

Other Business Report - Decisions and Actions Required

Decisions

1. *Members are asked to:*
 - *receive policy updates on smoke free legislation, asylum and migration, local government bill.*
 - *note feedback from meetings attended since the last Board meeting on 7 March 2007;*
 - *note Conference programme 2007/08*

Actions Required

2. *Secretariat to take necessary action.*

Action by: *Secretariat*

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Other Business Report

Summary

1. *This report provides a summary of other business relevant to the Board and also deals with issues relating to Community Well-being Board representation on LGA groups. Members are also asked to feedback on meetings attended since the last Community Well-being Board meeting on 10 March.*

Other Business

Vision for adult social care

2. *The Department of Health has published the 'Commissioning framework for health and well-being' for consultation. It is aimed at commissioners and providers of services in health, social care and local authorities. It should form a key part of the White Paper Our health our care our say implementation. The closing date for responses is 28 May 2007 and the final document should to be published in summer 2007.*

3. *Positive feedback from ministers and local authority officers has been received in relation to our recent publication Working Together for Well-being: From Vision to Reality. The paper looks at how local stakeholders could implement the proposals around adult social care as outlined in the Department of Health's (DH) and the Department of Communities and Local Government's White Papers. Published in partnership with the Inter Agency Group on Adult Social Care (IAG), a coalition of leading national agencies, this publication is one of the first to look at how health and social care can be better integrated on both a local and national level, illustrated by examples from a range of local authorities.*

Local Involvement Networks

4. *The Health Select Committee published its report on 'Patient and Public Involvement in the NHS' on 20 April. The Committee does not believe it was necessary to abolish Patient and Public Involvement Forums – believing instead that they should have been allowed to evolve to meet the Department of Health's expectations for patient and public involvement in health and social care. The Committee is concerned by a lack of detail on LINKs in the LGPIH Bill – particularly around accountability. Despite such concerns, the Committee does consider that LINKs could be effective and offers a number of recommendations to secure their effectiveness.*

The full report is available at the following address:

http://www.parliament.uk/parliamentary_committees/health_committee.cfm

Officers from the LGA continue to meet regularly with DH, CLG, CPHI and CSIP at a monthly Project Board to progress the LINKs work.

Cost Shunting

5. *Following contact from Brent Council (and a more general Government challenge to provide hard evidence) the LGA is hosting a meeting of a number of authorities on 11 May to explore the issues of cost shunting from the NHS to councils at a local level. This will be an important opportunity for authorities to share experiences and discuss both the ramifications of and solutions to the problem. Officers at the LGA are also currently gathering information and*

case studies in order to provide a sound empirical base to any future work the association may wish to carry out.

Smoke Free legislation

6. *The Smoke Free legislation will come into effect on the 1st July 2007, providing a massive boost to public health through the ending of smoking in enclosed public places. Experience in Scotland shows a high degree of voluntary compliance is likely, and the LGA is working with other Smokefree England partners to counter the more lurid recent journalistic approaches to this issue. In particular we participated in the 100-day countdown at the end of March.*

Asylum and Refugee Task Group

7. *The Asylum and Refugee Task Group, chaired by Cllr Roger Lawrence of the Community Well-Being Board, agreed at its meeting on 21 March that the UASC Reform Steering Group, a multi-stakeholder group reporting to the Task Group, should develop a response to the Home Office's consultation on changes to support for Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children Planning Better Outcomes and Support for Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children. Steering Group members include ADASS, regional representatives and the Refugee Council. This response from the Steering Group does not preclude any individual local authority making a response but it agreed that it would be useful if these were shared with the LGA in order to inform the Steering Group's response. The consultation can be found at <http://www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk/6353/6356/17715/uasc.pdf> and any comments from Community Well-being members on the consultation before the deadline of 31 May would be gratefully received.*

Relationship with the NHS

8. *On 15 March we published our survey on cost shunting from the NHS to local authorities. The findings show that the financial deficits that are hitting NHS trusts are hurting social care services and paint a pessimistic view of the next financial year.*

9. *Relationships between local councils and NHS partners are certainly under strain and, following a dinner between group leaders, leading members and their NHS Confederation equivalents, we are working to identify common ground and avoid further conflict in the media while supporting councils that are under pressure.*

10. *An LGA meeting aimed at councillors who are members of NHS Trusts, Primary Care Trusts, Care Trusts, or Strategic Health Authorities is being held on Monday 21 May 2007 in Local Government House. It will be chaired by Sir Jeremy Beecham, Vice Chair of the LGA. The speakers will include Andy Burnham MP, Minister of State for Delivery and Reform, and David Stout, Director of the new NHS Confederation PCT Network. The meeting will give members the opportunity to hear the latest policy developments, as well as to ask questions and discuss issues on the policy areas in five table discussions.*

Roles and tasks of social work

11. *The General Social Care Council is leading a project which will describe the roles and tasks of social work in order to define a profession with service users at its heart, capable of meeting the challenges of 21st century society. The project has been commissioned by the Department of Health and the Department for Education and Skills and follows on from the Options for Excellence: Building a Social Care Workforce for the Future review. There is now an easy-read version of the consultation document on the GSCC website pages for the project, together with an easy-read answers booklet. Both are accessible at <http://www.gsc.org.uk/News+and+events/Consultations/Roles+and+Tasks+of+social+work/>*

Options for Excellence

12. *The Department for Health has convened an Adults Social Care Workforce Strategy Board to oversee the implementation of the Options Excellence review of social care insofar as adult services is concerned. It will be chaired by David Behan, the Director-General of Social Care, and begin its work in June. Vic Citarella of LGA has been invited to join the Board as have Andrew Cozens of IDeA and Jo Cleary of the LB Lambeth.*

13. Conference Programme 2007/08

<i>Joint Adult and Children Services Transitions Conference</i>	<i>June 2007</i>
<i>LAAs and Commissioning</i>	<i>July 2007</i>
<i>Learning Disabilities</i>	<i>Sept 2007</i>
<i>Adult and Children Services Conference</i>	<i>October 2007</i>
<i>Personalisation</i>	<i>November 2007</i>
<i>Healthy Communities</i>	<i>December 2007</i>
<i>Older People</i>	<i>January 2008</i>

Feedback from meetings

14. *Members have attended a number of relevant meetings between Board meetings as reported below:*

15. *Councillor David Beechey attended a meeting with Leslie Forsyth of CPPIH at the Centre for Public Scrutiny Health Practitioners' Forum, on 5 March, regarding LINKs. This was an informative meeting which give some indication of the format of the proposed Local Involvement Networks. A note of this meeting has been sent to members of the Board by email.*

16. *Councillor Dawn Cousins attended, as the LGA CWB representative, the UK Inquiry into Mental Health and Well-Being in Later Life. The Inquiry published its first report, Promoting Mental Health and Well-Being in Later Life, in June 2006. The Inquiry's final report is due in Summer 2007. Planning for influencing activity is under way. An update of this meeting has been sent to members of the Board by email.*

17. *Councillor Mike Colston attended Government Office South East (GOSE) Region meeting of Adult Social Care Cabinet Members, and chaired the Bucks Strategic Public Health Group.*

18. *Cllr Gareth Barnard chaired a well attended and successful conference on Local Improvement Networks: engaging communities in health and social care decision-making at Local Government House on March 26. The conference programme was designed to incorporate a range of relevant issues: from setting out the new LINKs proposals to how to consult with communities and 'hard to reach groups'. Cllr David Rogers, CWB Chair, gave the local government view and contributions from colleagues representing the National Council of Voluntary Organisations and the Centre for Public Scrutiny also provided valuable perspectives on how to involve the voluntary and community sector and local authority Overview and Scrutiny in the new arrangements.*

19. *Colleagues at the Department of Health are running a series of regional roadshows on LINKs and LGA officers are assisting with some of the organisation. The first event was held in Birmingham on 23 April.*

20. *Councillor Brian Hood attended a meeting of Age Concern and was able to raise the problem experienced by councils in resourcing the best care for the elderly (and others) where*

the demand is growing. There was a lot of sympathy for this and it is now clear that Age Concern and other organisations are trying to raise awareness of this difficulty.

21. *Councillors have been invited to attend Caring Choices events being held across the country over the coming months. The first event took place on 26 April in Manchester and the following one will take place in Birmingham on 25th May 2007.*

22. *Social Services North West (SSNW) contacted the LGA to express support for the LGA's campaign to secure a sustainable system of funding for health and social care, and welcoming the opportunity to work closely with us on this issue. On 16th March Cllr David Rogers attended one of their meetings in Rochdale. As guest speaker David introduced the Community Well-being Board's perspective on a number of current issues including: funding for adult social care; strengthening the focus on adult social care and working with the NHS; the future of mental health (including our joint publication with Association of Directors of Social Services, the NHS Confederation and the Sainsbury Centre for Mental Health: Vision 2015); and issues around older people.*

Implications for Wales

23. *There are no specific implications for Wales in this report.*

Financial/Resource Implications

24. *None*

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