

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

1. Responding to the publication of the **Health and Social Care Bill** on 19 January I highlighted the successes of LG Group lobbying in this area noting that many of local government's consultation proposals seem to have been included in the bill, including: Health and Wellbeing Boards being put on a statutory basis, with flexibility about their size and shape and additional powers; a phased approach to GP commissioning, to build on existing good practice and 'test bed' new arrangements; piloting of Health and Wellbeing Boards through the early implementers programme, allowing a greater understanding of the barriers and drivers for a more integrated, council-led approach to health improvement; local commissioning of maternity services and; the retention and expansion of health scrutiny powers.
2. However, uncertainty remains over the adequacy of funding and the split of funding between local authorities and Public Health England does not appear to reflect their respective levels of responsibility. We must continue to scrutinise and put pressure on the government to ensure that the government's promise to free up councils and communities to decide how best to improve health and wellbeing locally, without needless interference from the centre, is delivered.
3. I met with Rt Hon Stephen Dorrell MP, Chair of the **Health Select Committee**, to discuss the committee's report on NHS commissioning and possible future work with the LG Group. It was a very useful meeting and the first of many planned over the next 12 months. The committee is keen to work with us in the production of their forward plan and we welcome the opportunity to contribute suggestions for future work areas.
4. On 27 January I spoke at a conference on *Later Life, Planning for an ageing population*, giving a local government perspective on the future provision of health and social care for the ageing population, in which I focused on the huge role played by local authorities in later life care. I also spoke at the joint LG Group ADASS event on adult safeguarding on 24 January.
5. At the **Community Wellbeing Programme Board** on 19 January we discussed the Health and Social Care Bill, published that day, as well as the future funding of adult social care. For the latter we were joined by both Dame Jo Williams, a Commissioner on the Dilnot Commission on the Funding of Care and Support, and Richard Humphries from the King's Fund.

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