

Note of last Councillors' Forum meeting

Title: Councillors' Forum
Date: Thursday 2 March 2017
Venue: 5th Floor Conference Suite, 5th Floor (South side), Layden House, 76-86 Turnmill Street, . London, EC1M 5LG

Attendance

An attendance list is attached as [Appendix A](#) to this note

Item Decisions and actions

1 Welcome, Apologies and Declarations of Interest

The Chairman welcomed members to the meeting.

2 The Health and Social Care Agenda for Local Government

The Chairman welcomed the Minister to the meeting.

Advising members that he would focus on Adult Social Care, the Minister discussed demographics and the implications of this on care, emphasising that local and central government would increasingly need to work together on this issue. Whilst 81% of councils believed that the implementation of the Care Act had been positive, 38% of councils were not confident they had enough money to implement the act over the next year. This would increase to 73% the following year. Though the money for social care had been reduced during the last Parliament, he advised members that an increase was now being discussed.

The Minister acknowledged that there was a challenge to government to ensure that the organisations responsible for providing care were performing well. Government could improve integration amongst organisations and increase the sharing of best practise. He emphasised the importance of recognising care as a high status career with more training and apprenticeships available, and clearer legislation in place to enable individuals to obtain leave for care purposes. The Carers' Strategy would be published soon to assist informal carers, whilst the Care Act would ensure there was a continuing assessment of carers' needs.

On STPs, he advised members that the 44 operating would be reviewed shortly.

In the discussion that followed, the following points were made:

- Members asked if extra resources would be linked to the inspection process as this would increase costs for local authorities.

- Members asked what the government's contingency plans were if a major national care provider went out of business. They were informed that the Care Quality Commission monitored the largest care providers and would work with local authorities to ensure that there were appropriate safety nets in place.
- Members raised concerns on social care provision within rural communities and the cost of delivering this.
- There were concerns that the status of carer was affected by the role being paid only the national minimum wage. It would be difficult to increase the status of the role unless the salary increased.
- Concerns were raised around delivering STPs with a lack of capital and in finding a way to grow capacity to provide care to people in their own homes.
- There was a brief discussion on finding carers if workers in the profession left following Brexit.
- There were concerns that some local authorities were negotiating with more than one STPs, due to the demographics in their area.
- There was a discussion around the increasing number of health issues in older people (particularly those with long term conditions). It would become more usual for older people to live with multiple conditions, since 80% of the population were now living over the age of 85 years.
- Members raised the issue of funding of social care. They were informed that the Chancellor was likely to address this in the forthcoming spring budget.

The Chairman thanked the Minister and the discussion was drawn to a close.

3 Chairman's Update

Decision:

1. Members **noted** the report.

4 LGA Boards Chair's Reports

Decision:

1. Members **noted** the reports.

5 Digest of the last meeting held on 19 January 2017

Decision:

1. The notes of the last meeting were **agreed** as an accurate summary of the discussion.

Appendix A -Attendance

Position/Role	Councillor	Authority
Chairman	Lord Gary Porter CBE	South Holland District Council
Vice-Chairman	Cllr Marianne Overton MBE	Lincolnshire County Council
Deputy-chairman		
Members	Cllr Ian Stephens	Isle of Wight Council
	Cllr David Hodge CBE	Surrey County Council
	Cllr David Simmonds CBE	Hillingdon London Borough Council
	Cllr Roger Phillips	Herefordshire Council
	Cllr Neil Clarke MBE	Rushcliffe Borough Council
	Cllr Peter Fleming OBE	Sevenoaks District Council
	Cllr Colin Noble	Suffolk County Council
	Cllr Izzi Seccombe	Warwickshire County Council
	Cllr Morris Bright	Hertsmere Borough Council
	Cllr Nigel Ashton	North Somerset Council
	Cllr Peter Golds	Tower Hamlets Council
	Cllr John Fuller	South Norfolk District Council
	Cllr Glen Sanderson JP	Northumberland Council
	Cllr John Hart	Devon County Council
	Mayor Sir Steve Bullock	Lewisham London Borough Council
	Cllr Simon Henig CBE	Durham County Council
	Cllr Simon Blackburn	Blackpool Council
	Cllr Sue Murphy CBE	Manchester City Council
	Cllr Judi Billing MBE	North Hertfordshire District Council
	Cllr James Dawson	Erewash Borough Council
	Cllr Warren Morgan	Brighton & Hove City Council
	Cllr Kate Haigh	Gloucester City Council
	Cllr Timothy Swift	Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council
	Sir Stephen Houghton CBE	Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council
	Cllr Helen Holland	Bristol City Council
	Cllr Richard Watts	Islington Council
	Sir Richard Leese CBE	Manchester City Council
	Cllr Linda Thomas	Bolton Council
	Cllr David Acton	Trafford Metropolitan Borough Council
	Cllr Roger Lawrence	Wolverhampton City Council
	Cllr Tudor Evans OBE	Plymouth City Council
	Cllr Alan Rhodes	Nottinghamshire County Council
	Cllr Peter Reeve MBE	Cambridgeshire County Council
	Cllr Bob Dutton OBE	Wrexham County Borough Council
	Cllr Robert Bucke	Tendring District Council
	Cllr Alan Seldon	Herefordshire Council
	Cllr Phelim MacCafferty	Brighton & Hove City Council
	Cllr Jeremy Hilton	Gloucestershire County Council
	Cllr Claire Hudson	Mendip District Council

Cllr John Beesley
Cllr Shabir Pandor
Cllr Rory Love
Cllr Vince Maple

Bournemouth City Council
Kirklees Council
Shepway District Council
Medway Council

Apologies

Cllr Martin Tett
Cllr Paul Carter CBE
Cllr Keith Glazier
Cllr Philip Atkins OBE
Cllr Kay Hammond
Cllr Stephen Parnaby
OBE
Cllr Roy Perry
Cllr Teresa O'Neill OBE
Cllr Anne Western CBE
Cllr Paul Watson
Cllr John Merry CBE
Cllr Sue Woodward
Cllr Judith Blake
Cllr Anthony Hunt
Cllr Andy Moorhead
Cllr Mike Bell

Buckinghamshire County Council
Kent County Council
East Sussex County Council
Staffordshire County Council
Surrey County Council
East Riding of Yorkshire Council

Hampshire County Council
Bexley Council
Derbyshire County Council
Sunderland City Council
Salford City Council
Staffordshire County Council
Leeds City Council
Torfaen County Borough Council
Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council
North Somerset Council