

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

Partnership on Dignity in Care

1. On 20 July, the Partnership on Dignity in Care initiative was launched at Age UK's Improving Essential Care event on 20 July to help drive improvements in the levels of care provided to older people in hospitals and care homes. I will jointly chair this Commission with NHS Confederation chair Sir Keith Pearson and chair of Age UK Dianne Jeffrey. It will involve senior leaders from across health and social care coming together to take evidence from the full range of relevant groups – from specialist clinicians and healthcare leaders to patient advocacy groups – to get to the root of what needs to happen to improve care.

Future Funding of Adult Social Care

2. Richard Humphries from the King's Fund attended the last Board meeting on 20 July to discuss the Dilnot Commission's final report 'Fairer Care Funding' which was published on 4 July 2011, and outlined the Government's further consultation process for the future funding of adult social care scheduled from the Autumn. In discussion, Members stressed that although the thrust of the report should be welcomed, it should be viewed as a wider reform movement which includes: the Law Commission's recommendations for developing a simpler legal framework for care and support; a political vision for reform and a cross party consensus to agree on the best way to move forward. Members also suggested that more focus should be given to the quality of care, particularly in light of the recent Care Quality Commission report detailing shortcomings at many homes run by private providers. The LG Group has put together a FAQ document on the Dilnot Commission's report which can be found here:

Towards Excellence in Councils' Adult Social Care – Producing 'Local accounts' in 2011/12

3. In August, I wrote out to all adult social care lead members to update them about a new approach to sector led improvement in adult social care the LG Group is developing alongside the Association of Directors of Adult Social Care and the Department of Health. Following the abolition of the previous inspection regime, this aims to be a local self-assessment of performance which is then reported back to local people through a local account. We hope it is an approach that lead members will support and promote within their own authorities as it leads on from the work we all already undertake to keep local people informed and engaged.

Joint Children and Young People and Community Wellbeing Programme Board meeting

4. I jointly chaired a roundtable discussion on children's health on 25 July 2011 with Baroness Ritchie to discuss with senior officers from various organisations how children's health and wellbeing will fit in with the new architecture for health and wellbeing. The roundtable enabled delegates to openly discuss their organisations key concerns and top priorities and share their ideas for a support offer.

Other current and future Board activity on the Health and Adult Social Care Bill

5. On 6 July Cllr Linda Thomas, Deputy Chair of the Community Wellbeing Board, met key members of the Labour Bill Team (Baroness Thornton, Baroness Margaret Williams and Richard Bourne) to discuss the Health and Social Care Bill. I will be meeting with the Liberal Democrat leads in the Lords to discuss key issues and proposed amendments on 14 October. We will also be organising a briefing session for all Peers in October, after the second reading and before the committee stage, to explain the LG Group's key amendments.

Tough times, good decisions - the National Children and Adult Services Conference

6. The National Children and Adult Services Conference and exhibition will take place at the International Convention Centre (ICC) London ExCel on 19 to 21 October 2011. Organised by the Local Government Group Association of Directors of Social Services and Association of Directors of Children's Services this event is entitled 'Tough times, good decisions' and is vital to councillors, directors, senior officers, policymakers and service managers with responsibilities for education, children's services and adult care in the statutory, voluntary and private sectors. The programme will give many opportunities to hear keynote ministerial addresses and take part in plenary sessions. There will be a variety of participatory breakouts and networking sessions.

Contact officer: Sandie Dunne
Position: Head of Programmes (Community Wellbeing, Environment and Housing)
Phone no: 0207 664 3070
E-mail: sandie.dunne@local.gov.uk