

Note of last Community Wellbeing Board meeting

Title: Community Wellbeing Board
Date: Thursday 16 February 2017
Venue: Rooms A&B, Ground Floor, Layden House, 76-86 Turnmill Street,
London, EC1M 5LG

Attendance

An attendance list is attached as **Appendix A** to this note

Item Decisions and actions

1 Apologies and Declarations of Interest

The Board **noted** Cllr Doreen Huddart's and Cllr Carole Burdis' apologies.

Cllr Ereira-Guyer declared an interest in item 3 as he has worked with Harrow Council in the past, and Cllr Robin Moss declared an interest in item X as he worked for a charity supporting young people.

2 LGA Mental Health Report

The Chairman welcomed and introduced Paul Farmer CBE, the Chief Executive of MIND, who had been invited to attend the Board meeting to discuss MIND's views on the role of councils, and what suggestions he might have for inclusion in future LGA work on mental health and in particular on public mental health spend.

Paul Farmer CBE provided the Board with background information on MIND and his related roles. He informed the Board that he had chaired the NHS England Mental Health Taskforce which had published the Five Year Forward View for Mental Health, and had also been appointed as a co-chair of a piece of work commissioned by the Prime Minister to improve mental health in the workplace.

He highlighted that in general terms the mental health of the country was not improving and for some groups was getting worse, particularly amongst young women and older men. He raised inequality of access to support as a particular concern.

He noted however that mental health had gone up the political agenda. The Five Year Forward view He emphasised the role local authorities play in enabling people to stay well and live a full life and informed the Board that he was enthused and encouraged by the initiative presented in the report. He also emphasised the importance of conversation between the voluntary sector and public sector in the wider discussion on mental health.

In addition he went on to note that good mental health required more than support from the health service. It involved a range of services such as debt and financial advice and housing, which was why councils had such an important role to play in this agenda. Councillor champions had created conversations locally and the next step was

considering how health and wellbeing boards could play a greater role.

He expressed a view that local authorities should have more systematic involvement in Sustainability and Transformation Plan (STP.) He also expressed a view that local suicide prevention strategies being established was the best next step in improving public mental health, as was work on sickness absence, where the first priority was to identify good practice, including from local authorities.

In the discussion with Paul Farmer CBE which followed Members raised the following points;

- Mental health was a growing priority for communities, and with financial pressures on services the voluntary sector needs to be viewed by local authorities as a key player.
- Members commented that it was encouraging Paul Farmer CBE emphasised the importance of STPs, and asked whether in his view STPs and health and wellbeing boards were looking enough at mental health issues.
- Paul Farmer said that councils needed to articulate what the added value that local authorities provided was, and that consideration needed to be given to how to help people with mental health issues remain in work, to help those who needed it back into work and what could be done to assist those who had never been in work.
- The work of carers is vital. How could they and their families be better supported?
- Paul Farmer noted that health and wellbeing boards were still new organisations but they were looking increasingly at mental health issues, though there were issues local MIND bodies found in feeding views in. mental health needed to be embedded into the work of STPs.
- That local authorities need to look more closely on how to better link a range of services they provide to the NHS. In particular, a council's social services role in this needs to be brought more to the fore.
- That local authorities are key in supporting a person's mental health through many of their roles, such as in Housing.
- Members commented that it would be important to recognise mental health support in rural areas.
- That local authorities need to ensure the same level of access to mental health support is available in academies as in state run schools.
- Members commented that the importance of parks, libraries and the general environment of an area on mental health needs to be taken into account.
- Members expressed a view that that local authorities need to pursue new ways of undertaking joint-commissioning.
- Paul Farmer CBE expressed a view that the extent to which members empower officers to talk on this will be important going forward.
- In regards to carers Paul Farmer CBE informed members that MIND had identified the cost of unpaid care at £14 billion and that it was critical to ensure the best support for carers and that the support was available at the required time and of good quality.

Abigail Gallop, Senior Adviser, informed the Board that the LGA is intending to develop a report that sets out the key role of local government in mental health. She emphasised that any further feedback on the objectives, scope and methodology of the LGA mental health report would be useful.

In the discussion which followed Members raised the following points;

- Members commented that in regards to the scope of the report a greater

emphasis on early intervention and prevention would be needed. There was not only a moral reason for this, but a financial reason, in that prevention would prevent future referrals to CAMHS.

- Members expressed a view that it would be important to capture in the report all the work in this devolved administrations are undertaking.
- Behavioural support was emphasised as an area of importance, in which schools required further support.
- Joint commissioning was identified as a key area that needs to be developed.
- Members commented that the report would need to include work on cyber bullying.
- Members also suggested as potential contacts in this work the Citizens Advice Bureau, Race Equality Councils, Clinical Commissioning Groups, the Samaritans, the voluntary sector, Sports England and Police and Crime Commissioners.

Decision

The Community Wellbeing Board **noted** Paul Farmer CBEs comments and thanked him for his attendance at the Board.

Action

Officers to undertake the direction in the development of the report.

3 Future of personal care packages

The Chairman introduced Cllr Anne Whitehead, Bernie Flaherty and Mario Casiero from Harrow Council.

Cllr Anne Whitehead and Bernie Flaherty gave a presentation to the Board on their Community e-Purse service. They explained to the Board the timeline and the process Harrow Council undertook in establishing this service. They highlighted the positive feedback they have received from service users, the savings that Harrow Council is making due to this and the partnership work that has been involved.

In the discussion which followed Members raised the following points;

- Individuals needed to be happy using the internet to make full use of the system. How did they adapt to work with users who were less familiar with the internet, was their take up across all ethnic groups and were there issues related to broadband speeds?
- With a risk of providers failing, how was risk addressed, how was data protection covered, were there risks of over buying by individuals, and would it include assistive technology?
- Bernie Flaherty said the system had been specifically built for a very diverse community, that they had worked with older people in designing the systems, and they were working to address issues with internet connectivity. She added that they would not allow patient information to be sold, there were assurances in the system to prevent overspends, but people tended to come under budget, and confirmed they were trying to include access to assistive technology in the service.

Decision

The Board **noted** the presentation.

Action

Officers to circulate the presentation to the Board.

4 Allocation of funding from the Soft Drinks Industry Levy

Paul Ogden, Senior Adviser, introduced the report exploring how local government should influence government policy in relation to the allocation of funding from the soft drinks industry. He explained that the former Chancellor had announced this last year and that the income made from the Levy will be spent three ways; on primary school PE and sport provision, giving secondary schools the opportunity to extend their school day and breakfast clubs in England. He informed members that this funding is currently intended to go to schools directly from central government with little accountability. Local government has spent more than half a billion pounds on tackling obesity since taking over responsibility for public health in April 2013, and there has been no reference to councils being involved in the use of the income made from the Levy.

In the discussion that followed Members raised the following points;

- Councils should make an offer to the government which could include an out of school offer including provision in the school holidays and emphasise the efficiencies councils could achieve. Councils also had a role to play in ensuring that the money was well spent. Where others had supported the role of councils in this agenda this needed to be highlighted.
- The Welsh government had run a similar scheme and was now funding the Welsh councils to carry out work which offered an alternative to giving the funding to schools.
- Organising out of school activities in rural areas could be more problematic, and there needed to be work with wider groups such as those with diabetes or at risk of it, and not just school children
- Members commented that supporting areas of deprivation need to be focused on, and that there should be a focus on early intervention as what was provided at home by way of treats etc had an impact on health. .
- Members expressed a view that income made from the levy should be sent though local authority public health, it was emphasised that public health should act as a conduit in distributing the money to schools.
- It was suggested a meeting be arranged with the Rt Hon Edward Timpson MP to discuss this further, and that letters should be sent to the relevant select committees.
- Members expressed a view schools should be included in this discussion.

Decision

The Board **noted** the report.

Action

Officers to incorporate the Board's views in the LGA's future position on how local government should influence government policy in relation to the allocation of funding from the soft drinks industry and to invite the Rt Hon Edward Timpson MP to discuss this with lead members of the Board.

5 Review of Appropriate Adult provision for vulnerable adults

Kevin Halden, Senior Adviser, introduced the report and explained that it was in response to a recent review commissioned by the Home Office from the National Appropriate Adult Network (NAAN) which had raised concerns with the availability of Appropriate Adults for adults who are mentally vulnerable, in particular, how provision is determined, administered, directed and funded. Further to this he explained to the Board that the report detailed seven future options for the provision of Appropriate Adults.

In the discussion which followed Members raised concerns that for any organisation accepting responsibility this would be an unfunded burden.

The Chairman concluded and summarised the Boards views with the following points;

- Local authorities are not prepared to take on more statutory duties without further funding.
- The Board don't feel they are empowered to indicate other organisations or agencies that should take this on.
- The Board expressed concerns that vulnerable adults fall through the net as a consequence of a scattergun approach in the support provided.
- Local authorities are particularly concerned they will have to pick up safeguarding where vulnerable adults have fallen through the net.

Decision

The Board did not agree to support any of the seven future options included in the report.

6 Update on Other Board Business

Mark Norris, Principal Policy Adviser, introduced the report, which presented updates on various areas of the Board's work which were not included as part of other items on the agenda.

Decision

The Board **noted** the updates contained in the report.

7 Minutes of the last meeting

The Board **agreed** the minutes of the previous meeting held on 1 December 2016.

Appendix A -Attendance

Position/Role	Councillor	Authority
Chairman	Cllr Izzi Seccombe	Warwickshire County Council
Vice-Chairman	Cllr Linda Thomas	Bolton Council
Deputy-chairman	Mayor Kate Allsop	Mansfield District Council
	Cllr Richard Kemp CBE	Liverpool City Council
Members	Cllr David Coppinger	Windsor & Maidenhead Royal Borough
	Cllr Graham Gibbens	Kent County Council
	Cllr Keith Glazier	East Sussex County Council
	Cllr Liz Mallinson	Cumbria County Council
	Cllr Vic Pritchard	Bath & North East Somerset Council
	Cllr Ernest White	Leicestershire County Council
	Cllr Jonathan McShane	Hackney London Borough Council
	Cllr Lynn Travis	Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council
	Cllr Phil Bale	Cardiff Council
	Cllr Jackie Meldrum	Lambeth London Borough Council
	Cllr Rachel Eden	Reading Borough Council
	Cllr Mark Ereira	Suffolk County Council
	Cllr Robin Moss	Bath & North East
Apologies	Cllr Doreen Huddart	Newcastle upon Tyne City Council
	Cllr Carole Burdis	North Tyneside Council
In Attendance		
LGA Officers		