

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

1. Representatives of the LG Group had a second meeting with representatives of the British Medical Association, the Family Doctor Association, the NHS Alliance and the National Association of Primary Care on 21 December to discuss how together we can **support local councils and their GP stakeholders** to work together to improve health and address health inequalities in their communities. Unfortunately, the severe weather prevented me from participating in the meeting but other members of the Community Wellbeing Programme Board were present, along with Cllr Richard Kemp, Vice Chair of the LGA, who chaired the meeting. We agreed that we will meet again in early 2011 to: develop a range of support tools for councils and GP stakeholders to develop constructive working relationships at local level; identify opportunities for relationship building at national and regional level; discuss how we can work together to influence the Health and Social Care Bill, expected in January 2011.
2. On 16 December I sent out a letter to council Leaders, Lead Members on Adult Social Care and Children and Young People and Directors for Adult and Children's Services covering our response so far to the **public health white paper** and asking for their views. The letter summarised the Local Government Group briefing in which we set out our initial response to *Healthy Lives, Healthy People: Our strategy for public health in England* which expands on the Government's proposals for public health. The full LG briefing is available here: <http://www.lga.gov.uk/lga/core/page.do?pagelid=15313144>).
3. In a media release issued on the 15 December, following the Government's response to consultations on the **health white paper**, I stressed both the many of the LGA's proposals which have been included in this latest announcement on the Government's health reforms and that we still await clarification on funding. We will thoroughly scrutinise the Health and Social Care Bill when it is released to ensure it mirrors the Government's stated intention of freeing up councils and communities to decide how best to improve health and wellbeing locally, without needless interference from the centre.
4. I responded to the **Health Select Committee's** report on public expenditure, on 14 December, noting the very tough years ahead, and that with the spiralling costs of adult social care there will be a large funding gap because of budget cuts set out in the comprehensive spending review. The select committee has confirmed that the LGA's repeated warnings that many councils will have to look at tightening eligibility criteria and increasing charges for care services reflect the reality we are facing.

5. On 17 November our **Smith Square Debate** focused on the Government's major health reform proposals. Our panel of key commentators such as Prof Nick Bosanquet, Paul Corrigan (former advisor to Blair) and Sir Alexander Macara (BMA) summarised their views of the reforms and the debate. You can see them here: <http://www.lga.gov.uk/lga/core/page.do?pagelId=659867>.

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