need to do more to support local leaders tasked with protecting our most vulnerable citizens
 - We need a stronger collective recognition of the role of ALL agencies in keeping children safe and well
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Areas for priority action (2)

- We must act now to address the increasing number of children needing support through the child protection system
 - We must ensure that local services have the resources they need to keep children safe and well
 - We need to support councils to manage their resources effectively, with funding focussed on areas of maximum impact
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Areas for priority action (3)

- We must recognise our achievements as openly as we criticise our failures
 - We need an inspection regime that recognises strengths and facilitates improvement as effectively as it identifies failure
 - We need a better understanding both of what works and of what good looks like in LA children's services
 - We must develop a stronger culture of continuous improvement in children's services
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