

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

Cap on Social Care Costs

1. On 11 February, the Government announced a significant step towards reforming adult social care funding, complementing the Draft Care and Support Bill reforms. The two central proposals are a £75,000 cap (2017 prices) on an individual's lifetime contribution to care costs, and an increase in the means test level at which those in a residential home have to pay for care, from £23,250 to £123,000 (also at 2017 prices).
2. With good communication to the public, the measures outlined can make the system simpler and the financial implications of care easier to understand. However, as I expressed in an Article for 'First' magazine this month, the cost-cap is just one part of the solution, and must be taken forward alongside a wider commitment to put the whole system on a sustainable financial basis in the medium as well as the long term.

Robert Francis Inquiry report into Mid-Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust.

3. The long-awaited Francis report was published on 6 February and the LGA responded in the media. To care for people with dignity it is clear we need a major shift in our approach to health and social care which puts people at the heart of the system; which upholds a culture of care amongst staff; and which ensures that local partners listen and act upon the concerns of patients and their carers when things go wrong.
4. On 27 February, at a King's Fund conference on the report, I spoke alongside Chris Ham, the Chief Executive of the King's Fund and Dr Daniel Poulter MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Health to emphasise the LGA's position. The Community Wellbeing Board also considered the Francis report in detail on 6 March and I will be chairing an adult safeguarding conference at Local Government House on 12 March.

Annual public health conference 2013: better local health; realising the ambition London - 26 February 2013

5. Over 150 delegates attended our flagship public health conference chaired by Sir Merrick Cockell, assisted by a number of Board members who chaired workshops and provided insight from their authorities. A highlight was when the Public Health Minister Anna Soubry noted in her speech that the decline in teenage pregnancy rates was the lowest for 40 years and attributed this primarily to the work of councils.

Achieving public health outcomes on fuel poverty and excess winter deaths

6. Cllr Gwen Hassall of the Environment and Housing Board attended a National Energy Action seminar on this cross-cutting issue which will certainly be an important topic in the future. Cllr Hassall emphasised that councils are well placed to bring services and agencies together to address fuel poverty in a holistic way. In addition to the benefits to quality of life, warmer homes help prevent higher health and social costs in the future.

Sector-led improvement

7. Work continues in both health and adult social care to develop the LGA's sector-led improvement offer, for and with the sector. This month a key step forward has been the

establishment of a joint improvement programme (in co-operation with the NHS Commissioning Board) to lead to service transformation in response to the scandal at the Winterbourne View hospital.

DH/LGA workshop on Localising the Public Health Responsibility Deal

8. On 13 February, Cllr Steve Bedser, Cllr Gillian Ford and Cllr Catherine McDonald took part in a workshop which sought local government's input on a Toolkit for Local Businesses. The toolkit will help councils to implement a locally tailored version of the [Department for Health's Responsibility Deal](#) with businesses in their area.

cCLOA Sport & Physical Activity Roundtable event

9. Cllr Steve Bedser also attended the Chief Cultural and Leisure Officer Association's roundtable on sport and health on 14 February. The roundtable brought together senior sport and health professionals for a lively debate on how best to maximise the contribution of leisure services to achieving local public health outcomes.

Children and young people's health and wellbeing

10. On 19 February 2013 the Government published a system-wide response to the Children and Young People's Health Outcome Forum's report. The LGA response and a summary can be found [here](#). We are also holding a free conference on Teenage Pregnancy which is taking place on 23 April at which Anna Soubry, Public Health Minister is confirmed to speak and a young parent will also be contributing her perspective.

New resources

11. This month the LGA has launched a short resource sheet on how best to achieve [integrated care and support](#) successfully within local health and care economies. We have also launched a [sexual health commissioning FAQs](#) document online, supported by a group on the Knowledge Hub and the have now published [Health and Wellbeing Boards: a practical guide to governance and constitutional issues](#) to support local government members and officers interpret and implement their statutory duties in relation to the creation of Health and Wellbeing Boards (co-produced with the Association of Democratic Services Officers).

Show us you care campaign

12. As of 06 March, twenty-six local authorities have signed up to the LGA's flagship campaign. With the capping proposals not due to take effect until 2017, there remains an interim period during which pressures on the system will continue to mount. The LGA's social care funding campaign is far from over and we need your help to achieve its ambition for a care system fit for the 21st century. If your council has not already done so, please sign up at www.local.gov.uk/show-us-you-care.

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