

Other Business Report

Summary

This report provides a summary of other business relevant to the Board and also deals with issues relating to Community Wellbeing representation on LGA groups. Members are also asked to feed back on meetings attended since the last Community Wellbeing Board meeting.

Recommendations

- To note the update.
- Feed back from meetings attended since the last Board meeting.

Action

Secretariat to take necessary action.

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Other Business Report

IDeA Update

Safeguarding adults in vulnerable circumstances

This programme is designed to help local councils and their partners fulfil their safeguarding responsibilities in relation to adults in vulnerable circumstances, and forms part of a wider sector-led response in which local government takes responsibility for its own improvement. The programme uses the skills and expertise of officers, councillors and partners within the sector.

The programme will be delivered by IDeA in partnership with the:

- Local Government Association (LGA)
- Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS)
- Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE)

We are also making links and developing work with Research in Practice for Adults (RiPfA), the British Association of Social Workers (BASW), the NHS Confederation and other key organisations.

Building on its expertise the IDeA is providing support to councils to offer:

- peer review and peer challenge of local adult safeguarding arrangements involving councils and their partners
- training and briefing for councillors and lead members
- a pool of accredited peers and sector specialists to deliver customised support to councils and their partners
- support and tools to enhance council scrutiny processes in regard to adult safeguarding
- an online community of practice for safeguarding networks to share knowledge and best practice
- national conferences.

Delivery

A pilot adult safeguarding peer review has been successfully completed.

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Over the coming months we will be working with SCIE, ADASS and BASW to establish what good practice evidence exists to assist the process of personalising the safeguarding process specifically in relation to supporting people experiencing abuse in making difficult decisions. In the Spring we plan to work with ADASS and SCIE to support the dissemination of work SCIE is developing in relation to Safeguarding procedures for London.

The programme will offer:

- councillor development sessions in each region
- a councillor briefing document developed with RiPfA
- national conferences for lead councillors and officers
- a scrutiny toolkit.

Recruitment and training events will be delivered from October 2009 to March 2010. We are particularly keen to engage:

- councils and their partners for peer review or support
- councillors for development events that will be undertaken on a regional basis
- practitioners, managers and independent chairs with specific safeguarding experience and expertise as regional advice resources
- people who have experienced safeguarding services as a result of being abused for the development of good practice evidence.

LGA/IDeA/ADASS/SCIE Safeguarding Adults: Improvement through Sector Partnerships Conferences

Purpose: To further sector based improvement in safeguarding adults work and to ensure that leaders in the field are kept abreast of developments in delivery

Four half day conferences will be run as follows:

Conferences 1 and 2: **7th December 2009** at LGA House in London. Two half day conferences, one running 9.30 – 12.30 and one 1.30 – 4.30

Conferences 3 and 4: **20th January 2010** in Leeds (Crowne Plaza Leeds, Wellington Street, Leeds LS1 4DL). Two half day conferences with the same timings as above

Invited Audience: Invitations will be through Directors of Adults' Social Services through IDeA and ADASS. LGA will include a booking form.

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Total Place Update

The 13 pilot Total Place areas have completed their high level counting exercise and are well underway in undertaking a “deep dive” into their chosen themed area.

An initial submission was made by each of the 13 Total Place pilots at the end of September. These submissions together with a covering report were then submitted to an inter-departmental high level officials group of civil servants. These findings are being used to inform the government’s pre-budget report (PBR). Final reports from the 13 pilots are due in February 2010 and the findings from those will inform the government budget that will ensue.

Emerging Findings from Total Place

The interim findings from the 13 pilots show that:

- Countless organisations are spending public money in the same area and often on the same things; for example in one pilot area 25 Social Housing providers for 19,000 homes with 47 funding streams for housing, 18 of which are from one funder.
- There is significant overlap in management and administration costs with excessive waste on reporting & performance regimes.
- The majority of money spent in places is under centralised control which leaves little or no room for innovation. For example, the amount of money spent in places varies, but for an average £7,000 spend on public services in any one place, only £350 is discretionary spending by councils.
- Public services are not best organised around the needs of individual customers. Organisations tend to focus service delivery on their slice of need rather than dealing with the whole customer experience.

Unsurprisingly the key message from the pilots is that more of the same is not an appropriate way of working across the public sector. Whilst this is blindingly obvious and has long been the case, the need for change is brought even more to the fore because of the current fiscal situation. All pilots have pointed to four areas which require change at a central and local level in order to vastly improve public services.

- a. Funding (and any reduction in funding) should be allocated by place, need and priority rather than be institutionally or initiative driven

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- b. The ring-fencing of money together with the target and report writing that goes with it needs to end. The current system is wasteful and often means that money is spent in the wrong areas. Localities need to determine local priorities and spending with local government playing a key lead role.
- c. There needs to be a single performance framework across all the public services in any one place which focuses on outcomes not inputs or unnecessary process.
- d. Public service organisations need to redesign their services around the whole customer experience.

Current Activity

All of the pilots are pressing on with potential service re-design in their area and sharing their thinking with other authorities. In response to the total place report, the high level officials group at Whitehall has commissioned a number of work streams where they need to look at how they might change. They are as follows:

- 1. Cross-cutting barriers to effective working from a Whitehall perspective. Pilots involved none- this is a Whitehall internal workings review.
- 2. Asset management: Pilots involved: Worcestershire, Kent, Birmingham, Lewisham.
- 3. Services for children aged 0-5 and their families. Pilots involved: Manchester, Croydon, and Coventry
- 4. Workshop on Housing. Pilots involved: Durham and others to be confirmed
- 5. Crime & reducing re-offending. Pilots involved Birmingham, Bradford, and Central Luton & Beds.
- 6. Drugs & Alcohol. Pilots involved: South Tyneside, Gateshead, Leicester, Leicestershire and Birmingham.

Report back from Conference - Informal Adult Learning: Leadership in local authorities

The White Paper, The Learning Revolution outlines a new approach to Informal Adult Learning. It recognises the benefits of learning for personal, social and community well-being. It proposes a continuum of learning from formal taught courses to informal session and self-organised groups. Local authorities will have a new leadership role in planning and commissioning Informal Adult Learning (IAL) from 2011-12, and will be invited to become Lead Accountable Bodies early in the 2010. This will mean that all the Learning and Skills Council / Skills Funding Agency funding in a local area for this type of learning will come to the local authority from

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2011 to plan, deliver and commission learning that meets local needs.

The Department of Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) sponsored the LGA to provide a conference on 29 October 2009 to raise awareness of the new responsibilities and to initiate the debate with members and senior local authority officers on the strategic significance of the benefits of linking informal learning across local authority services, and those of the third and statutory sectors. 62 delegates attended the conference, which was chaired by Cllr David Rogers.

Delegates had the opportunity to discuss IAL in relation to older learners, opening up new spaces for learning, intergeneration learning and learning in museums, libraries and archives. Norfolk County Council and Portsmouth City Council shared best practice from their authorities. A panel discussion enabled delegates to pose questions to representatives from the Learning and Skills Council, the Department Business, Innovation and Skills, Museum, Libraries and Archives Council and the Workers Education Association. The Minister of State for BIS was unable to attend but was represented by a senior civil servant. The Shadow Minister for Lifelong Learning, Further and Higher Education addressed the conference.

Recommendations: that the Board notes the above and supports further policy and development work on preparing local authorities for the new role through the NIACE secondee.

Grandparent's Summit **Cllr. Natalie Warriner**

I was very privileged to be invited to attend this event on behalf of the LGA Wellbeing Board.

The Summit was an opportunity for grandparents and stakeholders, who were evenly matched in numbers. To share their views with each other but more importantly Ministers and officers from DWP and DCSF who attended during the course of the day.

The consultation was based on the content of the Families and Relationships Green Paper due to be published later in the year and chaired by Baroness Greegrass, Chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Old & Young Together.

The grandparents had very different stories to tell, those who have been denied access, those who care for grandchildren to enable employment whilst still caring for elderly relatives, those who had taken on the full caring responsibility of their

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grandchildren at very short notice resulting in the complete disruption of their working and financial base.

There were several clear messages but the key ones to me were the importance of CAFCAS and other mediation services to settle disputes in a non legal forum, and the need for a standard financial allowance.

As ever, there are serious financial implications for this Bill, but there are areas where the Health & Social Care Bill could dovetail very successfully.

National Children and Adult Services Conference 2009

The National Children and Adult Services Conference took place between 21-23 October in Harrogate.

This year a record number of delegates came together for three days to discuss and debate the latest issues affecting children's and adults' services. The conference addressed the challenges that arise from the effects of the recession as well as health and sharing information. The outcomes from this event will be used to predict a brighter future in the changing political landscape.

The Local Government Association Group was again actively involved in the conference, running a series of policy and fringe sessions, with Community Wellbeing Board members playing a prominent role, chairing and taking part in some influential debates.

Amongst others speaking at this year's conference were: Rt Hon Andy Burnham MP, Secretary of State for Health; Andrew Lansley MP Conservative Shadow Secretary of State for Health; David Behan, Director General of Social Care, Department of Health; and Moira Gibb, Chair of the Social Work Taskforce.

Feedback from Members on the conference is invited.

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