

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

Community Wellbeing Board

1. The LGA's Community Wellbeing Board met on 18 January where we discussed amongst other issues the future funding of adult social care with theme leads from the Department of Health's 'Caring for the Future' engagement exercise. There was widespread agreement that the LGA should continue to both lobby and seek clarity around future levels of funding and that partnership working / the integration of adult social care were crucial to finding a sustainable solution.

Joint letter to the Editor of the Daily Telegraph

2. A few days later, I signed with Age UK, the Association of Directors of Social Services and Bupa Care Homes a joint letter to challenge the Secretary of State for Health Andrew Lansley's claim that there is no funding shortfall for social care services in England. It made clear that the additional Department of Health funding for social care was considerably outweighed by the 28 per cent cut in grant. The letter reiterated that urgent action is needed to avoid the risk of a funding crisis, and acknowledged the reconvening of cross-party talks as a first step.

Adult Social Care efficiency programme

3. On 19 January, I launched the Adult Social Care efficiency programme with Improvement Board colleague Cllr Ruth Cadbury. The final number of applications (52) surpassed expectations and key themes emerging across the board included: tackling the high cost of Learning Disability placements; the interface with health care; preventative services; and commissioning.

Public Health Grant allocations

4. Secretary of State for Health Andrew Lansley recently announced £5.2 billion for total spending on Public Health in 2013, £2.2 billion of which will be allocated to local authorities. We are currently working with our financial advisers to assess the adequacy of this allocation to meet our new public health responsibilities.
5. The Secretary of State also announced the publication of the Public Health Outcomes Framework, which gives details of the 66 indicators and the two headline outcome targets for public health. We have published a briefing

which summarises and comments on the Outcomes Framework and the Secretary of State's announcements on public health.

6. The LGA will continue its work lobbying for the distribution of funding to local government to be based on the level of health need and health inequalities rather than existing historic variations in PCT funding. We will also continue to scrutinise the costs and liabilities associated with the transfer of responsibility for public health to local government.

Commission on improving dignity in care for older people

7. Throughout the winter of 2011, the Commission on improving dignity in care has gathered information through a call for written evidence and three oral evidence sessions. It also drew on site visits, reference groups, high-level meetings and published evidence. The Commission set up jointly by the NHS Confederation, Age UK and the LGA aims to understand how and why older people's care is failing on dignity and what will drive improvement.
8. The Commission will consult publicly on a draft report throughout February and March 2012 with a view to making final recommendations, based on the views expressed, in the late spring. Following publication of the final report, the Partnership on Dignity in Care will oversee a programme of work to encourage and support those working across the health and social care sector to implement the recommendations. I co-chair the Commission, alongside the NHS Confederation Chair Sir Keith Pearson and the Chair of Age UK Dianne Jeffrey.
9. More information about the Commission can be found at:
www.nhsconfed.org/priorities/Quality/Partnership-on-dignity/Pages/Commission-on-dignity.aspx

Health reform and funding roundtables

10. We have this month held the first of three LGA roundtables on Health reform and funding with parliamentarians to share our views ahead of the Spring White Paper.
11. I have also attended a roundtable hosted by The Business Services Association, which represents companies working on outsourced contracts for the public sector. I offered the LGA's perspective on a number of key themes such as local government's current preparations for new public health role; the likely focus of HWBs; and the role of the private sector in the new system.

Contact officer: Sandie Dunne
Position: Head of Programmes
Phone no: 0207 664 3070
E-mail: sandie.dunne@local.gov.uk