

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

### **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 2008 and concluded on 28 November 2008. A Green Paper on the future of care and support is expected Spring 2009.
2. Last year the LGA also focused on adult social care, making the issue one of the association's six 'Putting People First' priorities. A multi-discipline officer team is taking forward the LGA's work on its Fair Care Campaign.

### **Recommendations**

Board Members are asked to note the update.

### **Actions required**

As determined by the Board.

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### **The Government's 'big debate'**

1. 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.
2. On 12 May 2008, 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 were invited to express their views on how best to realise a new system based on the above principles.
3. The debate was 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.
4. The care and support engagement process ended on 28 November 2008 and our response is available on the LGA website.

5. More information on the debate can be found at [www.careandsupport.direct.gov.uk](http://www.careandsupport.direct.gov.uk), the Government's dedicated site to accompany the engagement process. The website is a useful source of information and includes:
  - a) A dedicated section on the stakeholder debate, including themed debates written by stakeholders.
  - b) Summary reports of the regional stakeholder events.
  - c) A toolkit of materials designed to help stakeholders lead their own discussions.
  - d) A refreshed public-facing area presenting the issues for debate in more accessible language.
6. This was a successful national engagement process. To date there have been over 36,000 visits to the care and support website, with over 25,000 unique visitors. Additionally, over 1,000 people have participated in the Department of Health-led deliberative events with stakeholders and citizens, and the Department has received over 1,600 responses to the engagement questions. These include summaries of discussions with groups of people, results of surveys and petitions, and organisational policy and position statements.
7. The Department of Health is now undertaking a systematic analysis of all the engagement responses, which will feed in to the Green Paper. Following recent discussions with the Department we understand commitment remains to publish the Green Paper in the Spring.

## **LGA Fair Care Campaign: current and planned activity**

8. Since the last Board meeting the campaign has completed, and commenced planning for, a number of activities. A brief summary of each is provided below.
  - a) The LGA submitted its response to the care and support engagement process on 1 December. We made clear that our response was only focused on the questions posed and did not cover the entirety of our thinking. We will continue to share our work with the Department of Health as our thinking develops.
  - b) In September 2008 we published 'Our Lives, Our Choices', the first in a series of think piece papers on the future of care and support. 'Our Lives, Our Choices' set out our initial thoughts and looked at how a simpler, locally-based system could address some of the challenges facing the current system. Our second think piece paper is nearing completion and has been circulated to all members. This paper focuses on funding, looking at the current system of funding, the current and

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future costs of care and support, and ways in which councils, working with partners, are doing their best to make the most of available resources. This paper has been approved by Board Lead Members and will be published in January 2009.

- c) We have begun sketching out our third and final think piece. This will set out a more detailed proposal for a future system of care and support and cover a number of issues including: the principles and practical operation of a single means test and financial assessment; the development of a national eligibility system that could be flexed locally; what should be included in a universal offer; and the additional funding required to implement a new system. We aim to publish this paper in March 2009 and very keen to hear Members' views on any of the above issues.
- d) We are organising another national one-day conference on the future of care and support on 10 March 2009. We already have a number of speakers confirmed including: Steve Barnett, Chief Executive, NHS Confederation; Melinda Phillips, Chief Executive, Housing 21; Howard Davis, Acting Director, Local Government Centre, University of Warwick; Professor Justin Keen, Leeds University; Mike Wardle, Chief Executive, General Social Care Council; John Dixon, President of ADASS. Norman Lamb MP has also confirmed his attendance and we are hoping he will be joined by Phil Hope MP and Andrew Lansley MP.
- e) In addition to the above conference we are organising two invite-only roundtable discussions, chaired and hosted by Baroness Sally Greengross at the House of Lords. The first, in partnership with Age Concern on 3 February 2009, will consider the impact of personalisation on safeguarding. The second, in partnership with the Joseph Rowntree Foundation on 3 March 2009, will consider how to best fund social care and support in the future.
- f) We have begun planning a second round of public polling, which will look at the public's views on the scale of the care and support problem, the scale of the costs involved, and how they are preparing for their futures. The polling will be part of a mini campaign to raise awareness of the likelihood of needing, and the importance of planning for care and support in the future.
- g) On 25 November colleagues from Hampshire County Council launched 'Getting Personal: a fair deal for better care and support' at Local Government House. This report was the end product of the council's Commission of Inquiry into Personalisation. The report is available on the council's website at [www.hants.gov.uk](http://www.hants.gov.uk) and makes a number of national recommendations to improve the care and support system.

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We are very keen to hear of any other local events that are happening to consider the care and support debate. On 11 December, for example, Isle of Wight council held a highly successful conference, 'Who Pays for Care?' Supported by national speakers and targeted group work the event will feed into the Island's response to the care and support engagement process.

h) In our early campaign work we set out our position regarding the problems with the current care and support system by declaring it 'unfair, unclear, and underfunded'. As part of our work to address the system being unclear we have had initial discussions about the publication of a simple leaflet clearly explaining how the care and support system works. This would be aimed primarily at councillors, helping them help their residents by setting out how someone with a need for care and support (or their family or friends) navigates through the system.

9. More activity is being planned and we would welcome Board Members' views on further work the campaign should be involved in.

## **Implications for Wales**

None.

## **Financial/resource implications**

None.

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