

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

### **Securing the Future of Adult Social Care campaign**

1. At the LGA's Leadership board on 8 February, colleagues decided to make 'Securing the Future of Adult Social Care' the LGA's number one campaigning priority over the next year or so. The first phase of the campaign will take us up to the White Paper and aims to maintain the profile of the debate nationally and the visibility of the LGA as a leading influencer of discussions. Specific work includes:
  - 1.1 A guide to the White Paper
  - 1.2 Understanding the current and predicted future funding picture for care and support
  - 1.3 The cost of reform
  - 1.4 The economic case for reform
  - 1.5 Polling to understand the public's aspirations for care and support
2. We will continue to press for recognition of the true funding crisis which councils face, and the necessity of reforms.

### **Letter to Paul Burstow**

3. This month I have also written to the Minister of State for Care Services, setting out our ongoing concerns with certain elements of the Health and Social Care bill, and the LGA's willingness to continue to work with the Department of Health to address areas where the bill needs improvement.
4. I emphasised the democratic legitimacy of Health and Wellbeing boards in ensuring services are integrated and people do not 'fall through the cracks'. The letter also strongly expressed our disappointment that the Government has not acted on the concerns expressed by the LGA and many local authorities regarding the split responsibility for children and young people's public health in the bill which could cause a risky and unnecessary fragmentation of children's services.
5. Finally the LGA reminded the Minister that the management and reporting lines for Directors of Public Health within local authorities is a matter for local decision and also that we believe that it is neither necessary nor appropriate for the Secretary of State to issue guidance regarding public health staff.

### **Joint GP and Public Health stakeholders' roundtables**

6. The GP and Public Health round table meetings, attended by members of the board continue to help develop a robust and constructive relationship with national representatives from public health and general practice. These and a number of other regular stakeholder meetings are one of the key ways the LGA continues to put the case for local government on issues included in the health reform agenda, including the transfer of public health to local government. We

also continue to campaign for public health funding to be based on levels of health need rather than historical spending patterns.

### **Public Health Conference, 28 February**

7. The first LGA Public Health Annual conference was a sellout success with over 150 delegates attending the summit. Chaired by Sir Merrick Cockell the audience was urged to hold an open and honest discussion about the opportunities local government faces in an age where Clinical Commissioning Groups and democratically accountable Health and Wellbeing Boards will be the key actors in improving the health and wellbeing of our communities.
8. The theme for the conference was reducing health inequalities, and speakers included the Department for Health's Director General for Social care, Local Government and Care Partnerships, as well as experts from Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS), Public Health England, CIEH (Chartered Institute of Environmental Health) and a range of other organizations.

### **Commission on Dignity in Care Launch, 29 February**

9. As co-chair of the Dignity in Care Commission, I was interviewed by a number of the trade media and both national and local radio stations across the country on 27, 28 and 29 February. This was part of a high-profile media launch for the report we are publishing for consultation, drawing on the body of evidence that we, the LGA, Age UK and the NHS Confederation, have gathered over the past eight months. The report is available at [http://www.local.gov.uk/c/document\\_library/get\\_file?uuid=d47b1070-0984-4c5a-9ff0-f5e626c153a6&groupId=10727](http://www.local.gov.uk/c/document_library/get_file?uuid=d47b1070-0984-4c5a-9ff0-f5e626c153a6&groupId=10727)
10. Widespread coverage in national newspapers, on TV and in the trade press is just the beginning of what we hope to be a wide-ranging public conversation about the fundamental changes required in hospitals and care homes to ensure older people are treated with dignity and respect. But we want the campaign to generate practical action – and we are also working on a joint action plan – to persuade those involved in the provision, commissioning and monitoring of care to take up our final proposals.

### **Meeting with Earl Howe, 3 March**

11. On 3 March I met with Earl Howe, Minister for Quality at the Department of Health, at his request, to discuss the development of Healthwatch. We discussed the urgent need to prioritise preparations for Healthwatch at national and local levels. This work should include awareness raising, branding and setting national standards of operation so that robust and credible Local Healthwatch organisations can be established and supported.
12. Local authorities have already begun to work with their local stakeholders, including LINKs and other community and voluntary organisations to shape Local Healthwatch. The LGA, with the Department of Health, will provide support through an implementation programme. We agree with the Government that local authorities are best placed to commission Health Watch as leaders of their community and with their extensive track record of supporting community engagement.

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