
Community Well-being Board

11 July 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 Chair: Cllr David Beechey (Bridgnorth DC)

Deputy Chair: Cllr R Grant (Warwickshire)

Members: Cllr M Aspinall (Plymouth), Cllr E Atkinson (Poole UA), Cllr J Couchman (Oxfordshire), Cllr D Cousins (Isle of Wight), Cllr B Hood (Monmouthshire), Cllr M Robinson (New Forest DC), Cllr S Whitaker (Norfolk CC)

Substitutes: Cllr S Woodward (Staffordshire CC)

Apologies: Cllr K Glazier (East Sussex CC, Cllr R Lawrence (Wolverhampton UA), Cllr R Martins (Watford BC) Cllr R McLaughlin (LB Hammersmith & Fulham)

1. Healthy Communities Programme (Susan Biddle and Sue Johnson, IDeA)

Susan Biddle and Sue Johnson, Joint Programme Heads, IDeA Healthy Communities Programme, introduced the report and gave a brief presentation. The purpose of the Programme was to build capacity in councils to help them reduce health inequalities and promote healthy communities. The Healthy Communities Programme was funded entirely by the Department of Health. The Programme was originally funded to March 2008, but the Programme Board had recently agreed an extension to the duration of the Programme for another 12-18 months with funding roll-over to 2008-09. The presentation outlined the Programme's activities to date, particularly in developing the Programme and building capacity for future delivery of the Programme once funding had ceased. It was anticipated the remainder of its cycle would see more demand for tailored services to individual areas on key issues.

The Board discussed the Programme and the following points were noted:

- It was important for the Programme to demonstrate the real outcomes it had achieved, although it was recognised that in this area outcomes were difficult to measure. Susan and Sue agreed and gave some examples of where the Programme had achieved real success.*
- The new localism agenda would need to be incorporated when planning the programme.*
- There were concerns that links between the Department of Health and local NHS bodies were not strong enough, more information needed to be shared.*
- It was suggested that having councillors lead on the Programme within communities would help enhance the programme.*

Decision: The Board noted the report and agreed that the Programme Director for Health and Well-being would attend the Healthy Communities Programme Board and feed-in the Board's perspectives. (AM)

2. Supporting People Strategy: "Independence and Opportunity" (Anne McDonald, Programme Director, LGA)

Anne McDonald, Programme Director for Community Well-being, introduced the report. The Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) launched the Supporting People Strategy on 20th June 2007. There was much to be welcomed in the Strategy but only if sufficient funding was allocated when CSR07 was announced. The Board was asked to outline their initial responses which would then be fed into a meeting which was being arranged with lead members and the new Minister John Healey.

The Board then made the following comments:

- It was agreed that the funding issue was key and this should be made clear at the meeting.
- "Floor" authorities were concerned about the effect the removal of ring-fencing might have on their funding.
- The Strategy requested that councils work closely with the third sector. However, there was a need for long-term stable funding in order for councils to build successful partnerships with the third sector and others. The longer the wait for funding to be announced, the more difficult this became for the coming year.
- The Strategy mentioned that there may be a need for an "additional inspection". More detail was needed on this and the potential resources involved.
- It was agreed that the Board should ensure not to focus solely on funding issues but to also make clear that it welcomed the Strategy's direction of travel.
- It was noted that rural areas tended to have larger proportions of older people living in them, as well as being spread out more demographically. This made it more expensive to deliver the strategy in these areas and this needed to be recognised.
- There was a request for a list of pilot authorities

Decision: The Board noted the report, welcoming the Strategy's overall direction of travel but with concerns about what the level of funding would be when it was announced in autumn 2007.

Action:

- (i) Programme Director and lead members to re-iterate the Board's views to the minister at their meeting. (AM)
- (ii) A list of the pilot authorities to be circulated to the Board. (PO/CS)

3. Annual Report on the work of the Community Well-being Board 2006-07 (Trish O'Flynn, Senior Policy Consultant, LGA)

Trish O'Flynn, Senior Policy Consultant, introduced the report, which set out the Board's achievements in 2006-07, and asked members to comment on further actions and recommendations for next year's work. The Board gave the following responses:

- *The report of the work undertaken was positive, although the absence of a programme director was noticeable.*
- *Last year the Board had agreed to focus on two or three main interventions which had helped reduce some pressures of not having a programme director in place.*
- *It was agreed that pressure about the Spending Review should be kept up over the summer period.*
- *The increasing older population was one of the largest pressures on health and social care and the Treasury need to recognise this. The Board was advised that policy officers had worked with Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS) and DH to make a joint submission to the Treasury.*

Decision: *The Board noted the report.*

Action: *LGA Officers to take the relevant messages and concerns to meetings with Ben Bradshaw MP and DH/Treasury* **(AM/ TO)**

4. Implications for the Health Agenda with new Ministers/Secretary of State (from Anne McDonald, Programme Director, LGA)

Anne McDonald, Programme Director, Community Well-being, introduced the item and tabled information on the Department of Health's new Secretary of State and new Ministers which had been unavailable at the time the agenda was printed.

Members agreed that it was crucial to quickly establish good working relationships with the relevant new Ministers and Secretary of State so as to ensure that the relationship between NHS and local government services was well understood.

Decision: *The Board noted the new Secretary of State for the Department of Health and the new ministers and their relevant portfolios.*

5. 2012 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games (LGA Culture, Tourism and Sport Board, for information)

The report from the Culture Tourism and Sport Board was being taken to all Boards and outlined preparations being taken for the Olympics and Paralympic Games as there were links to the work of each of the Boards. For the CWB Board, links included wider benefits of health in the community. The report requested a nomination from each of the LGA's Boards for a representative on 2012 Games matters.

- *The Board noted that it was important to look at the benefits of the games for the whole of local government, not just certain authorities.*
- *There was also the issue of the Paralympic games which would link to the Community Well-being Board's work on people with disabilities and their families.*
- *Getting involved with volunteering with the Games would tie into the Board's work on well-being in communities and individuals.*
- *Cllrs Elaine Atkinson and Mary Aspinall volunteered as representatives for 2012 Games matters.*

Decision: *The Board noted the report and agreed to nominate either one or two members as representatives on 2012 Games matters at its meeting in September.*

6. Other Business Report

The Board discussed the other Business report and the following comments were made:

- Smoke-free England: It was important to emphasise ways to help people stop smoking. Some authorities were supporting staff to stop smoking by setting up smoking cessation clinics in-house.
- Community Cohesion: There was request for clarification on who made up the Advisory group.
- National Councillor Network for Adult Social Care and Health: There was discussion on how to better promote the network, possibly through a mailing list of direct contacts.
- Caring Choices Events: The event in Bristol had been well attended and very useful and members who had not yet attended one of these events were encouraged to attend by contacting Charlotte.Saini@ga.gov.uk.
- Cllr Aspinall requested that the Board consider an agenda item on 'Health Challenge England' which set out DH's Next Steps for the Choosing Health White paper for a future meeting.

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Policyandguidance/Organisationpolicy/Modernisation/Choosinghealth/DH_4135413

Decision: The Board noted the report.

Action: LGA Officers to provide information on the Community Cohesion advisory group. **(PO/CS)**

7. Notes of last meeting (9th May 2007)

The Board agreed the notes of its last meeting.

8. The Learning Disability Coalition (Dame Jo Williams, DBE, Co-Chair of the Learning Disability Coalition and CEO of Mencap; Carol Boys, Member of the Learning Disability Coalition and CEO of the Downs Syndrome Association; Heather Honour, Campaigns Manager, Learning Disability Coalition)

The Board welcomed Dame Jo Williams, DBE, Carol Boys and Heather Honour, to the meeting. Dame Jo Williams and Carol Boys gave a presentation on the work of the Learning Disability Coalition (LDC) focusing on the setting up of the Coalition, its campaigning work for additional resources for learning disability services and the work it was doing to modernise services and improve the lives of people with learning disabilities and their families. It was emphasised that the LDC wanted to work closely with the LGA and local government to ensure that people with a learning disability were treated equally, including in terms of resources. People with learning disabilities were living longer and their needs and those of their increasingly ageing carers had to be addressed.

Members discussed the issues raised in the presentation and following points were noted:

- *The Board agreed with the concerns over funding provision for care of an increasingly ageing population generally as well as for those with learning disabilities. A key message of the LGA's submission to the Spending Review had focused on these concerns.*

- *It was important to have a good understanding of the balance between what was right for individuals and their carers, as carers often felt threatened if their routines were changed. Expectations of carers were often different depending on their age. Older carers were often more comfortable with more traditional services. Reassurances needed to be given to them if their family member was moving to more modern service provisions.*
- *It was hoped that authorities with learning disabilities champions could link them to the LDC, should they wish to.*
- *It was important to involve the Supporting People strategy when considering learning disabilities.*
- *It seemed that children with learning disabilities had to pay for computer skills training whilst children without learning disabilities received this for free (such as the European Computer Driving Licence).*
- *There was concern that people with learning disabilities were excluded from democracy, and this led to them becoming more open to the extreme parties and organisations who dedicated time to them.*
- *It was noted that there were very strict limits on what a person with learning disabilities could earn before it impacted on the benefits they received and this needed to be examined.*
- *Mencap had recently published a report called "Death By Indifference" which followed up on its earlier "Treat me Right!" campaign which showed that people with a learning disability do not get the healthcare and treatment that they need. The report could be downloaded at:*
<http://www.mencap.org.uk/html/campaigns/deathbyindifference/reports.asp>

Decisions:

- (i) *The Board noted the presentation from the Learning Disability Coalition and supported its aims.*
- (ii) *The Board hoped to work with the Coalition in the future and would consider the Coalition's request that a working group of LGA and LDC representatives to meet on a regular basis.*

Action: LGA officers to take forward.

(PO)

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 12th September 2007