

Community Well-being Board

12 September 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 J Couchman (Oxfordshire), Cllr D Cousins (Isle of Wight), Cllr K Glazier (East Sussex CC), Cllr B Hood (Monmouthshire), Cllr R Martins (Watford BC), Cllr Z Patrick (Oxfordshire CC), Cllr S Ritchie (RB Kensington & Chelsea)

Substitutes: Cllr S Whitaker (Norfolk CC) (for Cllr Woodward), Cllr P Banks (observing), Cllr K Newbound (observing)

Apologies: Cllr R Lawrence (Wolverhampton UA), Cllr R McLaughlin (substitute) (LB Hammersmith & Fulham), Cllr S Woodward (Staffordshire CC)

1. Membership, Office Holders and Terms of Reference of the Community Well-being Board 2007-08

There was some discussion about the need to update the Board's terms of reference to set out the board's desire to support and be involved with the new LGA Health Commission.

Decision: Members agreed the officer holders, membership and terms of reference of the board.
(CS)

2. & 3. Outcomes of the Community Well-being Lead Members' Awayday, and LGA Priorities and Work Programmes report (Cllr David Rogers OBE, Chair of the CWB Board, and Lead Members of the board)

Cllr David Rogers OBE, Chair of the board, introduced item 2, outlining the outcomes of the lead members' awayday which had been held on 3rd September. The awayday had allowed lead members to hear from a number of experts in different areas of health and well-being. This gave some valuable background to the work of the board over the next year and allowed time to re-focus priorities onto the delivery of good quality social care. Lead members came up with a set of outcomes and priorities which were tabled, and members of the board were encouraged to add their contributions to these. An additional document was tabled for members to take away which gave some background information and statistics on adult social care.

The tabled summary of outcomes of the awayday included a focus on the demographic and financial pressures, which would need to be closely monitored. Lead members had then considered what would need to be changed to manage these pressures, and this included

forging a stronger partnership with the NHS (to be undertaken by the new LGA Health Commission); improved commissioning for all of the population requiring services (including those outside eligibility and financial criteria); greater individual choice and control (the “personalisation” agenda); funding, and the fostering of Caring Neighbourhoods to bring generations together. There were also specific challenges where the board would look at evidence of how to achieve improvement: older people, people with long-term conditions and dementia; people with learning disabilities; carers, and public health/health inequalities - for instance the impact of alcohol and obesity. These priorities would be complemented by work undertaken by the sector on improvement, with the LGA, in conjunction with IDeA, offering authorities support for improvement and greater efficiency and feeding back current lessons for good practice.

Members of the board then made the following comments:

- Following the publication of the King’s Fund update on the recent Wanless report it was important to control and contain the significant pressures on the sector and think of the longer term aims for social care over the coming years.*
- The board would need to think about how it would support the LGA’s Health Commission in its work.*
- It was crucial to offer support rather than inspection of underperforming councils- the LGA needed to work closely with the IDeA to ensure any support it provided was relevant. It must also be mindful of not becoming intrusive.*
- In terms of support to local authorities, it was important not to focus solely on one star authorities, as many authorities rated as two or three star had areas which needed improving.*
- Some councils already had a clear picture of the changing demographics in their local area over the coming years.*
- It was important for the LGA to continue to lobby the government on social care issues as there was still some way to go.*
- It was unfortunate there was no government funding for alcohol issues as this was a big priority for public health.*
- It was important to start capturing more information about the future population, particularly young people as they moved into adulthood.*

Cllr David Rogers OBE introduced item 3: LGA Priorities and Work Programmes, which was a report going to all boards. He asked members for comments on the questions raised in annexe two of the report and referred them to a tabled document which set out information on the Community Well-being board and related member and officer advisory groups.

Andrew Cozens, Strategic Adviser, Children, Health and Adult services, IDeA, stated that the children and adults teams in LGA and IDeA met regularly to ensure the coordination of their respective programmes. He went on to outline a number of pieces of work not reflected explicitly in the IDeA’s formal work programme which were currently being undertaken and which included: the new round of LAAs and work on the children’s and adults’ agendas within these; effective scrutinising of services and the link with health scrutiny, and providing sector-led improvement for councils who are deemed to have weak services. The annual National Children and Adult Services conference in October would have a slot for lead members to discuss issues in adult services. The session would also be useful for new directors of adult social services.

The board discussed the report and the following points were noted:

- *It could send a positive message to central government if the community well-being board concentrated on sector-led improvement rather than lobbying as so many other agencies were also undertaking this.*
- *It was important that the CWb board publicised itself more widely to member authorities. This also tied in with the Best recommendation to engage with member authorities more widely. It was suggested that the LGA's magazine First could be used as this had an extremely wide circulation list.*
- *It was important to remember that most councillors were backbenchers. The LGA needed to work to raise their awareness of issues.*
- *It was hoped that much work would be done on obesity, which was a crucial issue, particularly in relation to younger people.*
- *It was important that councils' partners were made more aware of the efficiency and improvement agenda.*
- *The board needed to look at both short term and long term priorities as all decisions taken in the short term tended to affect the longer term picture.*
- *In terms of more engagement, the board needed to be more outward looking and to continue to engage on a regular basis with the National Councillor Network for Adult Social Care and Health which was led by IDeA and which met across the country.*
- *In addition to attending the above Network, board members needed to find out more about other existing meetings on adult social care in their areas and make efforts to attend these and engage with members there.*
- *It was suggested that portfolio holders for adult services could be invited to the board to give presentations on areas of best practice, and this again would help engage more effectively with member authorities. There also needed to be consideration of tying up cross-cutting issues- such as housing and well-being.*

Decisions:

- (i) *The board agreed the summary of outcomes and priorities for the coming year as set out in the tabled paper.*
- (ii) *That the board noted the report and accepted the recommendations of the LGA Priorities and Work Programme paper.*

Actions:

- (i) *LGA officers to work up proposals for taking forward the priorities agreed by the board for 2007-08.*
(AM and policy officers)
- (ii) *LGA officers to work up practical proposals for better engagement of the board with member authorities and taking forward the framework set out in the prospectus more generally.*
(AM and policy officers)
- (iii) *That the comments above are reported back to the meeting for Board and Panel spokespeople on 11 October 2007.*
(AM)

4. Local Government Contribution to Revised National Carers Strategy (Imelda Redmond, Chief Executive of Carers UK)

Imelda Redmond, Chief Executive of Carers UK, addressed the board and gave a presentation on the work of Carers UK and the contribution of local government to carers. There were over 6 million carers in Britain today and everyone could expect to become a carer at some point in their lives. Therefore it was essential to ensure policies were in place to help carers. All carers had a unique experience but all too often they encountered social isolation, saw their incomes drop (and were employed below their qualifications) and their health suffered both mentally and physically. Carers UK believed it

was important for local authorities to “carer-proof” all policies – for example in terms of leisure, transport and parking facilities, where small changes could improve a carer’s day-to-day life immeasurably.

Imelda Redmond drew the board’s attention to the four task forces on carers (equalities, employment, health and social care and economic income) and Gordon Brown’s recent announcement that a standing committee on carers was to be set up and taken forward by the minister Ivan Lewis and Philippa Russell. She demonstrated an interactive tool, which would be made available to members to help authorities plan carers’ strategies.

The board thanked Imelda Redmond for her presentation and during the question and answer session the following points were noted:

- Young carers and issues surrounding them needed to be publicised and addressed. It was advised that this was happening already with young carers being integrated into all the task forces on carers.
- It was questioned whether carers had different experiences depending on the condition of the person they were caring for. It was advised that this may be the case- carers caring for someone with dementia often seemed to have an extremely difficult experience.
- It was suggested that work should be done to look at the future of caring, as families were becoming smaller and people were more likely to live alone.
- There was concern that as people with learning disabilities lived longer, their parents may become too elderly to care for them and would instead require care themselves.
- The idea of self-directed care was discussed- this was an important issue for carers who needed to be consulted where this progressed.

Decision: The board agreed that it would continue to see carers as a priority for its work.
(AM/PO)

5. Other Business Report and Appointments to Outside bodies

The board considered the table of appointments to outside bodies. It was advised that the Age Concern Advisory Board for the Inquiry into Mental health and Well being in Later Life had now come to an end as had the Health and Social Care Reform Advisory Group.

Decisions:

- (i) The following appointments to outside bodies were agreed by the board:
 - Cllr Brian Hood – Age Concern
 - Cllrs David Rogers and Richard Grant – National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence Partners Council (the new name for NICE) - with the possibility of also appointing a substitute
 - Cllr James Couchman – Social Care Institute for Excellence Partners Council
 - Cllr Gareth Barnard – Skills for Care
 - Cllr Mary Aspinall – Urban Commission Steering Group
 - Cllr Mary Aspinall – Olympics spokesperson
- (ii) The following appointments to outside bodies were to be confirmed:
 - Cllr Joan Taylor – Better Government for Older People (on the condition she was still a champion for Older People).
 - Cllr David Rogers or Cllr Rabi Martins – Equalities and Social Inclusion representative

- *Clr Sue Whitaker or Clr Gareth Barnard or Clr Zoe Patrick – European and International Affairs Group*

Action:

- (i) *Officers to update table of outside bodies (PO)*
- (ii) *Officers to provide advice to lead members on whether a substitute member can represent the board on outside bodies (CS)*

The board then discussed the other items in the Other Business report and the following points were noted:

Feedback from meetings attended by board members

- *Clr Aspinall advised the board of the meeting of the Elected Women's European Group which she had attended in Finland and outlined information in a charter which she hoped the board would formally receive.*
- *Clr Dawn Cousins advised the board that the chair of the Age Concern Inquiry into Mental Health and Well-being in Later Life would be willing to attend a future meeting of the board to discuss the work the Inquiry had undertaken.*

Decision:

The board noted the Other Business report.

6. Notes of last meeting (11th July 2007)

The Board agreed the notes of its last meeting.

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 14th November 2007