

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

LGA roundtable with the Commission on Funding of Care and Support

1. On 25 March the LGA is hosting a meeting between council Chief Executives and Leaders and members of Andrew Dilnot's Commission on Funding of Care and Support. The LGA has long called for reform of adult social care funding and is clear that how we care for adults of all ages is one of the most crucial public policy questions of our time. With the Commission due to report in the summer this event is an important opportunity for the Commissioners to discuss their emerging thinking with some of the most senior politicians and officers in local government. It is also an exclusive opportunity for the sector to share its experience and expertise directly with the Commission to inform their final recommendations to Government. I will open the session, and this will be followed by plenary and table discussion led by the Commissioners. We are hoping that all three Commissioners – Andrew Dilnot (Chair), Dame Jo Williams, and Lord Norman Warner – will attend. At the most recent count we have nearly thirty confirmed Leaders and Chief Executives attending.

Health and Social Care Bill

2. Following the publication of the Health & Social Care Bill, the LGA has continued to meet with health stakeholders to explore common ground and consider the implications for local government. Roundtables have been held separately with national primary care leaders and with the major public health professional bodies. In both instances joint position statements have been agreed and published, together with a range of follow up work.
3. Community Wellbeing Board members met the Bill team and have given evidence to the Bill Committee, the Health Select Committee and an All Party Parliamentary Group. I met the Secretary of State and Care Services Minister and the Labour Shadow Care Services Minister is attending the March Board, and a meeting was held with the Shadow Public Health Minister. A number of amendments have been laid following good links being established with the Labour and Liberal Democrat Bill teams. These have sought to test the proposed powers of the Secretary of State and follow up on the LG Group's concerns about Cinderella services and safeguarding.

Regional Networks

4. Regional Networks for Adult Social Care Lead Member form part of Local Government Improvement & Development's programme of support for councillors. There is a Network operating in every region in England and the free-to-attend member-led meetings offer unique support to lead members in sharing good practice and in discussing current issues in adult social care. It has been agreed that there will be closer links between the Networks and the Board, in terms of sharing local practice and being kept informed of Board discussion and decisions on key policy areas. Issues raised at recent Network meetings include sector led support, the implications for local accountability of changes to health and the impact on Executive Members of the new public health responsibilities.

Contact officer: Paul Ogden

Position: Business Manager

Tel: 0207 664 3277

Email: paul.ogden@local.gov.uk