
Community Well-being Board

10 January 2007

Local Government House, Smith Square, London

Chair: Cllr D Rogers OBE (East Sussex CC/Lewes DC)

Vice-Chair: Cllr G Barnard (Bracknell Forest)

Deputy Chairs: Cllr R Grant (Warwickshire)
Cllr D Beechey (Bridgnorth)

Members: Cllr J Couchman (Oxfordshire), Cllr D Cousins (Isle of Wight),
Cllr K Glazier (East Sussex CC) Cllr R Lawrence (Wolverhampton UA),
Cllr M Robinson (New Forest DC), Cllr S Whitaker (Norfolk CC).

Substitutes: Cllr P Banks (Hampshire CC), Cllr M Colston (Buckinghamshire CC), Cllr L
Murphy, (Wealden), Cllr R McLaughlin (Hammersmith & Fulham)

Apologies: Cllr M Aspinall (Plymouth), Cllr E Atkinson (Poole), Cllr B Hood (Monmouth),
Cllr R Martins (Watford), Cllr E Sheehy (Salford),

The Chair, on behalf of the Board, welcomed the RT Hon Rosie Winterton, MP, Minister of State for Health Services, to the Board meeting.

1. Public Involvement in Health and Social Care (RT Hon Rosie Winterton MP, Minister of State for Health Services)

The Rt Hon Rosie Winterton MP, Minister of State for Health Services, gave a brief presentation on Local Involvement Networks (LINKs), explaining the background to them, why they were being created, and what it was hoped to achieve with them.

Following the presentation, members discussed key issues arising from LINKs including:

- *Whether the funding given to councils for their new role would be a specific grant or incorporated into the Revenue Support Grant, and if so the implications of this.*
- *Governance arrangements concerning LINKs. There were concerns that many people would only be interested in single-issues rather than the hoped for holistic-approach. Also, could Foundation Trusts be excluded from participating on the grounds of conflicts of interest? It was advised that members of Foundation Trusts could participate in LINKs although not where there was a clear conflict of interest on an individual issue.*
- *The need for proper training and support of those participating in LINKs to ensure they worked effectively and to ensure people participating were not afraid to ask questions*

- *Whether or not it was compulsory to use the term “LINks”, or if different terms could be used. For instance, by using the term “health Links” or equivalents, the public would be able to identify the relationship with health issues more easily than where the term “LINks” was used alone.*
- *The need for LINks to be properly resourced and to manage performance.*
- *The need to ensure people from a wide range of ethnic and diverse backgrounds participated in order to accurately reflect local community needs.*
- *How effectively Overview and Scrutiny committees would work with LINks in reviewing service provision.*

Decision

The Board agreed

- *To note the contents of the report on public involvement in health and social care and the presentation on LINks from the Right Hon Rosie Winterton MP, Minister of State for Health Services.*

Action

- *Officers to take forward actions as set out in the paper.* **TO’F**
- *Officers to liaise with Rosie Winterton MP’s office regarding whether variable terms can be used for LINks.*

2. The Commissioning Framework for Health and Well-Being (Bob Ricketts, Head of Access Policy development and Capacity, Department of Health)

The Board received a presentation by Bob Ricketts (Head of Access Policy Development and Capacity, Department of Health) in which he set out the aims, visions and obstacles and main focuses to ensure a smooth transition of the health service commissioning framework.

Following the presentation, members discussed the following points:

- *The importance of proper training, which would take time and cost money if properly implemented.*
- *The cultural issues prevalent which could lead to problems between local authorities and the NHS due to the very different natures of their internal workings and lack of understanding of these workings between one another.*
- *The need to provide incentives for practice-based commissioning GPs to become involved in the new framework as currently there is little evidence of willingness to get involved.*
- *Whether practice-based commissioning GPs were allowed to prescribe social care and if so, if it was charged for on the NHS or whether it was free.*

- *The current confusion between commissioning for population outcomes; better service outcomes; and for individual outcomes.*
- *The need to change business systems in order to speed up transitions.*
- *Terms such as “immature partnerships” should be carefully used, and not used when referring to partnerships which had worked incredibly hard together but were struggling due to lack of resources.*
- *Councils were not under an obligation to charge for social care, but many had to in order to be able to balance their budgets.*

Decisions

The Board agreed key lines for the LGA’s response to the joint commissioning framework as set out in paragraphs 7-12 of the report.

Action

Officers to take forward actions as set out in the paper.

TO’F

3. Fair Care Campaign (Edward Welsh, Programme Director Media and Campaigns, Local Government Association) (Oral Update)

The Board received an oral update from Edward Welsh, Programme Director, Media and Campaigns, LGA, on the Fair Care Campaign and the challenges of providing social care. Members were also informed that the LGA paper “Without A Care?” , had been sent to all council Leaders, Chief Executives, MPs, Peers and leading stakeholders prior to Christmas.

Following the presentation members discussed the following points:

- *Although there had been some modernisation in the provision of social care, there had not been enough, and the pace was slowing due to lack of resources. This needed to be addressed.*
- *Centrally driven organisations such as the NHS, with their own culture, found it difficult to understand the culture of local government, although this was not to say that the NHS and Local Government had to have completely shared goals on every issue. As different organisation, there were bound to be different needs at different points.*
- *MPs needed to be made more aware of the crisis in the adequate provision of social care for an increasing population.*

Action

Officers to send the publication "Without a Care?" to all Adult Social care portfolio holders

EW

4. Other Business Report

The Board members discussed the following issues as set out in the report:

Updates on papers and legislation

Decision

- The Board noted the updates on Vision for Adult Social Care, Older People, Mental Health Bill, Supporting People and EU matters, noting that the Mental Health Bill had been disappointing.

Feedback from Meetings

Feedback was given from meetings members had attended since the last Board which included: attending the second meeting of the group chaired by Lord Warner, which was ongoing; attendance at a reference group set up for a smoke-free England; attendance at a meeting with Ruth Kelly on local authorities with significant issues around migrant workers; and attendance at the Skills for Care seminar which looked at the aging social care workforce and considered measures to encourage younger workers to enter the profession.

Comments on Cross-Board Working

The report on Cross-Board working was noted, and it was felt that this would be desirable as long as the working with other Boards where appropriate added value. It should not be undertaken simply as a process to be followed. It would also be important to undertake joint working with the LGA Executive.

Forthcoming Conferences

The Board noted these as set out in the report. An additional conference to add was that of the IDeA seminar for members on 6th February 2007.

Action

- Officers to process ideas for cross-board working (possibly with the Children and Young People's Board), and to confirm whether the LGA would pay expenses for members to attend the IDeA seminar in February.

**TO'F/Member
Services**

5. Note of the Last Meeting

The Board agreed the note of the last meeting.

The Chair and Lead Members, on behalf of the Board, thanked Jeni Bremner for all the hard work she had undertaken on behalf of the Community Well-Being Board. They wished her luck for her new post in Brussels.