

Item 3(b)

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

Public health funding

1. The final announcement on public health funding allocations to local authorities, widely expected to coincide with the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) announcement on the Local Government Finance Settlement has been delayed until early 2013. The LGA publicly expressed our disappointment on the postponement of this important information, just three months away from one of the most significant changes in local government in a generation.
2. The reason given for the delay is that the Department of Health is exploring options for a longer-term settlement as this will provide councils with a greater level of certainty beyond next year. We have urged the Government to announce their plans as early as possible and let councils get on with the job of delivering a high quality public health service for their local population.

Evidence session to the Communities and Local Government (CLG) Select Committee

3. Councillor Steve Bedser gave oral evidence to the CLG Select Committee on the role of local authorities in health issues on 26 November. On a panel alongside representatives from the Royal College of Nursing, District Councils Network, the University of the West of England and the British Medical Association, Councillor Bedser outlined our position that local government has consistently supported the transfer of public health to councils and that the vast majority of local areas are on course for a successful transfer of public health by April 2013, but that local authorities need confirmation of their funding allocations as soon as possible in order to finalise public health arrangements.

NHS Health Check Learning network event

4. On 28 November, Cllr Doreen Huddart spoke on the future of NHS Health Check to an audience of public health commissioners and practitioners at the fifteenth NHS Health Check National Learning Network event in London. This was followed by a question and answer session with LGA and Department of Health officers for delegates.
5. This marks the beginning of LGA co-operation with NHS Diabetes and Kidney care to provide resources and information on NHS Health Check ahead of the transfer of responsibility for commissioning the risk assessment element of the NHS Health Check transfers to local authorities in April 2013, as part of their wider responsibilities for public health.

Tobacco Conference

6. On 3 December I chaired the afternoon session of the Joint Children and Young People (CYP) Board and Community Wellbeing (CWB) Board conference on 'The councils' role in tackling tobacco'. The Ministerial address was provided by Anna

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Soubry MP, the conference was well attended and there were some lively discussions.

7. This event was the second in a series of public health conferences at which resource sheets for local authorities are being launched. Each resource sheet is available at www.local.gov.uk/publications and contains key questions, policy information; ideas for success and case studies to help local authorities and their partners tackle issues such as Tobacco, Obesity and Drugs.

Improving Population Health through Primary Care conference

8. On 27 November, I spoke to around 90 conference delegates from Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs), local authorities, NHS managers and voluntary sector groups at an event organised by the Public Health England transition team. The aim of the conference was to begin to develop the shared understanding of the preventative role of primary care and how primary care can reduce health inequalities, and for primary care practitioners to understand the role of local government in tackling the wider determinants of health and the opportunities for joint action.

World Economic Forum (WEF) seminar on the financial sustainability of the UK health system

9. On 28 November, Cllr Louise Goldsmith, Deputy Chair of the Community Wellbeing board, attended on behalf of the LGA a WEF seminar on the future of the UK's health system, with a focus on sharing potential visions for the health system in 2040. The workshop discussions were followed by a plenary speech from the Secretary of State for Health and discussions on the long-term strategy necessary to achieve these aims.

Show us you care campaign

10. The festive season saw the launch of the LGA's Show Us You Care Advent calendar which illustrates why this crisis will dramatically affect the look of local areas, and consequently the wellbeing of those who live in them. In 2013 we will continue to campaign for a social care system that provides much-needed certainty, is stable and fit for purpose, as well as being properly funded.
11. We need your help to achieve the ambitions of our Show Us You Care social care campaign, so if your council has not already done so, please sign up at www.local.gov.uk/show-us-you-care.

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