

## **Community Wellbeing Board – report from Cllr Zoe Patrick (Chair)**

### **Spending Round 2015-16**

1. Despite a very difficult settlement for local government overall, there was positive news in relation to funding for adult social care and health. The Government has listened to the LGA's concerns regarding the importance of providing sustainable funding for adult social care.
2. The Spending Round announced a "£3.8 billion pooled budget for health and social care services, shared between the NHS and local authorities to deliver better outcomes and greater efficiencies through more integrated services for older and disabled people". This followed weeks of negotiations between the LGA and colleagues from NHS England (NHSE) and Whitehall departments. We welcome the continuation of the existing NHS transfer to adult social care as set out in the 2010 Spending Review, and the additional funding of over £2 billion to "join up local health social care services to deliver better, more efficient care". However, this transfer does not disguise the fact that council funding will have been cut by the equivalent of four times this amount across the life of this Parliament. Our 'On the day briefing' is available at: <http://tinyurl.com/ogyeko2>.

### **Working for adult social care reform and sustainable funding**

3. The Community Wellbeing Board has been active representing the sector's views in the media and at a number of parliamentary and third sector events. LGA Director Andrew Webster provided oral evidence to the Health Select Committee inquiry on Health and Social Care Act implementation and I took part in two Guardian Online debates on the future of adult social care. I also attended the LGA's lunch for its parliamentary vice-presidents hosted by Clive Betts MP and Lord Best.
4. Cllr Gillian Ford discussed how to make the Government's Dilnot-inspired cost cap work at a Parliamentary reception hosted by Lord Lipsey and Partnership. Board Members also attended the launch of the King's Fund forthcoming review of the current health and social care settlement; spoke at the Dementia Action Alliance's Quarterly meeting hosted at Local Government House, and at the LGA Rural Commission Cllr Colin Noble outlined the Board's positions on the future of social care.

### **Sector led improvement**

5. Cllr Louise Goldsmith and Cllr Linda Thomas participated in the Health and Wellbeing Leadership: Delivering Improved Outcomes for Local Communities events held in Leeds and London as part of our new joint Health and Wellbeing System Improvement Programme, which is funded by the Department of Health. The programme encompasses health and wellbeing boards, public health and Healthwatch.

### **New duty to appoint medical examiners to oversee the death certification process**

6. On 10 June, the LGA Chairman met Health Minister, Anna Soubry MP and representatives of funeral directors to discuss the implementation of the new duty for upper-tier local government to appoint medical examiners to oversee the death certification process. The costs of the new services, likely to be implemented in October 2014, will be met through a new fee for death certification. The Minister

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endorsed the LGA's pragmatic approach to develop a voluntary national agreement between local authorities and funeral directors, allowing funeral directors to opt-in to collect the death certification fee on behalf of local government. A further meeting has been arranged to make progress on the agreement.

**Children and Young People's Health**

7. The Children's Health and Wellbeing Partnership (CHWP) met on 19 June for its first official meeting. The LGA sits on this partnership in addition to representatives from key bodies from the Department for Education, the health sector and local councils. The Partnership has begun work on effective commissioning, early Intervention, Identification and Prevention, and integrated care and support for children and young people.
8. The Community Wellbeing Board continues to work to ensure a safe and sustainable transfer of commissioning responsibilities for 0-5 year olds to local government in 2015. A joint teleconference between Lead Members of the Community Wellbeing Board and the Children and Young People's Board will also consider key developments within the children's health agenda and in particular the Health Visitor Implementation plan, which is a core Prime Ministerial priority.
9. On 18 June Cllr Ken Taylor attended a Department of Health & NSPCC Ministerial roundtable on Perinatal Mental Illness on behalf of the Board. Attendees expressed concern that some areas have a specialist perinatal mental health team whilst in others no support exists. MPs noted closer cooperation between the public and voluntary sector was also needed to avoid duplication of work. Cllr Taylor emphasised that local government welcomed its new responsibilities for 0-5 years' health from 2015, but highlighted the requirement for appropriate funding to come with the new responsibilities. Enhanced training for Midwives, Health visitors and GPs who in many cases have a very limited knowledge of perinatal mental health problems will enable preventative action and the associated emotional, health, and economic benefits.

**Dignity in Care**

10. On 12 June I and my fellow Dignity in Care Partnership Co-Chairs in Age UK and NHS England met with the Secretary of State for Health, following a productive meeting of a cross sector steering group at which we discussed the work programme for the year. Both meetings discussed proposals for funding for a professional facing campaign on compassionate care following the Francis report, with discussions with the DH and others on-going.

**Public Health Leadership**

11. On 11 June the LGA Chief Executive attended the inaugural meeting of the Senior Oversight Group to oversee the NHS contribution to the new public health system. The Group, chaired by Public Health England, oversees the contribution of the NHS to public health, both nationally and locally. The Group is a key component of the governance and accountability framework for the new health and care system.

**Community Wellbeing Board at the LGA Conference**

12. Cllr Andrew Gravells, Cllr Steve Bedser and I took part in well-attended sessions on social care and public health at the LGA conference, in addition to conference receiving a keynote speech from the Secretary of State for Health. There was also participation from the CQC, Alzheimer's Society, the Fabian Society and ADASS.

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