

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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Care, support and independence: the Government's engagement process

1. The Department of Health is now undertaking a systematic analysis of all the engagement responses, which will feed in to the Spring Green Paper. We therefore propose a slighter longer Green Paper item at the April Board meeting to consider our final think piece, and a session at the July Board to examine the content of the Green Paper and what our work programme should be for the next year in response to it.

LGA Fair Care Campaign: current and planned activity

2. 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.

Publications

- a) Our second think piece 'Facing facts and tomorrow's reality today: the cost of care' was published on 4 February and has now been sent to every council with an adult social services responsibility. This paper looks at the current system of adult social care funding, the current and 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. It has been well received by the Department of Health.
- b) We have begun sketching out in more detail our third and final think piece. This will set out a more detailed proposal for a future system of care and support and will focus on five key areas:
 1. Defining the problems with the current system
 - The system is unfair
 - The system is unclear
 - The system is underfunded
 - The public is unaware of the scale of the issue
 2. Shaping a universal offer that includes
 - Information, advice and advocacy
 - Equipment and adaptations
 - Reablement
 - Improved benefits take up

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3. The mechanics of a new system

- A single means test and financial assessment
- A revised eligibility system that can be flexed locally

4. Funding a new system

- A whole system budget
- Councils supporting residents accessing financial products
- The cost of our universal entitlement

5. Defining 'the ask' – a new approach to adult social care

- Prevention and early intervention
- Working with partners
- Personalisation in practice
- The social care workforce
- Trusting councils to deliver

Each of these areas will be supported, where possible, with case studies, scenarios and examples of current best practice. We will also develop one central message for each of these five areas to provide a simple set of 'key principles' that all Lead Members can use to lobby their MP on for reform of the adult care and support system.

It would be very helpful to have short, high impact quotes from both Adult Social Care Lead Members and Community Wellbeing Board Members on the five themes outlined above for our final think piece. Members are requested to send any such contributions to faircare@lga.gov.uk and encourage Adult Social Care Lead Member colleagues to do the same.

- c) 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.

Articles

- d) Our campaign and wider work on adult social care and support continues to attract attention both at home and abroad. In February Public Sector Executive Magazine invited us to contribute to their publication with an article on how councils help minimise the risks of cold weather amongst

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older and vulnerable people. The article can be accessed at <http://www.publicsectorexecutive.com/home.aspx>

We have also submitted an article to the Finnish LGA's equivalent of *First* magazine. This follows a presentation made by a colleague from the International and European Unit to a European seminar on social care in Lille on the LGA's Fair Care Campaign. This was very well received and led to the Finnish LGA's request for an article providing more detail on our campaign and the issues it is addressing.

- e) Early last month we submitted a short article to LGC magazine rebutting claims made in the CSCI State of Social Care Report that councillors are "the most consistent constituency of opposition to personalised support". We argued that councillors are focused on the entire personalisation agenda (not just self directed support) and commissioning the best possible services to support local people's lives.

Events and meetings

- f) We are currently making final arrangements for our national one day conference on 10 March. Amongst a list of high profile expert speakers we are delighted to have Phil Hope MP, Norman Lamb MP and Stephen O'Brien MP all confirmed. We are also in discussions with the Local Government Channel to have the event filmed and interviews conducted with key speakers.
- g) The second of our roundtable discussions with stakeholder experts and Parliamentarians took place on 3 February at the House of Lords. The discussion, held jointly with Age Concern and opened by comments from Cllrs David Beechey and Nargis Khan, considered the personalisation agenda and the need to ensure older and vulnerable people remain safe and protected in the context of having greater choice and control. A summary of the discussion, chaired by Baroness Sally Greengross, is available online at: <http://www.lga.gov.uk/lga/core/page.do?pagelid=694866>

Our third House of Lords roundtable is scheduled for 3 March and will be held jointly with the Joseph Rowntree Foundation. It will look at the future funding of adult social care and support and will again be hosted by Baroness Greengross.

Research and analysis

- h) We have recently received the data and analysis from a second round of public polling examining the general population's attitudes to the scale of

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the care and support problem, the scale of the costs involved, and how they are preparing for their futures. Key findings include:

- 93% of people think it very or fairly likely that most people will require care in their old age
 - However, people are less likely to think that they personally will require care in their old age – 26% of people think it is unlikely that they will require care in their old age
 - On average people think it costs just under £20,000 for one year's care in a residential home – just 5% think it costs (the more accurate figure of) £35,000
 - 85% of people think family 'will', and 95% of people think family 'should' look after people in old age. Given more and more people live alone, and further away from their families, these high figures suggest a lot of people should brace themselves for the reality that their family may not be around to support them
- i) We expect to receive the results and report of this year's LGA/ADASS adult social services budget survey in time for the Board meeting. Copies of the report, which identifies trends in, and forecasts of, adult social care expenditure, will be available at the meeting.
3. 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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