

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

Health Select Committee

1. On 13 September I gave oral evidence to the Health Select Committee as part of its public expenditure inquiry. This is a topic the Committee returns to regularly and the LGA gave evidence during the previous inquiry in October 2010. This year's session was an opportunity to consider how the 2010 Spending Review was playing out on the ground and I made a number of key points, which were all well received by the Committee. These included: the absolute necessity to adequately fund the system in the interim period before any reforms are implemented; the impact of NHS reforms and savings requirements on the relationship between health and social care; and the response of the care and support sector to the cuts local government has had to contend with. Some of the Committee's questions were incredibly detailed and technical and we have therefore agreed to send a further written note to address specific questions on expenditure.

Update on Health and Social Care Bill

2. I met with Baroness Jolly, Liberal Democrat peer on 14 September to discuss some of the LGA's key issues in the Health and Social Care Bill. We will also be briefing peers ahead of the Second Reading on the 11th October, and will seek to lay amendments on our key issues.

Department for Work and Pension's Ageing Society Implementation Programme Board Meeting

3. Cllr Keith Mitchell CBE, Vice-Chairman of the Community Wellbeing Programme Board, attended the DWP Ageing Society Implementation Programme Board on 19 September to discuss the sustainability and legacy of the work of supporting local authorities in preparing for an ageing society. At the meeting Cllr Mitchell made the case for future Government attention on the ageing society and the impact on, and contribution of, local government.

Community Wellbeing Programme Board awayday

4. On 8 September I chaired the Community Wellbeing Programme Board's annual awayday. We started the event by discussing health reforms in detail with David Stout (Director of the Primary Care Trust

Network, NHS Confederation), Dr Steve Mowle (Vice Chair of the Royal College GPs) and Dr Brian Fisher MBE (Patient & Public Involvement Network, NHS Alliance). The emphasis was very much on the opportunities for local councils in their new lead role in ensuring the health and wellbeing of their communities, and the opportunities this offered for strong partnership working in local areas. The Board then had the chance to discuss the future of adult social care with Martin Green (Chief Executive, English Community Care Association), John Adams OBE (General Secretary, Voluntary Organisations Disability Group) and Peter Hay (President of Association of Directors of Adult Social Services). The discussion covered the Dilnot Commission's report, the challenges for both providers and commissioners, and the increased role for councils in the Government's reform agenda which could drive up standards by introducing local accountability into the system.

5. The day finished with a discussion with Care Services Minister Paul Burstow MP. The Minister acknowledged the key role that local government must play in both the health and adult social care agendas. In particular, the Minister discussed the Public Health White Paper and stressed that it was the Government's intention to continue to strengthen local government's renewed role in public health, particularly with regard to reducing health inequalities in local communities. It was an incredibly stimulating day with a great deal of interesting debate.

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