

## Note of last Community Wellbeing Board meeting

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**Title:** Community Wellbeing Board  
**Date:** Wednesday 21 February 2018  
**Venue:** Westminster Room, 8th Floor, 18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ

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### Attendance

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

Item	Decisions and actions
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### 1 Welcome, apologies and declarations of interest

Apologies were received from Cllr Linda Thomas and Cllr Jonathan Owen. Cllrs Robin Moss and Elaine Atkinson attending the meeting as substitutes. Cllr Thomas had recently been appointed Leader of Bolton Council. Board members noted their congratulations in her absence.

The Chair also noted that Cllrs Jonathan McShane and Lynn Travis would be standing down at the forthcoming local elections and they were thanked for their attendance at meetings and the value and input they had put into the Board.

There were no declarations of interest.

### 2 The Independent Review of the Mental Health Act

Mark Trewin, Bradford Council, and Andy Bell, Centre for Mental Health, attended the meeting to give Board members an overview of the independent review of the Mental Health Act.

They outlined the scope of the review and the structure of the review team, noting that an interim report was due to be delivered in May or June, and that the final report due to be published later in the year would detail how the Mental Health Act should be updated. The aim of the review was to identify the main issues with the current legislation and offer recommendations as to how it should be improved. An advisory group of around 40 people, including social workers, police officers, service users and more, would be asking what the Mental Health Act was for, how it should be run in the future, how rights and risks should be balanced, and how service providers could focus on prevention. The review team would also be looking to simplify Section 117.

In the discussion which followed, Members raised the following points:

- Local authorities have a key role to play in mental health care but there was no-one representing local government on the advisory group. Members recommended that an LGA Board member and an officer should be consulted as part of the review.
- Members voiced concerns about the increase in detention rather than

treatment, and wondered if this was a possible impact of cuts to funding and reduced resources. The lack of funding was also raised as a general issue, and comments were made about the need to clarify and simplify the Section 117 process and Deprivation of Liberty Standards (DoLS).

- Points were raised about prevention of mental health crises, and how services ensure they do all they can to prevent low level mental health issues from spiralling. Members noted that those in crisis may be able to attend a few free counselling sessions but would then be referred to another service which needed to be paid for. Those who would most benefit from such a service often cannot afford to pay.
- Members wanted the review to recognise the role of prisons in the use of the Mental Health Act and the fact that the criminal justice system, police, fire and ambulance services were all important partners. In terms of prisons, members noted that existing mental health service provision in prisons is disjointed and that if someone needed to be detained in the community, it would happen within hours but it can take up to two weeks in prisons.
- Young people's use of social media was discussed and members felt it was vital to consider the effects it could have on mental health.
- The transition between children's and adults' services needed to be considered and members felt the review needed to be linked with CAMHS.
- Housing providers play a key role in supporting people with mental health difficulties in the community. Members felt that the local housing allowance cap on rent cutting off after two years did not work for those with severe mental health needs.
- Caring for people with personality disorders in the community was a concern for councils. Members wanted to know if the review would address personality disorders. Questions were also asked about whether the review would think about how the Mental Health Act worked for those with autism and learning disabilities.

### **Decision**

The Board **noted** the presentation.

### **Action**

Officers to send a list of members' comments to the review team.

## **3 Future of health and social care**

The Chair welcomed speakers to the session and invited Tom Kibasi, Director of IPPR to outline the scope and purpose of the Lord Darzi review into the future of health and social care.

Tom Kibasi outlined the nature of the review, explaining to Members that the review team were looking at what the current system looks like, what progress had been made to date, what had been learnt from setback and challenges, and what the likely solutions could be, as well as what the future funding requirements could be given the

current gap in resources, which is larger for social care than it is for health. Tom advised members that the review was in its analytical stage, that an interim report was due in April, with a final report due in June. He noted that the key questions were what the state of care was currently, what had happened to quality and safety of care, and the equity of provision, what the impact of demographic changes were and how technology could be used to improve provision and services.

David Pearson from Nottinghamshire County Council is one of the independent experts sitting on the advisory group for the Darzi Review and attended the meeting alongside Caroline Abrahams from Age UK, and Julie Das-Thompson from NHS Clinical Commissioners. Alyson Morley, LGA Senior Adviser, noted that the purpose of this item was to bring together three distinct but overlapping themes – the IPPR Review, the Green Paper and future funding – and to seek members' views in order to clarify LGA messages on what a joined up health and social care system might look like.

Members made the following comments:

- None of the members of the advisory group of the Darzi Review had a social care background. Although some on the panel may have experience of managing social care, they would likely have a different perspective from professional social workers. It was also noted that there was no representation from an elected member on the panel. Members strongly supported the idea of elected member engagement.
- It was also suggested that citizens and service users needed to be engaged in this debate and Members encouraged the IPPR to find ways of encouraging patients and the public to feed in their views. Julie Das-Thompson of the NHS Clinical Commissioners also noted that they had not been consulted nor were aware of the Review. Tom Kibasi explained that the IPPR was an independent charity with a small budget and so did not have the resources to engage everyone, but he encouraged people to respond to the call for evidence.
- Members were concerned that it would be difficult, given the timescales and resources available, to give sufficient consideration to all seven questions set out by the Review in respect of health *and* social care. There were a number of NHS experts on the panel but few who could advise on adult social care and public health. Members wanted to ensure that adult social care was given sufficient recognition within the review.
- A discussion was had about the lack of reference to the role of public health and prevention in the scope of the Review, and it was felt that the Review needed to consider how to move from a model of health and care which focuses most resources on treating sickness to one which invests in promoting good health throughout life.
- Housing was discussed, and Members made it clear that appropriate housing had a vital contribution to play in enabling people to live independently. Care staff also need somewhere to live but were being priced out of the market in many areas.
- The role of the third sector was discussed and Members suggested that the Review considers the role of the third sector in providing support for people who would otherwise rely on statutory health and social care services. Caroline Abrahams from Age UK agreed on this point and noted that while the

third sector does a huge amount and would like to do more, it also suffers from a lack of resources.

- Members spoke about the role of carers and how unpaid carers' contributions should be considered by the Review, as well as how better to support them in fulfilling this vital role.

### **Decision**

Members **noted** the update.

### **Actions**

1. Officers to write to Tom Kibasi summarising members' comments, suggesting which CWB Member should join the Advisory Panel, and thanking him for his attendance.
2. Officers to brief LGA Chief Executive, Mark Lloyd, on the Board's discussion.
3. Officers to draft the LGA's submission to the IPPR call for evidence.

## **4 Children and Young People's mental health services (CAMHS)**

Samantha Ramanah, LGA Adviser, outlined the draft submission to the consultation on the Green Paper on Children and Young People's Mental Health Provision and noted which aspects of the Green Paper were welcomed, and which there were some concerns about. Samantha suggested that the focus on early intervention and the additional £300 million in funding was welcomed but that there were some concerns about adding complexity to an already complex system, and the lack of ambition in relation to the waiting time standards.

Officers sought the views of Members and the following comments were made:

- The proposals to introduce mental health support teams and in-school counsellors was welcomed but some concerns were raised including: how these would be funded given the financial burden many schools are already under; how home schooled children would be supported; the number of young people with mental health problems who do not attend school or have been sent to Pupil Referral Units; whether this would also cover primary schools; and what support would be available during school holidays.
- Members expressed concern that many who offer talking therapies are in training rather than professionals. Members felt that there needed to be a fully trained person to be the point of contact for children, ensuring that teachers were not expected to offer counselling on top of their teaching work. It was noted that pastoral work in schools was not the same as counselling.
- A discussion was had about the transition between childhood and adulthood, and some concerns were expressed about waiting times for care leavers once they had turned 18.
- The impact of social media was noted and members felt that counsellors would be well placed to pick up on developing problems such as psychosis, but that there was a problem with recruitment and the low number of people looking to specialise in this field.

Officers noted Members' comments and suggested that while this Green Paper would

not solve all of these problems, it was a step in the right direction.

#### **Decision**

Members **noted** the contents of the draft submission.

#### **Action**

Officers to revise draft submission to reflect members' comments.

### **5 Update on other Board business**

Laura Caton, Senior Adviser, gave members a brief update on sleep-ins and noted that the Board's lead members had agreed to apply to intervene in the MENCAP court of appeal case. Laura advised members that DHSC was due to send a survey to councils to ask for details of costs associated with sleep ins and asked members to also send their authority's response to LGA officers.

#### **Decision**

Members **noted** the update.

### **6 Notes of the previous meeting**

Members **agreed** the minutes of the previous meeting as an accurate summary of the discussion which took place.

### **Appendix A -Attendance**

Position/Role	Councillor	Authority
Chairman	Cllr Izzi Seccombe OBE	Warwickshire County Council
Deputy-chairman	Mayor Kate Allsop	Mansfield District Council
Members	Cllr Nigel Ashton	North Somerset Council
	Cllr Gareth Barnard	Bracknell Forest Borough Council
	Cllr Liz Fairhurst	Hampshire County Council
	Cllr Liz Mallinson	Cumbria County Council
	Cllr Sue Woolley	Lincolnshire County Council
	Cllr Graham Gibbens	Kent County Council
	Cllr Jonathan McShane	Hackney London Borough Council
	Cllr Lynn Travis	Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council
	Cllr Shabir Pandor	Kirklees Metropolitan Council
	Cllr Paulette Hamilton	Birmingham City Council
	Cllr Jackie Meldrum	Lambeth London Borough Council
	Cllr Rachel Eden	Reading Borough Council
	Cllr Doreen Huddart	Newcastle upon Tyne City Council
	Cllr Claire Wright	Devon County Council
Apologies	Cllr Jonathan Owen	East Riding of Yorkshire Council
	Cllr Linda Thomas	Bolton Council
	Cllr Richard Kemp CBE	Liverpool City Council