

Integrated Care

Purpose of report

For discussion.

Summary

The report summarises the LGA's work on integrated care to inform the discussion with the Department of Health who will talk about the potential impact of the Spending Round on integrated care and support locally.

Recommendation

Members are asked to respond to and comment on the presentation from the Department of Health.

Action

Officers to action as appropriate.

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Background

1. Integrated care and support is about delivering more co-ordinated care for individuals across the health and care system in order to deliver improved outcomes for people and make the most efficient use of resources across the whole health and care system. This is crucial to delivering a sustainable health and care system for the future, both financially and in responding to the ageing population and increasing prevalence of people with long term and multiple conditions.
2. In June 2012 the Community Wellbeing Board agreed that integrated care should be a key priority for the LGA's work.
3. The LGA has built strong relationships with key partners nationally, including Department of Health and NHS England (NHS E), who control the majority of the budget for the health and care system. We have hosted joint events, produced joint resource sheets and launched a Concordat agreement with NHS E. We have also established an integrated care working group to provide the tools and support that are demanded by local areas.
4. We launched a joint document 'Our Shared Commitment' which included a range of commitments nationally, including:
 - 4.1 Joint support for the integrated care 'Pioneers' programme, which will provide targeted support to a number of areas to accelerate integrated care and spread the learning across the country to ensure widespread take up at scale and pace. A joint sharing network will also be developed.
 - 4.2 Sign up from all national partners to the 'Narrative for integrated care' – a definition of integrated care and series of 'I' statements developed through extensive engagement with patients and service users.
5. We are also working with the core national partners, including Department of Health and NHS E, to develop a toolkit and series of business case summaries which will be shaped by and developed for local areas to help them understand which models or interventions will have the biggest impact on service user journey, cost and activity locally.
6. Lead members have attended regular meetings with the Minister and other national partners on integrated care, and have been heavily involved in helping to shape the Pioneers programme and direction of work. We have welcomed the approach that the Minister has taken in working jointly with local government and NHS England.
7. Going forward, we will be working closer with local health and care practitioners to ensure that their work influences the support provided by national partners as we move from transition to implementation.

Item 1

The Issue

8. There are a number of common drivers across the health and care system that will require us to work closer together than ever before. First and foremost is the need to deliver co-ordinated care around the needs of the individual. This will drive improvements in quality, service-user experience as well as whole system costs and activity.
9. The financial pressures on local government are a shared concern for both local government and the NHS who are seeing increasing numbers of people with long term and multiple conditions appearing in both acute and social care settings.
10. In order to deliver on this common purpose, we will need to take a smart approach to the use of resources and work across traditional silos to make the most of the diminishing resources that exist in health and local government in particular.
11. The challenge now is how we practically ensure that resources are allocated to best effect locally. In 'Our Shared Commitment' the NHS committed to supporting Clinical Commissioning Groups to use their budgets for integrated care initiatives.
12. Local government is seeing its funding from central government reduce by £10 billion in real terms across the current Spending Review period and if, as has been reported, the coming Spending Round delivers a further 10 per cent to council budgets, the effect on local services will be severe. In light of this financial context, and alert to the government's desire to protect health spending, discussions have taken place between the LGA, NHS England, and the Department of Health to explore how funding could be used more effectively to support integration between health and social care to improve outcomes and value for money.

Conclusion and next Steps

13. The Shared Commitments provide a strong national platform to support genuine local development of integrated health and social care. Health and Well Being Boards are the ideal vehicle to come together across the system to make the best use of the totality of resources locally to improve outcomes and value.
14. The Department of Health, LGA and NHSE will need to continue to work together nationally to ensure that integrated care initiatives locally have adequate resources and freedom to deliver the transformation that is needed.