

## LGA Health Commission

### Decisions

1. *Board members are asked to:*
  - *note the report;*
  - *give their views on how accountability in local health services may be improved.*

### Actions Required

2. *As determined by the Board.*

**Action by:** *LGA health commission support team*

*Contact Officer: Jenny Finch, Tel. 020 7664 3052, [jenny.finch@ga.gov.uk](mailto:jenny.finch@ga.gov.uk)*

## LGA Health Commission

### Summary

1. *The LGA has set up a health commission, the main focus of which is accountability for health. This report provides details of the commission, its terms of reference, commissioners, and how it will operate.*

### Background

2. *The LGA has established a cross party commission to examine accountability for health in the context of a new consensus in support of a more localist approach to public services. The terms of reference are **attached** at Appendix 1.*
3. *The commission is chaired by Niall Dickson, Chief Executive of the King's Fund. Commissioners include representatives of the main political parties, senior managers in health and social care, academics and representatives of patients, and the business world. A list of commissioners is **attached** at Appendix 2.*
4. *The commission will hold five meetings, between January and May this year. Four of these will be held in London, and one will be held in Sheffield. At the fourth meeting, a round table discussion of experts will take place, on the commission's emerging conclusions and recommendations. The final report will be presented to the LGA Annual Conference in July this year.*
5. *At the meetings, commissioners will receive evidence from relevant individuals and organisations. In addition, a call for evidence will be sent out to local authorities, health agencies and other key stakeholders.*

### Discussion

6. *The commission will consider accountability in relation to commissioners of health services, and specifically primary care trust accountability to the local population; and accountability in relation to providers of health services, including GPs, foundation trusts, NHS hospitals, PCT-provided services, and private providers. It will also consider public health services, and how decisions are made with regard to these.*
7. *The call for evidence will invite views on questions such as the following.*
  - *What are the main advantages and disadvantages to the local population of the current systems of accountability of health service commissioners?*
  - *How effectively do current systems hold health service providers (e.g. GPs, foundation trusts and NHS Trusts) to account for the quality of their services?*
  - *How might local accountability for public health be increased or improved?*
  - *Can you suggest one example of best practice?*

**Do members have views in response to these questions?**

## **Implications for Wales**

8. *As Sir Jeremy Beecham last year undertook the Review of Local Service Delivery in Wales, it is not considered necessary to include Wales in the commission's remit. The Welsh Local Government Association will be asked to contribute its views.*

## **Financial/Resource Implications**

9. *There are no direct financial or resource implications.*

Contact Officer: Jenny Finch, Tel. 020 7664 3052, [jenny.finch@ga.gov.uk](mailto:jenny.finch@ga.gov.uk)

## **LGA Health Commission: Terms of Reference**

*The LGA has established a cross party Commission to examine accountability for health in the context of a new consensus in support of a more localist approach to public services.*

*The Commission will consider and make recommendations on how local councils may work best with NHS and other partners to:*

- Engage local people in decisions about allocation of health resources and about the delivery of services;*
- Hold the healthcare commissioning and delivery system to account;*
- Explore options for effective commissioning of health and social care services;*
- Reconcile national funding with local accountability; and*
- Consider where funding for both healthcare services and public health beyond the healthcare system, should sit.*

*The Commission may take into account any or all aspects of local health and health-related services, including governance, accountability, strategic direction, funding, regulation and inspection, scrutiny, improvement, service delivery, and patient and user involvement.*

**LGA Health Commission: Membership**

<b>CHAIRMAN</b>	
<b>Niall Dickson</b>	<i>Chief Executive the King's Fund.</i>
<b>POLITICAL</b>	
<b>Conservative</b>	
<i>Rt. Hon. Stephen Dorrell MP</i>	<i>MP for Charnwood. Lord Commissioner of HM Treasury 1988. 1990-92 Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at Department of Health. 1992 Financial Secretary to Treasury. Secretary of State for Health 1995-97.</i>
<b>Labour</b>	
<i>Margaret Jay, Baroness Jay</i>	<i>Presented BBC Series Social History of Medicine. Founder Director of National Aids Trust, 1987. Patron of Help the Aged. Former Health Spokesman and Minister for Women in House of Lords and Leader of House of Lords. Retired from active politics in 2001.</i>
<b>LibDem</b>	
<i>Cllr Sue Anderson</i>	<i>Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Birmingham City Council.</i>
<b>Independent</b>	
<i>Dr Richard Taylor MP</i>	<i>Former NHS consultant physician, independent MP for Wyre Forest.</i>
<b>LOCAL GOVERNMENT</b>	
<i>Dame Jane Roberts</i>	<i>Consultant, Child &amp; Adolescent Psychiatry. Medical Director, Islington PCT, since 2002. Leader of Camden Council 2000-05. Chair of Councillors Commission. Chair of Parenting UK.</i>
<i>Anita Marsland</i>	<i>Executive Director, Health &amp; Social Care, Knowsley Council &amp; Chief Executive, Knowsley Primary Care Trust. Member of Health England.</i>
<b>NHS</b>	
<i>Jan Sobieraj</i>	<i>Chief Executive, Sheffield Primary Care Trust.</i>
<i>Pauline Brown</i>	<i>Deputy Chief Executive, Homerton University Hospital.</i>
<b>ACADEMICS</b>	
<i>Prof. Gerry Stoker</i>	<i>Professor of Governance, University of Southampton. Expert on local government and participation. Founding chair (and currently deputy chair) of New Local Government Network.</i>
<i>Prof. Julian Le Grand</i>	<i>London School of Economics (LSE). Chair of Health England. Chair of Social Practices Working Group (for former DfES). 2003-05, senior policy officer to prime minister. Trustee of the King's Fund.</i>
<b>THIRD SECTOR</b>	
<i>Dame Jo Williams</i>	<i>Chief Executive, Mencap; former Director of Social Services.</i>
<b>INDEPENDENT SECTOR</b>	
<i>Dr Andrew Vallance-Owen</i>	<i>Deputy Chairman of BUPA Foundation &amp; BUPA's Group Medical Director. Former Head of Policy Development, British Medical Association.</i>

**Notes**

- *Health England is a national reference group established by the DH following the White Paper Our Health, Our Care, Our Say.*