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Notes of Decisions Taken and Action

Community Wellbeing Board

11 November 2008

Local Government House, Smith Square, London SW1P 3HZ at 11:00 am

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 Susan Woodward (Staffordshire CC)

Members: Cllr Pat Case (Lancashire CC), Cllr James Couchman (Oxfordshire CC), Cllr Richard Grant (Warwickshire CC), Cllr Nargis Khan (Hackney), Cllr Roger Lawrence (Wolverhampton MBC), Cllr Rabi Martins (Watford BC) and Cllr Zoe Patrick (Oxfordshire CC).

Apologies: Cllr Dawn Cousins (Isle of Wight UA), Cllr Brian Hood (Monmouthshire CC) and Cllr Shireen Ritchie (Kensington and Chelsea RB).

Also present: Cllr Sue Whitaker (Norfolk CC)

In attendance: Robert Templeton (IDeA)
Mike Adams (ECDP) and Tasman Oxlade (Essex CC)
Jeff Jerome (National Director of Social Care Transformation)
Phil Hope MP (Minister of State for Care Services) – for the second part of the meeting.

Action by

1. Putting People First

Jeff Jerome, National Director of Social Care Transformation, gave Members a brief introduction to his new role. While on this secondment, he will be working with Directors of Adult Social Services to support the implementation of social care transformation across the country and will also assist in making the link between implementation and policy development at a national level. He is managed by a consortium which includes the Department of Health, LGA, IDeA and ADASS.

Jeff highlighted his concern that many local authorities have so far focused exclusively on the resource allocation aspects of the Putting People First Agenda. They will now need to address other key aspects, including market development (to ensure

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providers can adapt), prevention and the development of universal services such as information and advice. Authorities will also need to work with their partners around issues such as transport, housing, community development, adult education and employment. Finally, Jeff emphasised the need for a good communications strategy to improve awareness and understanding of the different aspects of personalisation.

Members asked questions on the following areas:

- Several members felt that the issue of housing provision for older people should be moved up the agenda, as there is a real shortage of appropriate private accommodation and an imbalance in the types of residential home provision. Jeff Jerome agreed that housing is a key issue and added that there has been a real drive in local authorities to increase extra care provision, particularly for those with dementia.
- A member asked how local authorities could work with the health sector to develop the market. Jeff explained that the development of personal health budgets provides a real opportunity to bring services together. He felt that the real divide between health and social care was not on the provider side, but with commissioning.
- There were concerns about the implications for day centres and smaller providers. Jeff agreed that this could be a particular issue in rural areas, but he gave the example of Oldham where day centres had been closed, but a group of service users had come together to create a new kind of day centre, developing flexible services based on their wishes.
- In response to a question about universal services, Jeff explained that local authorities must develop good universal information and advice services. This would support everyone in navigating the market and accessing good quality services. He added that it may be necessary to change the way that assessments calculate the financial contribution of self-funders to improve clarity and choice for all.
- A member noted that many lessons could be learned from the approach of the Every Child Matters agenda, in that every partner agency has to come together around the child.
- Finally, there was a discussion around the implications for local democratic accountability as funding is increasingly given out to individuals.

Decision/Action:

The Board agreed to maintain an ongoing dialogue with Jeff Jerome around the transformation agenda.

JJ/AM/SFC

2. Evaluation of the Individual Budgets Pilot Programme

Anne McDonald introduced this report. She explained that, as the pilots had taken longer than expected to become fully operational, this was based on a very short evaluation period. The results of the evaluation had been reported as evidence that individual Budgets wouldn't work for older people, however, the actual findings are more complex. Jeff Jerome added that these pilots had, to some extent, been overtaken by the wider evidence emerging as personalisation has developed.

Decisions/Actions:

- Given the short timescale of this evaluation, members were kept that the results of the 13 pilots continue to be fed through. AM
- The Board endorsed the LGA's response to the evaluation, as set out on page 19 of the report. AM

3. Local Authorities working with user led organisations on social care transformation

Mike Adams (Chief Executive Officer, Essex Coalition of Disabled People) and Tasman Oxlade (Programme Director SDS, Essex County Council) gave a presentation setting out the work they are doing in partnership to enhance the lives of service users in Essex. This presentation can be viewed on our website at <http://www.lga.gov.uk/lga/core/page.do?pagelid=20619>

They highlighted that for disabled people, social care doesn't sit in isolation, but has to be addressed alongside housing, employment, transport etc. User led organisations (ULOs) can help support councils in delivering this holistic agenda. Among the reasons for the success of their partnership, they highlighted their shared objectives, values and understanding and the transparency of actions. The council has benefited in particular from the legitimacy that comes from service delivery which is rooted in the lived experience of disabled people.

A member expressed concerns over the development of such a large, county-wide ULO as she felt that this could be in conflict with the need to support local need through small independent organisations. Tasman Oxlade stated that the council is not intending to only work with a single organisation, but that the key issue for the council is that organisations are sustainable and able to provide a solid business case. Mike Adams also stressed

the importance of ensuring that the organisation is professional, has sound business planning and is sustainable. ECDP is ensuring its sustainability by moving from grants to contracts and by widening its contract base through providing a range of services, including training and consultancy. However, ECDP is very conscious that they can't – and shouldn't - address every aspect of the agenda. So, for example, they are not involved in advocacy, but work with other organisations that are. They are also looking to develop smaller sister organisations that would have greater autonomy and could deliver other areas of work.

Decisions/Actions:

- Members were very impressed with this excellent example of good practice in partnership working and agreed to look into ways in which the LGA could promote this project through its work. **PO**
- Members asked to be updated on the results of the longitudinal study of direct personal budgets that Essex are conducting. **SFC/Tasman Oxlade**
- The Board agreed with the proposal to co-sign a protocol with the National Centre for Independent Living and ADASS to promote the provision of ULOs as part of social care transformation. **AM/TO**
- The Board agreed to submit a paper to the Transforming Adult Social Care Steering Group highlighting the protocol and the need to involve service users in the development of services. **AM/TO**

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

Cllr David Rogers informed members that he had chaired the South East Stakeholder Event on the previous day and reminded them that there is still time to comment through the Department of Health's website.

Anne McDonald added that the key priority now is for the LGA to move forward on the issue of national consistency vs local flexibility. This was the subject of a Smith Square debate on 15 October and will be considered at the next meeting of the LGA Executive.

Jeff Jerome informed members that ADASS, with DH, are commissioning a piece of work to look at a national framework for resource allocation, which will be published in the Spring.

Decisions/Actions:

- The paper on the 'postcode lottery' will be circulated to all members. **SFC**
- Members agreed that the LGA needs to move quickly on the issue of national consistency vs local flexibility, in particular to highlight the positive reasons for local variation, to counter the misconception that this is only the result of variable performance. **AM/MH**
- Members also asked the LGA to continue to consider the ways in which it can support all councillors to raise the profile of this agenda and to engage with residents. **AM/MH**

5. Other Business Report

Feedback from the National Children and Adults Services Conference

Members agreed that it had been a very successful conference overall and an excellent venue. However, members made the following suggestions for improvement:

- Need to provide more opportunities for informal networking;
- There were too many breakout sessions and a few of these were poor quality; and
- The programme should set out more clearly (through colour coding or a handout) different pathways, to help people follow a certain theme throughout the conference, e.g. children or adults.

The Chair asked members to send further comments to Paul Ogden (paul.ogden@lga.gov.uk) as these will inform the planning of the next conference, to be organised by the LGA and held in Harrogate.

6. Note of the Away Day held on 8 September 2008

The notes should be amended to show that Cllr Barnard chaired the Green Paper session and that Simon Whitehead is the Interim National Director: Learning Disabilities. Subject to these amendments, the notes were agreed. **SFC**

The formal meeting of the Board ended at 12.45 pm.

Meeting with Phil Hope MP, Minister of State for Care Services

The Chair welcomed the Minister and congratulated him on his recent appointment to this role.

Phil Hope MP responded that he is very pleased to be in this new role, particularly due to his previous local government experience. Engagement around the Green Paper would be at the top of his agenda, as government tries to build a consensus on the future of care and support services. He is aiming for the Green Paper to be published in the Spring. The Minister explained that he is keen to establish a close working relationship with the LGA and the Community Wellbeing Board, in particular to support the roll-out of social care transformation on the ground. The Ministerial Advisory Groups will be streamlined, but he would welcome the opportunity to meet with the Board on a regular basis.

Cllr Gareth Barnard commented that a degree of consensus exists between LGA members and felt this was also apparent at the National Children and Adult Services Conference. However, cross-party discussions on sustainable funding need to take place soon. The Minister responded that the Green Paper will set out funding models and it will then be possible for parties to establish clear positions on funding and then move the debate forward.

On the issue of national consistency vs local flexibility, the Minister distinguished between the Green Paper debate on the long term future of funding and the variation that currently exists in services. The government will be publishing revised guidance in response to the Commission for Social Care Inspection's (CSCI) review of eligibility criteria. He also stressed the importance of addressing variable progress in the implementation of social care transformation through the sharing of good practice. For example, lessons being learnt about making Individual Budgets work for older people need to be shared.

Cllr Jim Couchman raised concerns that several local authorities would lose if the Preserved Rights Grant or funds transferred for Learning Disability services were subsumed in the Revenue Support Grant. Anne McDonald confirmed that this could massively disadvantage some local authorities and individuals, but explained that this issue is being taken forward with officials.

Cllr Susan Woodward asked what could be done to drive cultural change in order to deliver transformation and ensure that other local authority departments (such as housing and transport) and partner agencies are engaged in the debate. The Minister agreed that everything that local authorities do will affect vulnerable adults; he gave the example of pavement maintenance contributing to fall prevention. In terms of culture change, he used the example of the Dignity in Care campaign to show how culture change had been driven by the commitment of frontline workers as well as by the leadership of champions. Further integration and joint-working between health and social care will also be essential to achieving culture change. The Minister is working with colleagues at the Department of Health (DH) to join up at a national

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level. He noted that forums and user led groups at a local level will help drive change by ensuring that the voices of service users are heard.

Members added that workforce engagement will be central to achieving the transformation of social care. The Minister agreed that the understanding of what personalisation and independent living really mean needs to be increased among social care staff. He recognises the challenge involved and commented that it will be important to get care workers themselves to act as advocates of change. DH will be developing an adult's workforce strategy next year.

Cllr David Beechey asked about safeguarding in the context of personalisation. The Minister disagreed with the view that personalisation conflicts with safeguarding. He gave the example of good practice in the Isle of Wight, where safeguarding has been built into their transformation work. DH is currently consulting on a review of the 'No Secrets' guidance. He confirmed that the government has still not reached a decision on legislating, but will consider both sides of the argument.

In the context of earlier agreement that social care needs to become the business of everyone in local and central government, Cllr Nargis Khan asked whether Ministers from other government departments could attend next year's National Children and Adult Services Conference. Phil Hope stated that the government is strongly committed to social care, as demonstrated by Gordon Brown. While he could not speak for other Ministers, he felt that it might be particularly useful to invite Jonathan Shaw MP (Minister for Disabled People) and Rosie Winterton MP (Minister of State for Pensions and the Ageing Society).

Cllr Gareth Barnard noted that while the Board welcomed the Free Swimming Scheme and the benefits it could bring in terms of community wellbeing, the scheme represents a huge funding challenge for councils and the details of the scheme have prevented some councils from benefiting. Cllr Susan Woodward added that 300 councils had benefited from the scheme. The Minister responded that, while he is not responsible for this scheme, he will pass the concerns onto colleagues at DCMS.

Members thanked the Minister for attending.