

Adult Social Care Update: LGA Green Paper

Purpose

Update and discussion.

Summary

This paper updates the LGA Leadership Board on progress with the LGA green paper for adult social care and wellbeing.

Recommendation

The LGA Leadership Board are asked to note the update.

Action

Officers to take forward as directed by members.

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Adult Social Care Update: LGA Green Paper

LGA Green Paper for Adult Social Care and Wellbeing

Background

1. In June, shortly after the announcement of new funding for the NHS rising to £20.5 billion per year by 2023/24, the Government announced that its green paper on adult social care would be further delayed to the autumn, “around the same time” as the NHS Plan.
2. In light of this further delay to the Government’s proposals for the future of care and support, the LGA’s Chairman and Group Leaders approved plans for the LGA to develop its own green paper on adult social care and wellbeing.
3. The LGA green paper, *The lives we want to lead*, was published on 31 July and was intended to stimulate a nationwide debate about how best to fund the care we want to see in all our communities for adults of all ages and how our wider care and health system can be better geared towards supporting and improving people’s wellbeing.
4. *The lives we want to lead* posed a series of 30 consultation questions across a range of topics and the deadline for responses ended on 26 September.
5. The survey data from Britain Think’s research carried out on behalf of the LGA can be found [here](#).
6. The LGA Research Team will shortly be publishing a full research report on our social care and wellbeing green paper. This will include the findings from the public polling and focus groups conducted by Britain Thinks on behalf of the LGA and full analysis of all consultation responses. Members of the Executive/Leadership Board will be sent a link to this publication as soon as it is available.

The consultation

7. At the time of writing, there have been more than 16,700 web page views of our green paper, the ‘easy read’ version has been downloaded more than 440 times and our facilitators and communications packs have been downloaded more than 370 and 440 times respectively. Videos we produced to accompany the green paper have been watched more than 83,500 times. The Twitter debate, through #FutureofASC, has reached more than four million people.
8. We received 548 submissions to our consultation questions, which exceeded our expectations. As part of engaging with key sector partners, we established a Sounding Board of more than 30 partners to help inform our thinking. This met twice – once in August and once in September. We also commissioned public polling of 1,741 members of the public and a series of five focus groups across the country.

LGA consultation response

9. The LGA response to our green paper was launched on 14 November at the annual National Children and Adult Services Conference. It sets out findings from the

consultation along with implications and 14 recommendations to Government. The recommendations span two broad objectives: sustaining the here and now and countering some of the immediate consequences of underfunding that are apparent across the system; and laying the ground for delivering a social care and support system that we know could be better in the long-term.

10. On the first day of launch, the website had more than 1,500 page views and the document had been downloaded 165 times. Community Wellbeing Board Chair, Cllr Ian Hudspeth, was interviewed on BBC 5 Live, with our report also covered in the Independent, i paper and the Sun. As part of the launch, LGA Chairman, Lord Porter, sent copies of the report to the Secretary of State of Health and Social Care, opposition spokespeople and LGA Vice Presidents.

11. The recommendations to Government are set out at the end of this update report at **Appendix 1**.

Financial Implications

12. This programme of work has been delivered with existing resources from across policy and corporate campaigns.

Implications for Wales

13. Our green paper, and the Government's forthcoming green paper, will cover adult social care and support in England only.

Appendix 1: Recommendations from the LGA Green Paper Consultation Response

Objective one: protecting the known potential of councils – stabilising and sustaining the short-term

Funding

1. The Government must urgently inject genuinely new national investment to close the core social care funding gap that builds to £3.56 billion by 2024/25. This must include additional investment to that announced in the 2018 Budget to help address serious provider market stability concerns in 2019/20.
(Timescale: Local Government Finance Settlement, Nov 2018-Feb 2019)
Recommendation 3
2. The above funding would help to stabilise the system as it currently delivers, but the Government's ambition should go beyond this. Any new settlement must provide the resources to deliver the aspirations of the Care Act with a focus on prevention, wellbeing, personalisation and integration. This means ending a focus on an eligibility driven approach to needs to one focused on prevention and picking up unmet need early to prevent escalation. We estimate that providing care and support for all older and working age people who need it will require an estimated further £5 billion by 2024/25. The Government must take urgent steps to tackle this by working with the sector to agree a clear figure for the cost of unmet and under-met need in time to feed into 2019 Spending Review discussions.
(Timescale: Local Government Finance Settlement, Nov 2018-Feb 2019 and ongoing) *Recommendation 4*
3. The Government should prioritise investment in prevention, community and primary health services for the £20.5 billion additional expenditure for the NHS.
(Timescale: NHS Long Term Plan, Dec 2018) *Recommendation 12*

A new approach to care and wellbeing

4. The Government should implement a new 'duty to cooperate', requiring the NHS, in particular sustainability and transformation partnerships, to engage with health and wellbeing boards as part of developing local plans to reshape and integrate health and care services that are genuinely locally agreed.
(Timescale: NHS Mandate, Dec 2018) *Recommendation 13*
5. Through its Mandate to NHS England, the Government should ensure the NHS takes decisions based on (i) the needs of local communities as a whole and (ii) public spending as a whole.
(Timescale: NHS Mandate, Dec 2018) *Recommendation 14*

Objective two: harnessing the known potential of councils – toward a better future

Funding

6. The Government should invest significant new funding to: close the funding gap facing adult social care that builds to £3.56 billion by 2024/25; and ensure that all older and working age people who need care and support are able to access it.
(Timescale: Spending Review development, 2019 and Spending Review implementation, 2020-2025) Recommendation 5
7. Where additional funding is invested in adult social care, this should be made available with as few a set of conditions as possible so local areas have discretion to prioritise the most pressing local issues.
(Timescale: Spending Review development, 2019 and Spending Review implementation, 2020-2025) Recommendation 6
8. The Government should reverse the cuts of £600 million to the public health budget between 2015 and 2020.
(Timescale: Spending Review development, 2019 and Spending Review implementation, 2020-2025) Recommendation 10
9. As part of its Spending Review, the Government should consider wellbeing in the round, recognising the contribution that different council services, and those coordinated by other public sector and voluntary sector organisations that councils commission, make to wellbeing.
(Timescale: Spending Review development, 2019 and Spending Review implementation, 2020-2025) Recommendation 11

A new approach to care and wellbeing

10. The Government should convene a core working group from across the sector, with people with lived experience at its heart, to develop a national campaign that seeks to raise awareness of what adult social care and support is, why it matters in its own right and what it could and should be with the right funding and investment. This should be genuinely co-produced, with Government acting as a convenor.
(Timescale: Government green paper care and support, Dec 2018 onward)
Recommendation 1
11. The campaign should be clear about the local dimension of social care and support. It should strike the right balance between embracing the value of this local dimension whilst also being clear about the national framework in which social care and support sits.
(Timescale: Government green paper care and support, Dec 2018 onward)
Recommendation 2
12. The Government should only implement its care cost cap and asset protection floor proposals if they are part of a wider set of reforms that secure the long-term sustainability of adult social care and support as a whole.
(Timescale: Government green paper care and support, Dec 2018 onward)
Recommendation 7

13. In consulting on the shape of, and sustainable funding for, social care through its green paper, the Government should make the case for increases in Income Tax and/or National Insurance and/or a social care premium.

(Timescale: Government green paper care and support, Dec 2018 onward)

Recommendation 8

14. Building on the campaign to raise awareness of social care and its value (recommendations one and two), the Government should make the case for national tax rises or other sustainable, long-term solutions and consult on clear propositions which explain the various options for how sufficient funding for social care and support could be raised nationally. The Government must set out how such increases would relate to the wider social care and local government funding system. The Government should also be clear about how nationally-raised increases for social care would relate to nationally-raised increases for the NHS.

(Timescale: Government green paper care and support, Dec 2018 onward)

Recommendation 9