

Panel Discussion – Adult Social Care

Purpose of Report

To provide an update on the priorities for the year ahead, for discussion, and direction from members.

Summary

The report outlines the suggested vision and direction for the future work of the LGA's Community Wellbeing Board.

Appendices A, B and C provide biographies of Sarah Pickup, President of the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services; Helena Herklots, Chief Executive of Carers UK, representing the Care and Support Alliance; and Chris Horlick, Partnerships, who have been invited to take part in a panel discussion on the future of Adult Social Care.

Recommendation

Members are invited to discuss the focus of the Board's work on Adult Social Care for the rest of this financial year and to begin to identify likely priorities for 2013/14.

Action

To be taken forward by officers as directed by members of the Board.

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Panel Discussion – Adult Social Care

Vision

1. Resolving the future of adult social care is one of the LGA's top priorities. Between our ongoing policy and lobbying work and our 'Show us you care' campaign, we are working hard to secure both funding for, and reform of the care and support system. We have consistently argued that funding and reform go hand in hand, and that both are needed to create a modern, stable and properly resourced system that can meet the challenge of our changing demography.
2. Our position on the future of care and support is set out in our May 2012 document 'Ripe for reform: the sector agrees, now the public expects – a guide to the care and support white paper'. This provides a series of tests against which we are judging the care white paper and in so doing articulates a vision for a better future system which:
 - 2.1. Improves the individual's experience of care and support
 - 2.2. Provides stability, predictability and transparency and encourages the long term view
 - 2.3. Provides sufficient funding that is appropriately directed
 - 2.4. Uses the totality of local resources
 - 2.5. Articulates a clear role for local government and recognises the importance of a local approach to care and support
 - 2.6. Has local politicians and senior managers at the forefront of changes to accountability and improvement

Suggested LGA priorities for the coming year

3. The priorities for the LGA that we believe will help to deliver this vision are:

Funding and reform

4. The care and support white paper was published alongside a draft care and support bill and a progress report on funding (the government's response to the Dilnot Commission). Taken together these publications provide a good platform from which to progress the reform agenda, building on the sector-wide consensus around the recommendations of the Law and Dilnot Commissions.
5. However, despite in principle commitment to the central Dilnot recommendation of a cap on the costs of care an individual may incur, the progress report on funding takes us no further forward on how a modern system should be properly resourced. Furthermore, the documents do little to acknowledge the reality of the funding pressures councils face in this area.
6. There is therefore still much to play for and the LGA will need to continue being highly visible on the inter-related agendas of care and support funding and care and support

reform. This means developing clear policy positions that are both acknowledged across a broad stakeholder base and can be shown to be shaping policy direction nationally.

Sector led improvement

7. With central-led inspection abolished, sector-led improvement needs to continue to be embedded, with a focus on innovation and excellence. It is anticipated that performance in adult social care will come under an even greater spotlight as the campaign for sustainable future funding intensifies; Ministers have already raised issues around efficiency and productivity in the sector with regards to this funding.
8. Whilst there has been extensive development over the last ten years and whilst all councils and their partners have some aspects of excellent practice, adult safeguarding remains a dominant theme in the overall performance of adult social care and sector based improvement. Key issues around market development and commissioning for quality will continue to be seen as an indicator of the sector's ability to manage its own affairs competently.
9. With such a broad and demanding agenda maintaining and strengthening our links with councils is a priority – both to support them in the challenges they face but also to ensure that their knowledge and expertise shapes the work we do nationally on their behalf. Our work needs to be based on what councils are telling us, which in turn will give the sector confidence that we are driven by their interests and continued success.

Proposed Outline of work

Funding and reform

10. On the **reform** agenda we will do some detailed work on what is needed to make the Dilnot model workable. This will include looking at the pre-conditions of reform, the technicalities, and the issue of how the model could be funded. The work will also consider the respective requirements and expectations of central government, local government, and the public. Although the Dilnot proposals will be central to this work we will pick up a number of other related issues – such as links to health and integration.
11. This will be a substantial work area with policy and lobbying covering a number of potential issues, including:
 - 11.1. Clarifying the boundaries between local government, local NHS and the National Commissioning Board
 - 11.2. How to make national assessment and portability work
 - 11.3. Market oversight and provider failure
 - 11.4. The case for prevention, early intervention and building community capacity
 - 11.5. How to make universal deferred payment a success
 - 11.6. Clarifying the interplay between care and health, benefits and housing
 - 11.7. Influencing the information and advice agenda

- 11.8. Understanding the scope for further efficiencies in adult social care
12. Work on reform will also be closely linked to our response to the draft care and support bill and subsequent influencing of the pre-legislative process.
13. By focusing on how to make a future system workable and achievable through the above reform workstream, we aim to concentrate our **funding** workstream on securing sufficient resource to meet the pressures posed by demographic change. We will work closely with colleagues in LGA Finance to develop a clear analysis of current and future costs and position this as part of the LGA's wider work in the run up to the next Spending Review.
14. Alongside the above policy and lobbying work we will continue with our 'Show us you care' campaign. To date the campaign has had two objectives: to secure legislation, and to get government to commit to the main recommendations of the Dilnot Commission. Notwithstanding the significant detail that needs to be worked through on the latter, at a high level these objectives have broadly been met. We therefore have an opportunity to consider where the campaign should go next. At the July Board with the Minister, Members suggested that we work closely with a broader spectrum of organisations to better raise the profile of this agenda with the general public. This echoes a number of recent comments made by stakeholders and would help ensure the LGA retains a high degree of visibility and profile on this crucial issue.

Sector led improvement

15. The *Towards Excellence in Councils' Adult Social Care* programme board on sector led improvement, support and self assessment is hosted by the LGA. The key emphasis of the programme is on collective ownership of improvement and its core elements include regional work; robust performance data; self evaluation; and peer support and challenge. Leadership development through the Regional Lead Member Networks will also continue. A key aspect of the LGA work will be on improving and evidencing the effectiveness of safeguarding adults' practice, as part of sector led improvement, based on a model of peer support and challenge. Further information on these programmes will be provided and discussed at the next Board.
16. The idea of improving the individual's experience of care and support care and support must remain at the heart of any future system. The LGA has established a partnership on dignity in care with Age UK and NHS Confederation and the Partnership will now promote the recommendation made by an independent commission on dignity in care in hospitals and care homes. The Partnership will be inviting people from across the health and social care system to 'roadtest' and sign up to a long term action plan, with an event in the Autumn starting this process.
17. In addition, ongoing partnership work with the *Think Local Act Personal and Dementia Action Alliance* partnership will continue to shape how services are delivered and how they involve local people. A particular focus will be on how to measure the impact of a move to more personalised services.

Other work areas

18. The LGA also is a key partner in the National Children's and Adult Service conference, the second largest event in the LGA's conference programme. Regularly attended by more than 1,000 delegates, this conference is widely recognised as the most important annual event of its kind for councillors, directors, senior officers, policymakers and service managers with responsibilities for children's services, adult care and health in the statutory, voluntary and private sectors.
19. Work around later life and the increasingly important links between care and housing are just some of the other work areas that the LGA will need to watch and inform.
20. This will happen alongside a challenging schedule of evidence submissions (Select Committees, Commissions, All Party Groups), national media responses and stakeholder management.