

Community Wellbeing Programme Board – report from Cllr David Rogers OBE (Chair)

Submission to the Health Select Committee inquiry on Public Expenditure

1. The LGA submitted written evidence to the Health Committee's inquiry on public expenditure. The submission sets out the way in which adult social care is funded and highlights the significant contribution local government makes to total expenditure. It stresses the importance of close working with the health service, particularly in light of forthcoming funding reductions and demographic pressures. The submission also raises awareness of the excellent track record council adult services departments have in respect of savings and efficiencies.

NHS Reforms

2. There has been a great deal of LG Group activity to refine and further develop our key messages on Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS White Paper. At the time of writing this report, the LG Group response to the White Paper is very close to agreement. I will be writing to Leaders and Lead Members for Adult Social Care in all councils to summarise our key messages on the reform of the NHS. We will also be developing our influencing activities in preparation for the Bill being introduced in November.
3. We are organising a conference for senior officers and lead members of local authorities to identify the implications of the Health Bill for local government. The conference will be in early 2011 and we will be sending out details of the programme in due course.

Public Health Reforms

4. We are currently engaging with local government stakeholders and developing our position on the Public Health White Paper, expected to be published in December 2010. We are currently writing an influencing document outlining the local government vision for improving the public's health which we aim to launch at a national conference on 15 November 2010. Interest in the conference has been intense and it is now fully booked. We are intending to produce a report and some of the presentations will be available as pod casts.
5. On 13 October, I met Stephen Dorrell, Chairman of the Common's Health Committee, to discuss the LGA's priorities for health and social care for 2011/12.
6. On 13 October I was invited to a reception held by the NHS Confederation for a study visit by Finnish Healthcare Managers to examine good practice in supporting people with long-term and chronic health conditions.

National Children and Adult Services Conference

7. Preparations are well under way for the National Children and Adult Services Conference in Manchester (3-5 November). Andrew Lansley, Secretary of State for Health and Michael Gove, Secretary of State for Education - as well as Sir David Nicholson, Chief Executive of the NHS and Professor Eileen Munro have all confirmed that they will be addressing this year's National Children and Adult Services Conference in Manchester.
8. The conference will be held shortly after the Comprehensive Spending Review announcement and Helen Bailey; Director of Public Services will be speaking from HM Treasury. It will be a key opportunity to discuss new policy initiatives as well as implementation plans. This will be an essential and timely conference for lead members with responsibility for Children and Adult Services to attend, as well as Directors and members of senior management teams, for whom it will be an important development opportunity.

Community Wellbeing Programme Board

9. On 15 September I chaired the Community Wellbeing Programme Board's annual awayday. We started the event by discussing the health White Paper and adult social care reform with the Care Services Minister Paul Burstow MP. The Minister acknowledged the key role that local government must play in both these agendas and promised to meet the Board again following the Spending Review to discuss the implications of the review for adult social care. The Board then had the chance to discuss the health White Paper in more detail with Alastair McLellan (Editor of the Health Service Journal), Angela Mawle (Chief Executive of the UK Public Health Association) and Paul Corrigan (Health Matters). Again, the emphasis was very much on the opportunities for local government and how the sector should position itself to make the most of them.
10. Colleagues from LGID then joined Professor David Oliver (National Clinical Director for Older People) to discuss issues relating to an ageing society and LGID's Ageing Well Programme. The day finished with a panel discussion involving Richard Jones (President, ADASS), Julie Jones (Chief Executive, Social Care Institute for Excellence) and Professor Julien Forder (Deputy Director, Personal Social Services Research Institute). The discussion covered 'where next for adult services' and thinking about what the big society means for adult care. It was an incredibly stimulating day with a great deal of interesting debate.

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