

Note of last Councillors' Forum meeting

Title: Councillors' Forum
Date: Thursday 8 March 2018
Venue: Westminster Room, 8th Floor, 18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ

Attendance

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

Item	Decisions and actions	Action
1	<p>Welcome, apologies and declarations of interest</p> <p>The Chairman welcomed members to the meeting and noted the apologies as set out at <u>Appendix A</u>.</p> <p>There were no declarations of interest.</p>	
2	<p>Minister of State for Care, Caroline Dinenge MP</p> <p>The Chairman welcomed Caroline Dinenge MP, Minister of State for Care, to the meeting.</p> <p>The Minister thanked members and the Chairman for inviting her to speak and noted that the integration of health and social care was vital in reforming the system and delivering effective services to those most in need of them. The Minister said that her focus would be centred around reform, housing, integration and loneliness, and she was looking forward to working with local government on the green paper for the care and support of older people. She noted that a parallel project would be run alongside the green paper which would focus on working age adults, and that part of this process would include roundtables and ongoing discussions with both the LGA and ADASS. The Minister acknowledged that funding was an issue for local government and she referenced the £2 billion in additional funding which she said would help commission sustainable and diverse services.</p> <p>The Minister was not able to stay to take questions from members but the following comments were made following her departure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Members did not feel that the Minister understood the full extent of the funding pressures local authorities were under and they questioned where money set aside went after the Dilnot cap was scrapped. Members were keen to press the Government on the £2.3 billion funding gap and for the Government to look at the whole picture on social care, which would include the impact closing local libraries, community and youth centres had on vulnerable people.	

- Members felt that the Government needed to work more closely with local government in relation to the green paper and that there should be a greater focus on prevention.
- Members asked how we could reset the conversation about local health services and the interaction between local authorities and the NHS. It was suggested that more could be done to encourage local authorities and the NHS to work in partnership. It was noted that in some areas there had been disputes between local authorities and Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) about the Better Care Fund.
- Lord Porter noted that the delayed transfer of care (DTC) figures had come down month on month and the local authorities ought to be praised for the work they had done to contribute towards this reduction.

Decision

Members **noted** the Minister's presentation.

3 Chairman's Update

Members **noted** the Chairman's update.

4 LGA Boards & Portfolio Chair's Reports

The following comments were made:

- It was noted that a meeting of the Business Rates Retention Group would follow Councillors' Forum.
- Cllr Simon Blackburn noted that the Government had launched a consultation on the Domestic Violence and Abuse Bill and he reminded members that the LGA position on this was supportive. Cllr Blackburn said that the LGA would continue to work with the Government to ensure that there was a focus on prevention as well as refuges. Cllr Martin Tett asked about the Home Office suggestion that some Prevent responsibilities would be moved to local government. Cllr Blackburn was limited in the details he could provide following conversations with the security services but that he would update the political groups as and when any progress was made.

Decision

Members **noted** the Chairs' reports.

5 Digest of the last meeting

Members **agreed** the minutes as an accurate summary of the discussion had at the previous meeting.

Appendix A -Attendance

Position/Role	Councillor	Authority
Chairman	Lord Gary Porter CBE	South Holland District Council
Vice-Chairman	Cllr Marianne Overton MBE	Lincolnshire County Council
Deputy-chairman		
Members	Cllr David Simmonds CBE	Hillingdon London Borough Council
	Cllr Sean Anstee	Trafford Metropolitan Borough Council
	Cllr Paul Carter CBE	Kent County Council
	Cllr Peter Fleming OBE	Sevenoaks District Council
	Cllr Nigel Ashton	North Somerset Council
	Cllr Philip Atkins OBE	Staffordshire County Council
	Cllr John Beesley	Bournemouth Borough Council
	Cllr Kevin Bentley	Essex County Council
	Cllr Paul Bettison OBE	Bracknell Forest Borough Council
	Cllr Gillian Brown	Arun District Council
	Cllr Vanessa Churchman	Isle of Wight Council
	Cllr Tom Fitzpatrick	North Norfolk District Council
	Cllr John Fuller	South Norfolk District Council
	Cllr Peter Golds	Tower Hamlets Council
	Cllr Mark Hawthorne MBE	Gloucestershire County Council
	Cllr James Jamieson	Central Bedfordshire Council
	Cllr Donna Jones JP	Portsmouth City Council
	Cllr Rory Love	Shepway District Council
	Cllr Roy Perry	Hampshire County Council
	Cllr David Renard	Swindon Borough Council
	Cllr Martin Tett	Buckinghamshire County Council
	Cllr Catherine Rankin	Tunbridge Wells Borough Council
	Cllr Colin Riley	Castle Point Borough Council
	Mayor Tim Bowles	West of England Combined Authority
	Cllr Nick Forbes	Newcastle upon Tyne City Council
	Cllr Michael Payne	Gedling Borough Council
	Cllr Simon Blackburn	Blackpool Council
	Cllr Simon Henig CBE	Durham County Council
	Cllr Alan Rhodes	Nottinghamshire County Council
	Cllr Clare Coghill	Waltham Forest London Borough Council
	Cllr Kate Haigh	Gloucester City Council
	Cllr Sue Woodward	Staffordshire County Council
	Cllr Helen Holland	Bristol City Council
	Cllr Anne Western CBE	Derbyshire County Council
	Cllr Susan Hinchcliffe	Bradford Metropolitan District Council
	Cllr Debbie Wilcox	Newport City Council
	Cllr Tudor Evans OBE	Plymouth City Council
	Cllr Heather Kidd	Shropshire Council
	Cllr Alan Connett	Devon County Council
	Cllr Lucy Nethsingha	Cambridgeshire County Council
	Cllr Peter Reeve MBE	Huntingdonshire District Council
	Cllr Alan Seldon	Herefordshire Council
	Cllr Lisa Duffy	Huntingdonshire District Council
	Cllr Robert Bucke	Tendring District Council
Apologies	Cllr Izzi Seccombe OBE	Warwickshire County Council
	Cllr Morris Bright MBE	Hertsmere Borough Council

Cllr Robert Light	Kirklees Metropolitan Council
Cllr Claire Kober OBE	Haringey Council
Cllr John Merry CBE	Salford City Council
Cllr Sabia Hussain	Slough Borough Council
Cllr Timothy Swift	Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council
Sir Stephen Houghton CBE	Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council
Cllr Graham Chapman	Nottingham City Council
Cllr Linda Thomas	Bolton Council
Cllr Judith Blake CBE	Leeds City Council
Ms Fiona Twycross AM	London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority (LFEPA)
Cllr Roger Lawrence	Wolverhampton City Council
Cllr Vince Maple	Medway Council
Cllr Amy Cross	Blackpool Council
Cllr Howard Sykes MBE	Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council

In Attendance

LGA Officers