

**Item 3(b)**

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

**LGA meeting with the new Secretary of State for Health**

1. On 3 October the Chairman and Chief Executive of the LGA met the Secretary of State for Health, Jeremy Hunt MP, to outline our key priorities in relation to health and social care:
  - 1.1. addressing the funding crisis in adult social care;
  - 1.2. getting the legislation on adult social care right;
  - 1.3. the quantum and distribution of funding available to support local authorities' new responsibilities; and
  - 1.4. the need to give the health of children and young people a higher priority in the health reforms.

**Funding to support public health transition**

2. From October, the Department of Health will be making available £15 million to support the transition of public health to local government. It will be available to upper-tier and unitary councils through their Primary Care Trust (PCT), to contribute to the costs associated with administrating the transition and to help minimise the diversion of resources and staff from day-to-day delivery. Further details are available on the DH website: [www.dh.gov.uk/health/2012/09/ph-la-transition/](http://www.dh.gov.uk/health/2012/09/ph-la-transition/).

**Meetings at Party Conferences**

3. At the Liberal Democrat party conference in late September I was able to meet with both the new and former Ministers of State for Care, the Deputy Leader of the Liberal Democrats in the House of Lords and a variety of other representatives from organisations such as Leonard Cheshire Disability, the Kings Fund and the Co-operative Group.

**Doing the Duty – using the Equality Framework to make evidence-based decisions**

4. Implementing the Public Sector Equality Duty correctly is an area where some councils have been challenged in the recent past. Using the Equality Framework for Local Government was a key topic at the LGA's 'Doing the Duty' conference held on 24 September, and chaired by Cllr Peter Fleming, Chair of the LGA Improvement and Innovation board. Over 100 delegates attended the day.
5. The LGA's Equality Frameworks are available online at [www.local.gov.uk/equality-frameworks](http://www.local.gov.uk/equality-frameworks) and offer a systematic and structured self-assessment and improvement tool, along with case studies and other resources.

**Tackling illicit tobacco**

6. On 25 September Councillor Gillian Ford, Deputy Chair of the Community Wellbeing Board attended an event hosted by Fresh North-East and Tobacco Free Futures which

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explored the problems caused by illicit tobacco. The transfer of responsibility for public health opens up new opportunities for councils to establish tobacco as a key area of work through their Health and Wellbeing boards.

**Dementia Action Alliance Quarterly Meeting**

7. Councillor Francine Haeberling of the Community Wellbeing board opened the September Quarterly meeting of the Dementia Action Alliance (<http://www.dementiaaction.org.uk/>) on Tuesday 25 September, which focused on the concept of Dementia-friendly Communities. The National alliance, which is made up of over 100 organisations, is encouraging the establishment of local Dementia Action Alliances, following the success of those in Nottinghamshire, South Lincolnshire and the East Midlands region. You can find the LGA's Dementia-friendly Communities toolkit at [www.local.gov.uk/ageing-well](http://www.local.gov.uk/ageing-well).

**Launch of Healthwatch England**

8. On 01 October, I attended the launch event of Healthwatch England on behalf of the LGA. The organisation is one of the key components of the new Public Health infrastructure in the UK and the LGA will continue to work closely with it at a national level, and provide support to councils at a local level. We aim to ensure that all local authorities can establish effective Local Healthwatch organisations over the coming months.

**Local Healthwatch – Further funding secured and LGA support**

9. As part of the LGA's support for Healthwatch, we hosted a joint conference on 04 October with the Department of Health. Chaired by Cllr Linda Thomas, Vice-Chair of the Community Wellbeing Board, the event was attended by over 130 delegates and featured seminars on community engagement, the LINKs' legacy and Healthwatch's role beyond commissioning followed by workshop sessions.
10. I am pleased to convey that the LGA has secured indicative funding of £16.5 million for Local Authorities to deliver Healthwatch, up from the £11 million originally offered, following lobbying work. This is additional funding for local Healthwatch and the new information providing service, on top of the baseline of £27 million which will transfer from LINKs to Local Healthwatch next year.
11. The LGA also launched six briefings entitled 'Establishing local Healthwatch' to assist local authorities and their partners in commissioning, setting up and developing local Healthwatch. The briefings will be publicised to the sector and are available on [www.local.gov.uk/health](http://www.local.gov.uk/health)

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