

Other Business Report - Decisions and Actions Required

Decisions

1. Members are asked to:

- receive policy updates
- feedback from meetings attended since the last Board meeting on 11 July 2007
- agree representation on outside bodies
- nominate a board member to the new European and International Affairs Working Group

Actions Required

2. Secretariat to take necessary action.

Action by: LGA 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 wellbeing Board meeting on 11 July.

Other Business

2. **New arrangements for European and international issues at the LGA**
The LGA Executive took the decision that a new governance arrangement will be set up to merge the work of the LGA Policy Boards and the expertise of our European and international representatives. A member of the LGA Executive will chair a new working group which will include a representative from each of the LGA political groups, one representative from each of the LGA policy boards, and the leaders (or nominees) of the UK delegations to CoR and Congress. Representatives from NILGA, COSLA and WLGA will also be invited. Nominations from the Groups are being discussed at the moment and LGA Boards are expected to nominate representatives when they are reconstituted in August.

Decision: Members are asked to nominate a representative to the new European and International Affairs Working Group.

Representation on outside bodies

3. The Community Well-being Board is asked to note the current state of play on representation on outside bodies. This is attached as Appendix 1.
4. Following the completion of pieces of project work the LGA is no longer required to nominate members to the Tobacco Control Forum, Stakeholder Group for Foresight Project on Obesity. We have not been asked to appoint LGA members to the Centre for Public Scrutiny Practitioners Forum or the CfPS Stakeholder Management Group.

Decision: Members are asked to nominate a representative to the list of outside bodies attached.

LGA Asylum and refugee Task group

5. The LGA Asylum and Refugee Task Group reports to the Community Well-being Board and is chaired by Cllr Roger Lawrence. The Task Group is a made up of

regional member representation covering all of the English regions, Wales and Scotland and focuses upon the issues around the asylum and refugee agenda from a local government perspective. Liam Byrne, Minister of State for Borders and Immigration, has indicated that he wishes to meet representatives from the organisations that formed a joint response, led by the LGA, to the Home Office's recent consultation on changes to support for unaccompanied asylum seeking children. A date is currently being sought.

National Councillor Network for Adult Social Care and Health

6. **Members of the National Councillor Network for Adult Social Care and Health are invited to attend an interactive session at the National Children and Adults Conference in Bournemouth in October. The session takes place on Thursday 18th October at 3pm, and will consider the key things councillors need to know in order to lead effective services for adults, older people and families. The session will also offer councillors a chance to raise their issues of interest and concern. The next full National Network meeting will take place on 14th February 2008 in Birmingham.**

Improvement and Development Agency update on health and social care

7. **The Department of Health has confirmed the extension of the Healthy Communities Programme until December 2008. Anne McDonald will join the Programme Board at its September meeting. The IDeA is running two workshops on the employment of people with learning disabilities, in partnership with Beacon Councils and Valuing People.**

EU Action Plan on Social Services

8. **The EU is due to publish its 'action plan' on social services in November 2007. The plan is a step towards better defining how Internal Market rules apply to the social services sector; currently a legal grey area. The plan will outline a number of initiatives which may extend the EU's powers to act on competition questions related to social services. The plan is likely to:**
 - **address the free movement of social services providers in the EU, making it easier for providers to deliver services across national borders;**
 - **make it easier for social services providers from abroad to start up in the UK, and vice-versa;**
 - **clarify how public subsidies and public financing can be awarded to social services providers and remain within EU state aid & procurement rules. This may require changes in current LA practices;**
 - **announce measures to promote quality initiatives on social care; promoting existing national quality measures, or introducing new EU quality standards;**
 - **guidance may also be forthcoming on 'shared' social services; especially important given the increasing convergence and joint commissioning of health with social services.**

9. The LGA view is that whilst increasing competition amongst social services providers is generally welcome, UK service standards must be enforceable at all times, irrespective of the country of origin of the service provider.
10. Through its new European and International Unit, the LGA's is working to send a clear message to Whitehall and the EU that it is primarily a matter for national and local public authorities, rather than the EU, to decide how best to define, organise and finance their local social services.
11. The main initiatives launched by the action plan will need to be discussed by ministers, who are unlikely to be supportive of proposals which extend the EU's competences in this area too far.
12. A short paper on this topic will be brought to a future meeting of the board for discussion.

Feedback from Community Well-being Board members on Outside meetings attended

13. Councillor Dawn Cousins has been involved in the enquiry into the Mental Health of Older People and the second report produced by the leads Age Concern and the Mental Health Foundation has now been published. The report has much significance at the present time given the concerns around re care of those many people with dementia and the level of care they are receiving. The report can be downloaded at : <http://www.mhilli.org/> .
14. The Chairman of the inquiry, Dr June Crown CBE, would be pleased to present the findings to a future meeting of the Board should members wish.

Implications for Wales

15. None

Financial/Resource Implications

16. None

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