

Adult Social Care: the Government's Green Paper and the LGA's Campaign

Decisions

1. Board members are asked to note the update

Actions Required

2. As determined by the Board.

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Summary

- 1. In the 2007 Pre-Budget Report and Comprehensive Spending Review the Government committed to a 'radical rethink' on long-term care, including a Green Paper on how to best fund adult social care and support in the future. The Government's 'big debate' on the future of adult social care was launched on Monday 12 May.**
- 2. This year the LGA is also focusing on adult social care, by making the issue one of the association's six 'Putting People First' priorities. A multi-discipline officer team has been established to take forward this LGA campaign work.**

The Government's 'big debate' on the future of care and support

- 3. The Government is committed to reforming the system of adult social care and support so that it:**
 - a. Promotes independence, choice and control for everyone who uses the system**
 - b. Ensures everyone can receive high quality care and support**
 - c. Is affordable for government, individuals and families**
- 4. On 12 May, Gordon Brown and Alan Johnson launched a six month debate on the future of care and support services. During this time the public and various stakeholders will be invited to express their views on how best to realise the type of system outlined above.**
- 5. The debate is structured around the following themes:**
 - a. Improving care and support: what more the Government can do to provide:**
 - i. Better information**
 - ii. Higher quality services**
 - iii. More preventative services**
 - iv. Personalised services**
 - b. Paying for care and support:**
 - i. What should the balance of responsibility be between individuals, families and the government?**

- c. **Delivering care and support: if an individual needs care and support, what should the help available depend on?**
 - i. **The kind of support needed**
 - ii. **Where the individual lives**
 - iii. **How much money an individual has**

- 6. **The consultation will end in November 2008 with the Green Paper expected in 2009. At this stage there is nothing further to report on the Department of Health's thinking on the Green Paper, or when in 2009 it will be published.**

LGA Fair Care Campaign activity

- 7. **During December 2007 and January 2008 council Chief Executives and Leaders were asked to complete the LGA's Putting People First survey. This concentrated on the six priority areas for LGA activity over the coming eighteen months, and sought participants' views on whether the issues were key for their council and their residents. 96.2% of respondents agreed that social care and health was such an issue, and that it should be a key focus for the LGA.**

- 8. **To date, the LGA has not had a definitive position on the future of adult social care funding, beyond a set of key principles for any new system. These include a system that is:**
 - a. **Fairer than the current system**
 - b. **Simpler than the current system**
 - c. **Sustainable**
 - d. **Matches demand**
 - e. **Addresses the interface with the NHS**

- 9. **Equally, the LGA has not come out in favour of any particular alternative model for adult social care funding, or commented on the split in responsibility between the individual and the state.**

- 10. **In the context of adult social care being one of the LGA's six key priorities for the year ahead, work is now focusing on two main strands:**
 - a. **The system now – this is about alleviating immediate pressures within the current system. These are identified based on our position that the system now is underfunded, unclear and unfair.**

 - b. **The system in the future – this is about taking the learning from the current system to ensure whatever future system is implemented does not suffer the same issues. Importantly, this strand of work is also about developing, and building consensus for, an LGA-proposed new system.**

11. Activity to support these two strands of work includes:

- a. The development, design, publication and distribution of a public information leaflet outlining the top ten things to do should an individual, or someone an individual cares about, needs help with everyday living. This document is currently being evaluated for a Crystal Mark for Plain English. Once the final draft is returned it will be circulated to Members of the Board for information. It will be distributed via a range of channels including: councillors; MPs; Lords; CABS; GP surgeries; ADASS; Age Concern; Help the Aged; Carers UK**
- b. A campaign stand at the LGA Annual Conference**
- c. The development of a public-facing campaign website to share with the public information on the current system of care and the debate on the future of care**
- d. LGA oral evidence from Cllr Gareth Barnard (to support a written evidence submission) to the All-Party Parliamentary (Local Government) Group's Inquiry into Older People's Services**
- e. A one-day conference on 4 June on the future of adult social care. Speakers for this event include: Professor Julien Forder; Julie Jones; Paul Snell; Ivan Lewis; Baroness Sally Greengrass; Stephen Burke**
- f. The annual LGA/ADASS budget survey. The final report is expected to be signed off week commencing 19 May**
- g. A seminar at the House of Lords to discuss the future of adult social care**
- h. Involvement in the Department of Health's 'big debate' by working with councils to promote local debates and discussions that can feed into the national consultation**

Implications for Wales

None.

Financial/Resource Implications

None.

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