

# Notes of Decisions Taken and Actions Required

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Community Well-being Board

16 January 2008

Local Government House, Smith Square, London SW1

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**Chair:** Cllr D Rogers OBE (East Sussex CC/Lewes DC)

**Vice-Chair:** Cllr G Barnard (Bracknell Forest)

**Deputy Chair:** Cllr D Beechey (Bridgnorth DC)

**Deputy Chair:** Cllr R Grant (Warwickshire)

**Members:** Cllr M Aspinall (Plymouth), Cllr R Lawrence (Wolverhampton), Cllr S Woodward (Staffordshire), Cllr K Glazier (East Sussex), Cllr D Cousins (Isle of Wight), Cllr B Hood (Monmouthshire), Cllr J Couchman (Oxfordshire), Cllr R Martins (Watford), Z Patrick (Oxfordshire CC)

**Substitutes:** S Whitaker (Norfolk CC)), Cllr P Banks (for Cllr S Ritchie)

**Apologies:** Cllr S Ritchie (Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea), Cllr R McLaughlin (Hammersmith & Fulham)

**Action by**

## 1. Health and Social Care Bill

Members were updated on the Parliamentary aspects of the Bill and were advised that Ministers have given assurance that the Bill would address the issues that LGA is pursuing around local co-operation and information sharing by the Care Quality Commission and that there would be no new performance indicators created by the regulator. The amendments about changes to public health law have not yet been debated. The Bill will shortly move to the report stage and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Reading and will later go to the House of Lords. LGA is keen to emphasise that by 2009, there will be over 400,000 elderly people, most of whom will require some kind of care and that it would be impossible for local authorities to provide care without adequate funding.

### Action

E-mail members with the outcomes of today's debate. Keep members updated as the Bill progresses through Parliament AF

A fuller briefing to be circulated to members separately. TO

## 2. LGA Health Commission

The Board received a presentation from Niall Dickinson, Chief Executive, The King's Fund and Chair of the LGA Health commission. Members were informed that the Commission is cross-party, including MPs, peers, councillors, experts from local authorities and the health sector and academics. He emphasised that it is a short term piece of work and the main focus is on local accountability in health services. He then went on to give the background to the setting up of the Commission, its terms of reference, membership and the workplan. Niall acknowledged that the programme is ambitious but the Commission would try to produce recommendations that are realistic and practicable. A copy of the presentation slides can be accessed at [www.lga.gov.uk](http://www.lga.gov.uk)

All Members commented on aspects of how the Commission would define local accountability and good practice of which they were aware; they acknowledged the need for evidence from the public and key organisations to develop the Commission's recommendations.

### Action

Members would be kept updated on the Commission's work

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## 3. Procurement Best Practice - Westminster Council (Presentation by Jan North and Jane Turl)

Members received a presentation from Jan North, Deputy Director, Customer Services, Westminster City Council and Jane Turl, Head of Procurement, Enterprise. Jan and Jane represent the partners in Westminster City Council Contract CSI Contract. The presentation focused on the Westminster Procurement Strategy for handling all their existing outsourced contracts, particularly on HR, ICT, FM Finance and Transport. A copy of the slides can be found at [www.lga.gov.uk](http://www.lga.gov.uk)

Following the presentations, members commented as follows:-

- There was a query on where the Council influences the CSI contract. The response was that the council is involved throughout the process and as part of the consultation process, they liaise with the Council to get their views. They manage standard contracts for Council, whilst freeing the Council to carry out contracts that requires specialist skills. They provide strategy reports on re-letting for appraisal. Members are also involved in signing off the contracts.
- Members asked about the budgeting process and the associated risks. The response was that as part of any contract re-let, they have to understand the budgetary aspirations of that contract. In relation to the risks, they monitor the contract on behalf of the Council and get

users feedback on regular basis. They use marketing intelligence constantly. They are continually looking for innovation which may not be necessarily budget saving, but will increase quality and address the needs of the users of the system

- That sometimes, outsourcing does not work in a number of services
- Whether scrutiny would look at users' experience. The response was that they continually gather information to judge the contract on the ground through monitoring, surveys and complaints.
- In relation to moving towards personalised social services; how would this structure work? The response was that contracts could be structured to support personalisation. Westminster is developing the ability to offer more personalised services through the use of technology.
- Whether Westminster's values would continue to be delivered by the contractors. Westminster ensures that the contractors have to deliver in accordance with the Westminster values. They have monitored the retention of Westminster staff who were TUPEd to the contractor at the beginning of the contract, a high proportion have remained over a number of years, which they have found a good indicator.

Some tools for redesign of social care procurement can be found at <http://www.csed.csip.org.uk/workstreams/better-buying.html>

#### 4. **Other Business Report**

Members received an update on other Board Business not reported elsewhere on the Agenda.

##### ***Lord Darzi Review***

Members reported back on the International Clinical Summit attended on 21/22 November. Those that attended felt that it was too NHS/Clinically oriented, but nevertheless they found the meeting interesting and had represented the interests of local government to Lord Darzi and other attendees.

***Update on learning disabilities.*** Cllr Grant reported on the launch of Valuing People Now. He reported that he was impressed by the engagement of people with learning disabilities and hopes that this will continue throughout the consultation.

##### ***Supporting People update***

Members received an update on the Supporting People programme. It was felt that the time given to respond to the supporting people distribution formula was too short. Members asked if it would be an appropriate time to engage with Ministers.

##### ***Adult Education and Family Learning***

Members' attention was drawn to a further consultation which is being undertaken by the Department of Education, Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) on supporting 'Informal Adult Learning'. This is of particular interest to the Board and the LGA would be preparing a response. Members asked to reiterate their concern on the focusing of fund to skills training in the LGA Response.

#### ***EU Update for Social Services***

Heleen Jalvingh updated members on the EU Communication on public services published in November 2007. Members' attention was drawn to a number of points that the LGA have achieved. The Commission's Guidance confirming that:

- a legal framework would not be published on social services general interest;
- no public procurement should apply to social services and any state aid to a service provider of less than €30 million per annum need not be notified to the Commission.

However, there is still concern on the issues of social services sector in the UK functioning as an economic market and be subjected to internal market principles. Members' views were sought on this issue.

#### Decision

The Board agreed that the LGA European and International Unit should continue to lobby EU, concerning the issue of social services sector in the UK functioning as an economic market.

Members requested that a full Board paper for discussion be brought to a future meeting

EIU/HJ

#### ***Meetings Attended by Members since the last meeting***

Members reported back on the meetings attended since the last Board meeting:

- Signing of "*Putting People First*" on 10 December. It was reported that this meeting was a useful opportunity to network with organisations that signed up to the concordat. A social care reform grant to support councils was also announced at this meeting.
- *LGA Asylum and Refuges Task Group*. Cllr Roger Lawrence updated Members on the work of the task group and also on the issue of migrant and refugee data, as requested by the Board at the last meeting.

#### **5. Notes of meeting held on 14 November 2007**

These were agreed, with one addition under Meetings attended by Members.

“Cllr Patrick had attended a meeting of the County Council Network, which had included a useful debate on the future of social care with John Bolton, currently Director of Adult Services in Coventry, and about to become Director for Social Care Finance at the Department of Health”.

**6. Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday 5 March 2008, 11.30am in LGH**