

## Other Business Report - Decisions and Actions Required

### Decisions

1. *Members are asked to:*

- *agree outstanding representation on outside bodies*
- *approve the Asylum and Refugee Task Group's amended terms of reference*
- *receive policy updates*
- *feedback from meetings attended since the last Board meeting on 12 September 2007*

### 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, including dealing with outstanding appointments to outside bodies which were deferred at the last meeting. Members are also asked to feedback on meetings attended since the last Community wellbeing Board meeting on 12 September.*

### Other Business

#### Representation on outside bodies

2. *The Community Well-being Board is asked to agree the following three outstanding appointments to outside bodies:*
  - (i) **Better Government For Older People-** *Cllr Jan Taylor to continue as the LGA representative now that it has been confirmed that she is still a champion for Older people*
  - (ii) **European and International Affairs working group** *(Cllr Barnard, Cllr Patrick or Cllr Whitaker)*
  - (iii) **Equalities and Social Inclusion representative** *(Cllr Rogers or Cllr Martins)*

#### LGA Asylum and refugee Task group

3. *The LGA asylum and refugee task group met on 1 November, chaired by Cllr Roger Lawrence of the Community Well-being Board. Subject to approval by the Community Well-being Board, the Group agreed to amend its current terms of reference to include its wider remit of migration, with the proposed changes set out below, highlighted in bold italics:*

#### LGA Asylum and Refugee Task Group Task Group Terms of Reference

4. *“The Task Group is made up of regional member representation covering all of the English regions, Wales and Scotland and focuses upon the issues around the asylum, refugee **and migration** agenda from a local government perspective.*
5. ***The Task Group meets every quarter and reports to the LGA Community Well-Being Board.***
6. *Its aims are to:*
  - *Influence and facilitate national and European policy developments and negotiation on behalf of local government.*
  - *Provide a clear conduit between national government and local government in the regions on asylum, refugee and **immigration** issues.*
  - *Ensure that Government **generally and, in particular, the Home Office and Department for Children, Schools and Families** is properly and regularly*

*informed of the implications of asylum policies on local authorities and to make representations accordingly.*

- *Continue to lobby for sufficient resources to cover local authorities' responsibilities.*
- *Provide a forum for reports from the **National Migration Partnerships**.* “

### **National children and adults services conference**

7. *The National children and adults services conference took place in Bournemouth from 17 to 19 October.*
8. *There were many excellent sessions, in particular speeches from Alan Johnson, Andrew Lansley, Norman Lamb, Dame Tanni Gray-Thomson and Ed Balls. The conference continues to grow with over 1400 delegates. We have also seen an increase in the number of elected members attending as delegates. This year over 350 were in attendance.*
9. *This event is vital to councillors, senior officers, policymakers and service managers with responsibilities for children's and adult care in the statutory, voluntary and private sector. It is also an important opportunity for their partners in health, education and related fields and MPs with an interest in social care, children's services and education.*
10. *There was a lot of positive feedback and we are already planning the programme for next year.*

### **Improvement and Development Agency update**

11. *Over 150 people attended the joint LGA/IDEA policy sessions for lead members at the National Conference in Bournemouth, including the Care Services Minister, Ivan Lewis, who sat in on the Adult Social Care meeting. The session provided an opportunity for lead members to hear about the development of Must Knows for Lead Members by IDEa and to reflect on current issues facing them. The popularity and positive response to these sessions confirmed both Boards' views about including sessions aimed at councillors in the Conference programme*

### **The national framework for NHS continuing care and NHS funded nursing care**

12. *The national framework for NHS continuing health care came into operation on 1st October 2007. The intention is to create a consistent national entitlement to fully funded NHS continuing care and a standard NHS contribution for nursing care from a registered nurse within a care home.*
13. *ADASS and LGA have worked closely with DH, with some success, to influence the content of the National Framework published by DH. But mindful that several key areas remain open to interpretation, we have taken legal advice and produced a commentary that offers local authorities advice on how to interpret the DH Framework and its associated tools. This can be found on the LGA website at:  
<http://www.lga.gov.uk/Briefing.asp?lsection=59&id=SX8B4EA7848718&ccat=106> .  
Around 80 local authorities attended a specially convened workshop on 11 September to ensure that this document addressed the issues arising at a local level and there was a*

further session at the National Children and Adult Services Conference on 18 October. Both of these demonstrated the continuing importance and concern authorities attach to this issue.

### **Adults' Social Care Workforce Survey 2006**

14. The survey is published at [Adults' Social Care Workforce Survey 2006 \(PDF, 57 pages, 418KB\)](#). This will be the last survey of its type after 18 years. Thanks to LGAR and ADASS and all partners for their continued support for this work over the years. It will be now be replaced by the National Minimum Dataset for Social Care and all local authority adult services are urged to complete this new dataset – which is a dynamic multi-purpose workforce planning tool as well as meeting the CSCI and, eventually, government Information Centre requirements for workforce data.
15. Summary: The annual survey collects data on vacancies, turnover, qualifications and salary scales for social work and social care professionals. Vacancy and turnover rates have started to fall with social workers dropping below 10% in both.

### **National Minimum Data Set for Social Care (NMDS-SC)**

16. For all the latest information on the NMDS-SC visit [www.nmds-sc.org.uk](http://www.nmds-sc.org.uk)
17. NMDS-SC Online is now available for employers who have engaged with the NMDS-SC before 31st May 2007. It is now possible to amend and update your NMDS-SC record online if a username and password from Skills for Care is received. Visit [www.nmds-sc-online.org.uk](http://www.nmds-sc-online.org.uk). The NMDS-SC Online will be available to all employers in the social care sector on a phased basis and a consultation is underway with local authorities on the development of a bulk upload tool to assist the process -contact [Mats.Lund@skillsforcare.org.uk](mailto:Mats.Lund@skillsforcare.org.uk)

### **“Social work at its best” – the role of social work in 21st century care services**

18. A draft statement describing the roles and tasks of social workers was discussed at the National Children and Adult Services Conference. Key stakeholders were asked to comment. The document when finalised and agreed by ministers, will aim to show how social work, at its best, can contribute to improving care services. There are 49,000 social workers employed by local authorities with over half working with adult and family services. Conference delegates made it clear that, as employers, local authorities will welcome precision and clarity of purpose in the statement.

### **Feedback from Board members on Outside meetings attended**

19. **Annual National Children's and Adults' Services Conference**  
A number of councillors on the Board attended part or all of this annual conference in October 2007 (see paras 7-11 for more details).
20. **Learning Disabilities Task Force**  
Cllr Steve Jones, the board's representative on the Learning Disabilities Task Force, was unable to attend the meeting held in September, but has asked that members be informed that the agenda covered: Updates from members of the Task Force on the work they are doing to progress Valuing People (regular item); An update from the Office of the National Directors Valuing People, other Government departments and the Valuing People Refresh; A report on the current activities of the National Forum of People with Learning Disabilities; Information about the National; Family Carer Network; A report on the Independent Inquiry into Access to

*Healthcare for people with Learning Disabilities; NHS Campus closures; Plans for improving support for carers.*

21. *Closing Conference of the European Year of Equal Opportunities*  
*Clr Mary Aspinall has been nominated to attend the final conference of the EU Year of Equal Opportunities for All in Lisbon on 19 and 20 November in the absence of Sir Simon Milton and Clr David Rogers. Clr Mary Aspinall is member of the CEMR's Women's committee as well as a member of the LGA Community Well-being Board*
  
22. **South East Region Adult Services**  
*Clr Dawn Cousins attended a meeting of the South East Region Adult Services Lead member and Directors group meeting in Kent. The group specifically asked that certain matters of concern be brought to the boards attention eg lack of funding etc.*

## **Implications for Wales**

*None*

## **Financial/Resource Implications**

*None*

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