

Notes of Decisions Taken and Actions Required

Community Well-being Board

14 May 2008

Local Government House, Smith Square, London SW1

- Chair:** Cllr David Rogers OBE (East Sussex CC/Lewes DC)
- Vice-Chair:** Cllr Gareth Barnard (Bracknell Forest)
- Deputy Chair:** Cllr David Beechey (Bridgnorth DC) and Cllr Richard Grant (Warwickshire CC).
- Members:** Cllr Mary Aspinall (Plymouth), Cllr Keith Glazier (East Sussex CC), Cllr Brian Hood, Cllr Rabi Martins (Watford BC) and Cllr Zoe Patrick (Oxfordshire CC)
- Substitutes:** Cllr Patricia Banks (Hampshire CC), Cllr Shireen Ritchie (Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea) and Cllr Susan Woodward (Staffordshire CC).
- Apologies:** Cllr Elaine Atkinson (Poole UA), Cllr Jim Couchman (Oxfordshire), Cllr Dawn Cousins (Isle of Wight UA), Cllr Roger Lawrence (Wolverhampton) and Cllr Sue Whitaker (Norfolk CC).

Action by

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

The Board received a tabled paper on the government's 'big debate' on the future of care and support which was launched on 12 May. This involves a 6 month consultation period followed by a green paper due to be published early in 2009. The Chair informed members that he had attended a meeting of the steering group the week before and Anne McDonald, Programme Director, gave an update of the first meeting of the stakeholder panel which she had attended on 6 May. She explained that the group had 2 roles: to act as ambassadors for the debate, encouraging wider engagement, and also to help shape the debate. Anne highlighted the government's intention for this debate to be cross-cutting across government departments.

Trish O'Flynn, Senior Policy Consultant, updated members on progress with the LGA's 'Fair Care' Campaign. She explained that the campaign had 2 areas of focus:

- 1) To alleviate immediate pressures in the current system, and
- 2) To identify and lobby on what is needed in a future system.

She also informed members that a leaflet had just been produced for wide distribution among the public which signposts towards the main areas of information and support available for those with care needs.

Members emphasised the need for the LGA to continue to lobby on concerns with the current system as councils are facing serious problems which cannot be put on hold. Members also felt that the LGA had a key role to play in encouraging wide participation in the debate on the future of care both from councils themselves and, through them, from the wider public.

Actions:

- Notes from the stakeholder panel meeting held on 6 May to be circulated to the Board. AM/SFC
- The 'Fair Care' leaflet to be sent to all Board members. TO/SFC

2. Sector Skills Agreement - Adult Social Care Workforce

Cllr Gareth Barnard and Vic Citarella both declared an interest as members of the Skills for Care Board.

Vic Citarella reminded the Board that this was a follow-up from the discussion that had taken place at the meeting on 5 March. He drew members' attention to the update on the Skills Academy set out in paragraphs 9 – 12 and reassured members that this work covered the entire social care workforce, not just the top end.

Angela Rowe and Maria Lagos (Skills for Care) took members through the following issues which had been raised at the last meeting:

- Skills Academy: work is being undertaken with the Department of Health.
- Skills Pledge: it was explained that this serves as a passport to public funding through the LSC.
- The impact of the 3% of payroll target investment in learning: the third sector is now the area targeted for improvement.
- Links with children's services: there is an agreement with the Children's Workforce Development Council and good practice is shared where possible, for example in social work. They are also working with CWDC and Skills for Health to ensure that career pathways can run across sectors.
- Work on the National Minimum Data Set is progressing – with an upload tool for local authority data due to be launched.

Members asked how those receiving care would see the impact of this workforce strategy. In response, it was accepted that sufficient research

had not been undertaken into the difference that the introduction of new qualifications had made, but noted that the NMDS should improve the evidence base. Several members expressed concerns at the lack of evidence on outcomes given the level of investment being made.

Vic asked the Board to consider whether:

- 1) the LGA/LGE and IDeA should look at the SSA together;
- 2) the Board can agree a statement of intent to work with Skills for Care and other stakeholders to implement the SSA; and
- 3) to refer this to the Human Resources Panel.

Decision:

The Board agreed to the above, providing the statement of intent be reworded to state that the LGA's aim in working with Skills for Care is to focus on the key shared priorities for the purpose of improving outcomes in the provision of social care.

3. Building capacity in local government to lead health improvement and reduce health inequalities: Extension of the IDeA's Healthy Communities Programme

Susan Biddle and Sue Johnson (IDeA) gave a presentation which can be viewed at: <http://www.lga.gov.uk/lga/core/page.do?pageld=541037>

This set out the project's four objectives:

- Supporting councils to tackle health inequalities and secure better health outcomes for their communities;
- Supporting Members in their health improvement and health leadership roles;
- Supporting Councils to achieve improvements in effectiveness and efficiency through health improvement programmes; and
- Supporting the local government sector by promoting its role in health and well being to Government and key stakeholders.

They explained that this is a critical moment for the project as they are currently negotiating a programme for the next 3 years with the Department of Health. They invited input from members on the proposals and priorities set out in the report.

Members commented on the following areas:

- Members welcomed the project's extension beyond the 'spearhead' councils, as this would better reflect the existence of health inequalities in every area of the country.
- A member asked whether the programme was supporting the development of LINKs. The response was that they are supporting LINKs by working with the Centre for Public Scrutiny which is funded for this role. A pamphlet is due to be circulated in July advising local authorities on community engagement.
- Several members commented that the Department of Health should be focusing on the need for PCTs to work in partnership.

Action:

It was agreed that a note setting out the results of the programme's impact assessment would be included in the other business report to the July meeting of the Board.

IDeA/SFC

4. The Independent Living Strategy

Jenny Morris, Executive Director of the Independent Living Strategy, gave a presentation setting out the main elements of the strategy. This can be viewed at: <http://www.lga.gov.uk/lga/core/page.do?pageld=541037>

This 5 year cross-government strategy is the result of a year long review and aims to ensure that all disabled people have more choice

and control over the support they need to live their lives and equal access to housing, employment, health, mobility, education and training opportunities as well as the opportunity to participate fully in family and community life.

Jenny Morris highlighted the following key questions for the Board:

- How can we enable disabled people to be involved in Local Strategic Partnerships?
- How can we increase leadership capacity amongst disabled people at local and regional levels?
- What more should be done to ensure that the Strategy is properly implemented, and that disabled people are involved in its implementation?

The Board commented as follows:

- It would be helpful for local authorities to receive more information about the current consultation on how to involve disabled people in the implementation of the strategy and monitoring progress made. Jenny Morris added that she would be very keen to work with local authorities beyond this consultation period, particularly in encouraging participation in LSPs. Members welcomed this, but warned that to influence change, the participation needed to go further than merely sitting on the LSP. They also suggested promoting the involvement of disabled people in LINKs.
- Members noted that it is important to plan now for adapted housing demand beyond the strategy's 5 year timeframe.
- A Member asked about the support that is available for self-employed disabled people. Jenny agreed to raise this issue.
- Members were concerned about issues around public transport, particularly in rural areas. Jenny commented that there had been progress with the accessibility of public transport and that the Department for Transport was also investigating ways of improving services for those who are unable to access public transport.

Action:

- It was agreed that the LGA would send out an alert to local authorities encouraging them to respond to the consultation on engagement. EJ/MO
- The LGA will continue to work with the Office for Disability Issues, particularly around engaging disabled people in local decision-making and in offering support for local authorities in implementing the strategy. AM/Jenny Morris

5. Other Business Report

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

CSCI review of eligibility criteria

The Board was informed that a survey of councils had been undertaken and that the responses would be included in the LGA's submission. Very few councils had tightened their eligibility criteria from moderate to substantial.

LGA Health Commission

It was explained that the Darzi Review was due to be published at the end of June and so the publication of the Commission's findings had been brought forward to 17 June in order for it to receive sufficient attention.

IDeA Update

Following from the update, the Board was informed that 14 Councils now have a joint portfolio for children's and adults' services.

Commission on Social Workers

Several members mentioned the Conservative Party's recent Commission on Social Workers and asked whether this would be useful for the Board to discuss. Due to the party political nature of the report, it was agreed that it should be decided between the CWB Office Holders.

Meetings Attended by Members since the last meeting

- Cllr Mary Aspinall asked members to contact her with any issues to be raised at the Urban Commission steering group.
- Cllr Gareth Barnard informed the Board that he had recently attended a special meeting of the Skills for Care Board.

Motion from Mid Bedfordshire District Council

Members were informed that the LGA had received a motion from Mid Beds DC for the General Assembly on the subject of adult social care. As the views expressed in the motion matched very closely with work already being undertaken by the LGA, it was not felt appropriate for this motion to be presented to the General Assembly. It was agreed that the Chair would write to the authority, stating that their comments have been taken on board and setting out the LGA's current work on social care.

6. Notes of meeting held on 5 March 2008

The notes were agreed.

7. Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday 16 July 2008, 11.30am in LGH