

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

1. The **Law Commission's review of Adult Social Care Law** final report and recommendations was issued on 11 May 2011 and the Government has announced its intention to introduce legislation to implement recommendations it accepts during 2012. Responding to this in a press release I welcomed this much-needed move toward simplifying the confusing mix of laws which currently govern adult social care. The LG Group has consistently argued for the adoption of an approach to adult wellbeing which puts more faith in individuals to decide what support they need. This report takes us closer to that objective. However, in the context of cuts to council budgets and increasing demand for services it is vitally important that reform of adult social care does not lead to increased administration costs. The Law Commission indicated from the outset that their proposals will be resource-neutral. The LG Group will be working as this report is translated into legislation to ensure that is the case.
2. The timetabling of the Commission's final report and recommendations comes a little in advance of the work of the **Dilnot Commission on Funding of Care and Support**, presenting a unique opportunity to ensure better alignment between a modern adult social care policy and delivery direction. On 25 March we hosted a high-level roundtable meeting with Andrew Dilnot, Chair of the Commission on Funding of Care and Support, and more than forty council Leaders, Chief Executives and Directors and Lead Members for adult social services and we hope to run a further session prior to the Commission's final recommendations being published.
3. On 7 March, we hosted a consultative event for the Department of Health on the **public health White Paper**. There was a clear consensus that local government was the 'natural home' for public health and that many councils already had a firm commitment to health improvement. Some participants expressed concern over the lack of clarity on the public health budget, the relationship between local Health and Wellbeing Boards and Public Health England, and the lack of democratic accountability of GP commissioning consortia. This key issue of the role of Health and Wellbeing Boards will be picked up at the Community Wellbeing Programme Board meeting on 18 May, in discussions with John Wilderspin National Director, Health and Wellbeing Board Implementation, Department of Health.
4. Preparations for our fourth annual **summit for Lead Members of Adult Services**, at Local Government House, on Wednesday 13 July continue. Paul Burstow MP, Minister of State for Social Care and Andrew Dilnot, Chair of the Dilnot Commission on the funding of care and support, will be attending, and

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we have had a good response to attendance from the 150 portfolio holders already. This promises to be a stimulating conference that will help shape the LG Group's ongoing work in the reform of care and support, the relationship between care and health and the transformation of adult services.

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