

The future of adult social care and support

Purpose of report

For noting and discussion.

Summary

Members will hear from Richard Humphries, Senior Fellow at the King's Fund, Dame Jo Williams, Chair of the Care Quality Commission and former Commissioner on the Commission on Funding of Care and Support (the Dilnot Commission) and Rt Hon Stephen Dorrell MP, Chair of the Health Select Committee.

Recommendation

Members are asked to note the different perspectives provided by the presentations on the future of adult social care and support, and raise any issues on the implications for local government.

Action

As directed by the Forum.

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The future of adult social care and support

Background

1. Following a number of key developments over the last eighteen months a White Paper on the future of adult social care looks set to be published in the Spring. Chief among these developments is the work of the Law Commission, the Dilnot Commission on Funding of Care and Support and the Caring for our Future engagement exercise.
2. Respectively, the two Commissions explored how to make the adult social care system simpler in terms of its legal framework, and fairer and more sustainable in terms of its funding arrangements. The engagement exercise, which concluded in December 2011, sought to bring the recommendations from both Commissions together, alongside the Government's 'Vision for adult social care', to help shape the priorities for care and support reform ahead of the White Paper.
3. The engagement exercise was based around six themes which the Government believes have the greatest potential for improving the care system. These are set out below and it is likely that they will form the basis, at least in part, of the White Paper.
 - 3.1 Quality and workforce
 - 3.2 Personalisation
 - 3.3 Shaping local care services
 - 3.4 Prevention
 - 3.5 Integration
 - 3.6 Role of financial services

Recent activity and the LGA position

4. The LGA has been heavily involved in the debates about reform of care and support during the last eighteen months, working closely with both the Dilnot and Law Commissions to share the sector's views and influence the final recommendations. We have also been heavily engaged with Parliamentarians and other stakeholders, giving a range of evidence and briefings. In recent months the LGA has:
 - 4.1 Hosted a major roundtable event for council Leaders, Chief Executives, and other senior council Members and officers, to consider the questions set out in the Government's engagement exercise. This event was also attended by senior officers from the Department of Health to ensure that central Government heard direct from local government on the issues that mattered most to the sector. Attendees heard from a high profile range of speakers, including: Lord Norman Warner (Dilnot Commission); Frances

Patterson QC (Law Commission); Paul Burstow MP (Care Services Minister); Baroness Hanham (Communities and Local Government).

- 4.2 Given written and oral evidence to the Health Select Committee’s inquiry on social care.
 - 4.3 Provided a detailed briefing for a Westminster Hall debate on adult social care funding.
 - 4.4 Provided a detailed briefing for a Lord’s debate on the future of care and support.
 - 4.5 Met with Department of Health officials to discuss specific elements of the reform debate and arranged further similar meetings.
 - 4.6 Organised a series of briefing sessions in collaboration with Age UK for Parliamentarians to discuss care and support reform.
5. Ahead of the White Paper we are also taking forward a number of activities to raise both the profile of the reform debate and the visibility of the LGA as an influencer of it and commentator on it. Work includes public polling, making the economic case for reform, financial analysis of the current and predicted future funding picture for the service, and a guide to the White Paper.
 6. We have been consistently clear that the current climate presents the best opportunity for meaningful reform, with workable proposals from both the Dilnot and Law Commissions allied to cross-party commitment to seek a solution that has consensus across the political spectrum.
 7. We want to see a future system achieve four, high-level aims. These are set out below, along with some further information on what a system based on these aims would look like.

High level aim	What this would mean in practice
Providing stability, predictability and transparency and encouraging the long-term view	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Individuals are clear about the expectations of them and the state in meeting their care costs ▪ Comprehensive information and advice helps people plan for the future ▪ People are encouraged to take responsibility for their health and wellbeing throughout their life ▪ Assessments of needs and means are portable ▪ A provider market that is responsive to local demand and can meet the needs of both self- and state-funded individuals
Improving the individual’s experience of care and support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The care and support system is clear and people are confident navigating through it ▪ The system extends choice and control with outcomes focused on the user ▪ Services are of high quality and exceed individuals’ expectations

Recognising and supporting the use of the totality of an area's resource base	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ An 'asset approach' to care and support that values and incorporates the entirety of an area's financial, physical and social resources ▪ In particular, the system considers how best to align care and support with health, housing, and benefits
Sufficient funding, appropriately directed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A system that supports and encourages funding for prevention ▪ Funding for the system and funding for reform go hand in hand ▪ Sufficient resource to fund the impact of demography

The speakers

8. Stephen Dorrell MP was first elected as Member of Parliament for Loughborough in 1979, which he represented until 1997. In 1997 he was elected MP for Charnwood constituency, which he continues to represent in Parliament today, having been re-elected in May 2010. He was formerly PPS to Peter Walker as Secretary of State for Energy from 1983 to 1987, Assistant Government Whip from 1987 to 1988, Government Whip from 1988 to 1990. He then served as Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, in the Department of Health from 1990 to 1992, Financial Secretary, HM Treasury from 1992 to 1994, before being promoted to Secretary of State for National Heritage from 1994 to 1995, and then Secretary of State for Health from 1995 to 1997. He was a member of the Shadow Cabinet from 1997 to 1998 as Shadow Secretary of State for Education and Employment. In 2007 Stephen Dorrell was appointed by Rt Hon David Cameron MP as Co-Chair of the Public Service Improvement Group, to look at ways to improve the services provided by Health, Social Care, Education and Social Housing. He was elected Chair of the Health Committee in 2010.
9. Dame Jo Williams is Chair of the Care Quality Commission. Previously, Dame Jo was Chief Executive of the Royal Mencap Society. She is also the former President of the Association of Directors of Social Services and champion for social care services throughout a career in local government. Dame Jo is also a trustee of a number of other voluntary organisations. She was a Commissioner on the Commission on Funding of Care and Support that was chaired by Andrew Dilnot.
10. Richard Humphries joined the King's Fund in March 2009 to lead on social care and is a recognised commentator and writer on care and support issues. A graduate of the LSE, his professional background is social work, having worked in a variety of roles including Director of Social Services and Health Authority Chief Executive (the first combined post in England) and in the Department of Health. Richard is a Non-Executive Director of Housing 21 and co-chairs the Associates Network of the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services.