

Councillors' Forum

Agenda

Thursday, 5 March 2015
12.30 pm

Westminster Suite, 8th Floor, Local
Government House, Smith Square, London,
SW1P 3HZ

To: Members of the Councillors' Forum
cc: Named officers for briefing purposes

Guidance notes for visitors

Local Government House, Smith Square, London SW1P 3HZ

Welcome!

Please read these notes for your own safety and that of all visitors, staff and tenants.

Security

All visitors (who do not already have an LGA ID badge), are requested to report to the Reception desk where they will be asked to sign in and will be handed a visitor's badge to be worn at all times whilst in the building.

Fire instructions

In the event of the fire alarm sounding, vacate the building immediately following the green Fire Exit signs. Go straight to the assembly point in Tufton Street via Dean Trench Street (off Smith Square).

DO NOT USE THE LIFTS.

DO NOT STOP TO COLLECT PERSONAL BELONGINGS.

DO NOT RE-ENTER BUILDING UNTIL AUTHORISED TO DO SO.

Open Council

"Open Council", on the 1st floor of LG House, provides informal meeting and business facilities with refreshments, for local authority members/officers who are in London.



Toilets

Toilets for people with disabilities are situated on the Basement, Ground, 2nd, 4th, 6th and 7th floors. Female toilets are situated on the basement, ground, 1st, 3rd, 5th and 7th floors. Male toilets are available on the basement, ground, 2nd, 4th, 6th and 8th floors.

Accessibility

Every effort has been made to make the building as accessible as possible for people with disabilities. Induction loop systems have been installed in all the larger meeting rooms and at the main reception. There is a parking space for blue badge holders outside the Smith Square entrance and two more blue badge holders' spaces in Dean Stanley Street to the side of the building. There is also a wheelchair lift at the main entrance. For further information please contact the Facilities Management Helpdesk on 020 7664 3015.

Further help

Please speak either to staff at the main reception on the ground floor, if you require any further help or information. You can find the LGA website at www.local.gov.uk

Please don't forget to sign out at reception and return your badge when you depart.

Councillors' Forum
5 March 2015

There will be a meeting of the Councillors' Forum at **12.30 pm on Thursday, 5 March 2015**
Westminster Suite, 8th Floor, Local Government House, Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ.

Please note: The Political Group Meetings will be held prior to this, as follows:

11.00am – Labour	Westminster Suite (8 th floor)
11.00am – Conservative	Smith Square 3 & 4 (Ground floor)
11.00am – Liberal Democrats	Smith Square 1 & 2 (Ground floor)
11.00am – Independents	Meeting Room 6 (6 th floor)

A sandwich lunch will be available at 1.15pm

Attendance Sheet:

Please ensure that you sign the attendance register, which will be available in the meeting room. It is the only record of your presence at the meeting.

Apologies:

Please notify your political group office (see contact telephone numbers below) if you are unable to attend this meeting.

Labour:	Aicha Less: 020 7664 3263	email: aicha.less@local.gov.uk
Conservative:	Luke Taylor: 020 7664 3264	email: luke.taylor@local.gov.uk
Liberal Democrat:	Group Office: 020 7664 3235	email: libdem@local.gov.uk
Independent:	Group Office: 020 7664 3224	email: Vanessa.Chagas@local.gov.uk

Location:

A map showing the location of Local Government House is printed on the back cover.

LGA Contact

Paul Goodchild
paul.goodchild@local.gov.uk 0207 664 3005

Guest WiFi in Local Government House

This is available in Local Government House for visitors. It can be accessed by enabling “Wireless Network Connection” on your computer and connecting to LGH-guest, the password is Welcome2010LG.

Carers' Allowance

As part of the LGA Members' Allowances Scheme a Carer's Allowance of up to £6.50 per hour is available to cover the cost of dependants (i.e. children, elderly people or people with disabilities) incurred as a result of attending this meeting.

Social Media

The LGA is committed to using social media in a co-ordinated and sensible way, as part of a strategic approach to communications, to help enhance the reputation of local government, improvement engagement with different elements of the community and drive efficiency. Please feel free to use social media during this meeting. **However, you are requested not to use social media during any confidential items.**

Councillors' Forum – Membership 2014/2015

Councillor	Authority
Labour (42)	
Cllr Phil Davies	Wirral Metropolitan Borough Council
Cllr Vince Maple	Medway Council
Cllr Anthony Hunt	Torfaen County Borough Council
Cllr Sarah Hayward	Camden Council
Cllr David Acton	Trafford Metropolitan Borough Council
Cllr Sharon Taylor OBE	Stevenage Borough Council
Cllr Bryony Rudkin	Suffolk County Council
Cllr Judi Billing	North Hertfordshire District Council
Cllr Caitlin Bisknell	High Peak Borough Council
Cllr Graham Chapman	Nottingham City Council
Cllr Clyde Loakes	Waltham Forest London Borough Council
Mayor Sir Steve Bullock	Lewisham London Borough Council
Mayor Jules Pipe	Hackney London Borough Council
Cllr Paul Watson	Sunderland City Council
Cllr Simon Henig	Durham County Council
Cllr Ian Swithenbank CBE	Northumberland Council
Cllr Nick Forbes	Newcastle upon Tyne City Council
Cllr Jim McMahon (Vice-Chair)	Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council
Cllr Linda Thomas	Bolton Council
Sir Richard Leese CBE	Manchester City Council
Cllr Simon Blackburn	Blackpool Council
Lord Peter Smith	Wigan Metropolitan Borough Council
Cllr Colin Lloyd	Crawley Borough Council
Cllr Kate Haigh	Gloucester City Council
Cllr David Phillips	Swansea City and County Council
Cllr David Sparks OBE (Chairman)	Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council
Cllr Ann Lucas OBE	Coventry City Council
Cllr Sue Woodward	Staffordshire County Council
Cllr James Alexander	City of York Council
Cllr Keith Wakefield	Leeds City Council
Cllr Peter Box CBE	Wakefield Metropolitan District Council
Cllr Lib Peck	Lambeth London Borough Council
Cllr Nicholas Crofts	Liverpool City Council
Cllr John Merry CBE	Salford City Council
Cllr Amy Cross	Blackpool Council
Cllr Helen Holland	Bristol City Council
Cllr Anne Western	Derbyshire County Council
Cllr Ron Round JP	Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council
Sir Stephen Houghton CBE	Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council
Cllr Mahroof Hussain MBE	Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council
Cllr Judith Blake	Leeds City Council
Cllr Claire Kober	Haringey Council
Substitutes	
Cllr Tracey Simpson-Laing	City of York Council

Cllr Iain Malcolm	South Tyneside Metropolitan Borough Council
Cllr John Clarke	Gedling Borough Council
Conservative (37)	
Cllr Nicolas Heslop	Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council
Cllr Teresa O'Neill	Bexley Council
Cllr Paul Bettison	Bracknell Forest Borough Council
Cllr Geoffrey Theobald OBE	Brighton & Hove City Council
Cllr Martin Tett	Buckinghamshire County Council
Cllr Mike Jones	Cheshire West and Chester Council
Cllr Kenneth Taylor OBE	Coventry City Council
Cllr Roger Phillips	Herefordshire Council
Cllr David Simmonds	Hillingdon London Borough Council
Cllr Robert Light	Kirklees Metropolitan Council
Cllr Martin Hill OBE	Lincolnshire County Council
Cllr Marco Cereste	Peterborough City Council
Cllr Neil Clarke MBE	Rushcliffe Borough Council
Cllr Peter Fleming	Sevenoaks District Council
Cllr Gary Porter (Vice Chairman)	South Holland District Council
Cllr Philip Atkins	Staffordshire County Council
Cllr Joanna Spicer MBE	Suffolk County Council
Cllr Kay Hammond	Surrey County Council
Cllr David Hodge	Surrey County Council
Cllr Gordon Keymer CBE	Tandridge District Council
Cllr Ravi Govindia	Wandsworth London Borough Council
Cllr Melvyn Caplan	Westminster City Council
Cllr Jonathan Owen	East Riding of Yorkshire Council
Cllr David Finch	Essex County Council
Cllr Colin Noble	Suffolk County Council
Cllr Philippa Roe	Westminster City Council
Cllr Deborah Croney	North Dorset District Council
Cllr Izzi Seccombe	Warwickshire County Council
Cllr David Burbage MBE	Windsor & Maidenhead Royal Borough
Cllr Kevin Bentley	Colchester Borough Council
Cllr Nigel Ashton	North Somerset Council
Cllr Steve Count	Cambridgeshire County Council
Cllr Kenneth Meeson	Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council
Cllr Roger Begy OBE	Rutland County Council
Cllr Jane Scott OBE	Wiltshire Council
Cllr Elaine Atkinson	Borough of Poole
Cllr Mark Hawthorne MBE	Gloucestershire County Council
Substitutes	
Liberal Democrat (12)	
Cllr Keith House	Eastleigh Borough Council
Cllr Barbara Janke	Bristol City Council
Cllr Lisa Brett	Bath & North East Somerset Council
Cllr Jeremy Hilton	Gloucestershire County Council
Cllr Liz Green	Kingston upon Thames Royal Borough Council
Cllr Richard Kemp CBE	Liverpool City Council
Cllr Claire Hudson	Mendip District Council
Cllr Howard Sykes MBE	Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council
Cllr Heather Kidd	Shropshire Council

Cllr Jill Shortland OBE	Somerset County Council
Cllr Cathy Bakewell MBE	South Somerset District Council
Cllr Stan Collins	South Lakeland District Council
Substitutes	
Cllr Tim Bick	Cambridge City Council
Cllr Flick Rea MBE	Camden Council
Councilman Edward Lord OBE JP	City of London Corporation
Cllr Hilary Jones	Derby City Council
Cllr David Neighbour	Hart District Council
Cllr Chris White	Hertfordshire County Council
Cllr Abigail Bell	Hull City Council
Cllr Jeff Reid	Northumberland Council
Cllr Alan Connett	Teignbridge District Council
Mayor Dorothy Thornhill MBE	Watford Borough Council
Cllr Roger Symonds	Bath & North East Somerset Council
Independent (10)	
Cllr Daniella Radice	Bristol City Council
Cllr Robert Bucke	Tendring District Council
Cllr Norman Bradbury	Wigan Metropolitan Borough Council
Cllr Chris Townsend	Mole Valley District Council
Cllr Marianne Overton MBE (Vice Chairman)	Lincolnshire County Council
Cllr Robert Dutton OBE	Wrexham County Borough Council
Cllr Mike Eathorne-Gibbons	
Cllr Glenda Vaughan-Powell	
Cllr Norman Murphy	
Alderman Sir David Wootton	
Substitutes	
Cllr Peter Reeve	Cambridgeshire County Council

Agenda

Councillors' Forum

Thursday 5 March 2015

12.30 pm

Westminster Suite, 8th Floor, Local Government House, Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ

Item	Page
1. First 100 Days	1 - 2
<p>The LGA Group Leaders will present to Councillors' Forum on how the LGA's First 100 days campaign has influenced their respective party manifestoes.</p> <p>They will be joined by Professor Tony Travers, Director of LSE London, a research centre at the London School of Economics and Visiting Professor in the LSE's Government Department. Professor Travers will discuss the possible outcome of the Local and General Elections and their impact on the work of local government.</p>	
2. Chair's Update	3 - 4
3. LGA Boards & Panel Chair's Reports	
a) Children and Young People's Board - Councillor David Simmonds	5 - 6
b) City Regions Board - Councillor Sir Richard Leese CBE	7 - 8
c) Community Wellbeing Board - Councillor Izzi Seccombe	9 - 14
d) Culture, Tourism and Sport Board - Councillor Ian Stephens	15 - 16
e) Environment, Economy, Housing and Transport Board - Councillor Peter Box CBE	17 - 18

f)	Improvement and Innovation Board - Councillor Peter Fleming	19 - 20
g)	People and Places Board - Councillor David Hodge	21 - 22
h)	Resources Board - Councillor Claire Kober	23 - 26
i)	Safer & Stronger Communities Board - Councillor Ann Lucas OBE	27 - 28
4.	Digest of the last meeting	29 - 33

Date of Next Meeting: Thursday, 11 June 2015, 12.30 pm, Westminster Suite, 8th Floor, Local Government House, Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ

Professor Tony Travers



Tony Travers is Director of LSE London, a research centre at the London School of Economics. He is also a Visiting Professor in the LSE's Government Department. His key research interests include local and regional government and public service reform.

He is currently an advisor to the House of Commons Children, Schools and Families Select Committee and the Communities and Local Government Select Committee. He has published a number of books on cities and government, including *Failure in British Government*, *The Politics of the Poll Tax* (with David Butler and Andrew Adonis), *Paying for Health, Education and Housing: How does the Centre Pull the Purse Strings* (with Howard Glennerster and John Hills) and *The Politics of London: Governing the Ungovernable City*.

Chair's Update

This report covers Councillor David Sparks' activities in the period since the last Councillors' Forum.

Local Government Association (LGA) business

Meetings

- **Helen Edwards**, Director General, Localism, **DCLG**, to discuss LGA campaigns
- **European Structural Investment Fund Growth Programme Board** to discuss the governance arrangements and the role of local partners
- Labour Local Government Leaders on Local Government finance settlement

Speaking engagements

- **CoR and Congress Delegations** to introduce both Delegations and to discuss the LGA's activity in Europe

Media

- **BBC** interviews to discuss social care services
- **BBC** Interview to discuss devolution
- **Guardian** interview on aging population and pressure on services

Ministerial/Parliamentary business

Meetings

- **Margot James MP**, PPS to William Hague MP, to discuss devolution and the combined authority in the West Midlands
- **Baroness Cathy Bakewell** to discuss LGA campaigns
- **Labour LGA vice-presidents lunch**

Meetings with other organisations and individuals

Speaking engagements

- **Open University** to highlight LGA's role in facilitating Dame Jane Roberts' research and provide a local government perspective on the findings
- **GovernUp's** 'Localism 2.0' launch to discuss devolution of financial powers

Meetings

- **Matthew Bell**, Chief Executive, **Committee on Climate Change**, to discuss councils' actions to reduce carbon emissions
- **Michael Ward** (Chair), **Neil McInroy** (CEO), **Centre for Local Economic Strategies**, to share LGA policy on promoting local growth and calls for further devolution

- **Paul Overall**, Chief Executive and Company Secretary, **Local Authority Building Control**, to discuss future engagement between LGA and LABC
- **Jill Sherman**, Whitehall Editor, The Times, to discuss the LGA's finance campaign

Meetings with councillors and member councils

- **Cllr Pete Marland**, Leader, and **Carole Milles**, Chief Executive, Milton Keynes Council to discuss funding growth and devolution

Children & Young People Board – report from Cllr David Simmonds (Chairman)

Child Sexual Exploitation

1. On Tuesday 20 January, Cllr Ann Lucas and I jointly chaired a high-level child sexual exploitation summit in Westminster, held by the LGA, the Association of Directors of Children's Services and the Society of Local Government Chief Executives. The summit brought together over 100 council leaders, chief executives, lead members and directors of children's services, to consider the latest work taking place to tackle CSE across the country and to consider what more was needed to fully safeguard children from this awful crime.
2. Following a day of discussion and debate, it was agreed that there was a clear need for stronger leadership from local government on these issues, particularly in light of a perceived failure of central government to deliver a robust and coordinated response. A report outlining the key themes and actions from the summit can be found at www.local.gov.uk/cse
3. I wrote in both the Guardian and the Municipal Journal on the role of the LGA and local authorities in tackling child sexual exploitation.

Children's Improvement Board

4. I attended a meeting of the children's improvement board which took place on 3 February with colleagues from Solace, ADCS and the Association of LSCB Chairs. Discussions focussed on the current inspection regime and sector-led improvement model, before moving on to debate how the inspection of children's services should be undertaken in the future. It was agreed that the LGA, ADCS and Solace would work together to draft the principles to would underpin a new approach, for launch before the election.

Joint Inquiry into Parenting Support

5. On 9 February, Cllr Richard Watts gave oral evidence to the joint inquiry by the APPGs on Social Mobility and Parenting into parenting support. The Inquiry was set up to examine the link between parenting and social mobility outcomes, and explore the role of parenting support schemes. Cllr Watts was on a panel with Barnardo's and Family Lives in a session focusing on good practice in implementing parenting support. He spoke about the evidence from the Troubled Families programme which showed that councils working together with partners to support families to address the root causes of problems, rather than the symptoms, saved the public purse an estimated £9 billion a year.

APPG on Sure Start Children's Centres

6. I spoke at a meeting of the APPG on Sure Start Children's Centres on 10 February, providing an LGA perspective on children's centres and the issues surrounding quality and accountability. The key message was that there is no 'one-size-fits-all' model for children's centres across the country. Councils provide a range of 'early help' services locally and 'whole-family' support from early years onwards but cost pressures mean that this is becoming increasingly difficult. There has been a sharp increase in demand for children's social care by 11 per cent in the past year alone.

7. Councils have been responding to financial pressures by restructuring their children's centre provision and finding new ways to deliver services. The meeting discussed the need for councils to be able to organise their children's centres to meet the needs of local families, which would inevitably vary from place to place and between urban and rural areas.

School Places

8. I was interviewed on both television and radio about the LGA's calls for all school places to be fully funded by central government and for councils to be able to create school places on time and in the right locations. This fed into the LGA's 100 Days campaign work on councils being able to provide a place for every child at a good, local school, ahead of the deadline for primary school applications.

Careers Advice Services

9. My comments on the need for nationally-run skills and careers advice services to be devolved to local areas to help tackle dropout rates were widely covered in the media following the release of our analysis, carried out for the LGA by the Centre for Economic and Social Inclusion. It showed that that 178,100 16- to 18-year-olds failed to complete post-16 qualifications they had embarked upon in 2012/13

Leadership Essentials

10. I chaired the Leadership Essentials programme for lead members for children's services on 29 and 30 January. Delegates from a range of councils attended and were keen to discuss the challenges of children's social care, particularly the improvement journey for those councils whose children's services have been assessed as 'requires improvement' under Ofsted's Single Inspection Framework (SIF).
11. During the programme we heard from Essex County Council and Staffordshire about their improvement journeys. Debbie Jones, Ofsted Social Care Director, gave an update on the SIF, explained what the future of the inspection framework looked like, and made some helpful suggestions for lead members about their role in the inspection process. Steve Ashley, Chair of the Rotherham Safeguarding Children Board, discussed the role of the Local Safeguarding Children Board and we also discussed the importance of scrutiny.

Contact officer: Helen Johnston
Position: Head of Programmes
Phone no: 020 7664 3172
E-mail: Helen.johnston@local.gov.uk



City Regions Board – report from Cllr Sir Richard Leese CBE (Chairman)

Devolution and public service reform

1. Following the LGA Executive's discussion on devolution in January, the City Regions Board and People and Places Board were asked to develop a new vision of future English governance and a route map to achieve these goals over the next Parliament. This vision will be drawing on the findings of the three independent Commissions that the LGA has sponsored this year: the City Growth Commission which reported in October; the Independent Commission on Local Government Finance which reported on February 18th and the Non-metropolitan commission which is due to report on March 5th. Taken together, the three Commissions mount a strong case for devolution within England backed by independent business-led voices.
2. We are now aiming to set out a compelling narrative from both the urban and non-metropolitan viewpoint that shows the benefits of devolution for local people and UK PLC as a whole. This will be delivered by May so that the LGA can be in a position to influence the new Government and/or coalition talks. The Board will be discussing this work in more detail at its last meeting before the general election on March 23rd.
3. The City Regions and People and Places Board also jointly commissioned RAND Europe to analyse the success factors that underpin successful locally-led public service transformation and the barriers to faster progress. RAND is now finalising its report which sets out the emerging practice across a number of met and non-metropolitan areas and it will make recommendations for public service reform that can flex to different areas. Two city regions, West Yorkshire Combined Authority and Greater Cambridge, feature as case studies in that work. At the next Board, members will be discussing how to accelerate progress on the public service reform agenda, including how the LGA can best support city regions.
4. On the City Regions Board's recommendation, the LGA also endorsed the Modern Charter for Local Freedom, building on the 800th anniversary of the Magna Carta. The Charter was launched at the Core Cities UK Devolution Summit in Glasgow on February 9th. All councils have been invited to sign up: <https://www.change.org/p/the-leaders-of-the-main-political-parties-sign-up-to-our-charter-and-support-more-freedoms-for-our-great-cities>

Skills, Employment and Welfare Reform

5. The City Regions and People & Places Boards commissioned the Centre for Economic and Social Inclusion to analyse the skills and employment challenges to be faced by an incoming or returning Government, and offer a proposed localised solution including options for devolving the work programme in 2017. We will shortly be publishing our second report in this area, this time focusing on the obstacles, confusion and disincentives that the current employment, skills and welfare system presents, demonstrated through various touch-points and interactions from the perspective of the unemployed and people with low skills. It will be published in coming weeks. The LGA

and Inclusion will then move into the third and final stage to prepare a model for how a local government solution will offer solutions to those challenges, which is being developed with a number of councils. The work should be completed before purdah, and a final draft format should be ready for lead members comment towards the end of March.

6. In parallel, we are also working with DWP to inform their thinking on successor arrangements to the Work Programme, ran a joint workshop with the national network of employment providers (ERSA), and working with a range of other stakeholders to ensure that our wider proposals have support wider than this sector.

Trade and investment

7. Research commissioned by the LGA into past and future trends in trade and investment and the potential role of England's city-regions was presented at the City Regions Board on 19 January. Members asked for the work to be pursued with politicians and business organisations to ensure a new debate on trade.
8. We are working closely with city regions partners to flesh out the case for how the national economy stands to benefit from a more localised approach to trade and investment policy and identify case studies based on successful local investment and export operations. The commissioned research, local evidence and member's feedback are being fed into discussions with civil servants in UK Trade and Investment (UKTI), Department for Business, Innovation & Skills to help build the case across Whitehall. We are also conducting active conversations with business and key third party stakeholder such as British Property Federation (BPF), Institute of Chartered Accountants of England & Wales (ICAEW), British Chambers of Commerce (BCC) and Universities UK (UUK).

Contact officer:

Carolyn Downs

Position:

LGA Chief Executive

Phone no:

020 7664 3213

E-mail:

carolyn.downs@local.gov.uk

Community Wellbeing Board –from Cllr Izzi Seccome (Chair)

Health and Wellbeing

1. The final 2013/14 health and wellbeing board (HWB) chairs/vice chairs Leadership Essentials was held in February again proving to be a most valuable and well received development opportunity for attendees, many of whom are clinical commissioning group (CCG) representatives. I fully support the direction of the 2015/16 grant funded sector led improvement programme to engage more fully with CCG leaders in developing HWBs to reach their full potential post-election.
2. Community Wellbeing Board lead members Cllrs Katie Hall and Gillian Ford are now trained, alongside a cadre of HWB chairs, to lead the Leadership Essentials programme next year.

Future of Health and Wellbeing Boards

3. The LGA is currently working with NHS Clinical Commissioners to develop a shared and ambitious vision for the future of HWBs in leading the development and oversight of integrated health and care services locally. We will be launching our vision at the LGA Annual Conference in July. In developing our proposals we are keen to hear the views of local councils, HWBs and CCGs on the opportunities and challenges facing HWBs and what needs to change at national and local level for them to reach their full potential. If you would like to know more about this initiative, please contact alyson.morley@local.gov.uk.

Inquiry into the role of health scrutiny in integration plans

4. The LGA is working with the Centre for Public Scrutiny on a project to assess the extent to which health scrutiny is involved in developing, assessing and improving local scrutiny plans and identify how their contribution could be improved. As part of this we have organised three local inquiry days in Devon, South Tyneside and Wiltshire. We will be publishing a report on the key findings in March.

Five Year Forward View into Action: planning for 2015/16

5. In December, NHS England, Monitor, Trust Development Authority, Public Health England, Health Education England and Care Quality Commission published 'The Forward View Into Action'. It includes commitments to prioritise action on preventative interventions to improve people's health and wellbeing, and also on how the bodies intend to implement the new models of care. These new models of care include developing multi-specialty community providers, integrated primary and acute

care systems, viable smaller hospitals, and models of enhanced health in care homes.

6. The LGA welcomes the emphasis on developing solutions for the whole health and care economy and prioritising prevention. We also welcome the NHS recognition that different localities require different models of care. We will continue to highlight the interdependencies across health and social care, and the importance of strong system leadership through HWBs to drive transformation locally. We expect “forerunner” areas to be selected soon and will work with NHS England to ensure that local government is properly engaged in them.

0-5 Public Health

7. In December 2014, the Department of Health published draft local authority funding allocations for 0-5s public health commissioning responsibilities. The estimated total local authority allocations on a half-year basis for 2015/16 are £425 million, including an additional £36 million to pay for the costs of the commitment to increase the numbers of health visitors and Family Nurse Partnership places. We have worked with partners to help ensure that the draft allocations reflect the costs of projected expenditure on 0-5 commissioning in each local authority area for 2015/16. We also secured an extra £2 million for the costs of commissioning the new services.

LGA Ageing Task and Finish Group

8. The fourth and final Task and Finish Group on Ageing took place on the 10 February. This meeting, which was attended by over 20 representatives from the National Forum on ageing, was extremely productive. There was considerable consensus concerning the core themes and messages to emerge from the work of the group. The meetings have explore a wide range of issues, all of which are of real strategic importance to local government, from supporting older people to live healthier, more fulfilling lives; councils' strategic place-shaping role; and the opportunities for local government to deliver an enabling, community and asset based approach to an ageing population. Other core inputs for the work; a literature review, national call for evidence and consultation work with older people across the country have now been completed, and the task now is to finalise the report from the group. The final report, which will be published in June 2015, will set out a series of clear policy proposals, to inform the future work and campaigns of the LGA, and for consideration by an incoming government.

Housing for Vulnerable Adults (Integrated Approaches) Task and Finish Group.

9. The first meeting of the Task and Finish group on housing for vulnerable adults was held on the 22 January. The second meeting of the group will be held in March. The Task and Finish Group is exploring the critical role of housing in integrated health, care and support. The group is reviewing the challenges which local authorities and their partners are facing in this area, and to identify any possible solutions, alongside our potential role, at the LGA, in supporting local authorities in this area. A number of key inputs into this work have already been completed. These were four regional seminars, which brought together senior staff from local authorities and health in order to review examples of integrated approaches from their region and to explore what was currently working well in their areas, where challenges remained and how these might be overcome. And an informal advisory group, comprising key experts (and LGA partners) in the field of housing, care and support. The aim of the Task and Finish Group is to identify the LGA's main concerns, priorities and findings, and to set out a future work programme for the LGA in this area. A good practice report, bringing together the key themes and examples of practice from the regional seminars will be produced by the end of March 2015.

Mental Health

10. A joint LGA and ADASS research project on how local authorities and their partners are implementing the mental health crisis concordat has been completed. The key findings from the research, which includes examples of positive practice that local councils and their partners are involved in, will be launched at a seminar on the 24 March at Local Government House. The main aim of the research was to gather examples of emerging practice that local authorities and their partners are taking forward, in respect of the commissioning and delivery of services and support for those experiencing a mental health crisis and to bring these together into one place.
11. The research demonstrates a high level of commitment amongst local authorities and their partners to develop high quality and innovative solutions to meeting the needs of people at risk of developing mental health crisis. To further support local authorities and their partners review and develop their practice in this area, the LGA will be holding a policy review meeting on the 24 February, to discuss the development of a self-assessment framework for local authorities and their partners in respect of mental health. We will also be holding a round table discussion on the 5 March to discuss the wider strategic responsibilities of local authorities to enable people with mental health problems to live more fulfilling lives within their local communities

Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS)

12. On 2 February 2015, the Minister of State for Care Services, Norman Lamb MP, replied to a joint LGA and ADASS letter to the Minister from 22 January on the financial impact of new responsibilities for Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards following the Supreme Court judgement in March 2014. This letter is part of ongoing communication with government flagging the need for an urgent response to our funding concerns. The LGA and ADASS estimate that the additional annual cost to councils arising from DoLS is £98 million at minimum. David Pearson, ADASS President, and I met the Minister on 25 February to discuss the need for Government to fund this as a new burden.

Towards Excellence in Adult Social Care-National Progress Report in Adult Social Care: progress with adult social care priorities England 2013-14 (published February 2015).

13. A report into progress in adult social care priorities 2013-14 has been published jointly by the Local Government Association and the Association of Directors of Social Services. It shows that sector led improvement is working well:
- Social care related quality of life is improving
 - The proportion of people who say they have control over their daily life increased between 2011/12 and 2013/14.
 - The proportion of people using social care who receive self-directed support and those who receive direct payments is increasing. However, reflecting the austerity of the age, the number of people receiving care is reducing year on year.
 - The proportion of adults with learning disabilities who live in their own home or with their family and those in contact with secondary mental health services who live independently is improving.
 - Some 44.5 per cent of people who used services reported that they had as much social contact as they would like.
14. However, the report also highlights areas where more work is required, including working with local employers to help more adults with learning disabilities and those in contact with secondary mental health services to gain paid employment. The report has commentary from the sector including how it is addressing key priorities. The report can be found here: http://www.local.gov.uk/web/guest/publications/-/journal_content/56/10180/6993817/PUBLICATION

Show Us You Care Campaign

15. In the run up to the General Election, and thinking beyond that to the next Comprehensive Spending Review, it will be important to make sure that the financial pressures facing adult social care are firmly in the national spotlight. To help achieve

this the LGA's 'Show Us You Care' campaign is being refreshed and will focus predominantly on funding for adult social care. This subject, including the high profile issue of winter pressures, has been a key feature of the Community Wellbeing Boards media work since the beginning of the year. An overview of this work is shown below.

16. We have been active in the media as part of the campaign. Recent activity includes a [letter](#) co-signed by LGA Chairman Cllr David Sparks and key health and social care partners warning about the impact of spending cuts on NHS and social care. This made the front page of The Observer. And a proactive [release](#) highlighting the impact that adult social care funding pressures will have on other council services was covered extensively in print, radio and TV.

Winter Pressures

17. Councils around the country are working with NHS partners to address the pressures on the NHS this winter. On 16 January, DH announced £25m funding for Councils to address delayed transfers of care. Following LGA lobbying, the Government allocated an extra £12m to councils, to ensure that every area had some funding to help cope with the unprecedented demands on the system.
<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-funds-to-kickstart-joint-working-with-nhs-and-councils-this-winter>. We have been active in the media on this subject and an example of a recent press release highlighting the importance of investing in adult social care to alleviate pressures on health is available [here](#).

Contact officer:
Position:
Phone no:
E-mail:

Sally Burlington
Head of Programmes
020 7664 3099
Sally.burlington@local.gov.uk

Culture, Tourism and Sport Board – report from Cllr Ian Stephens (Chair)

Tourism

1. Cllr David Burbage MBE, Deputy Chairman, gave oral evidence to the Culture, Media and Sport Committee on the visitor economy on 27 January. Cllr Burbage emphasised the vital leadership role of councils in creating the conditions for the visitor economy to thrive – from planning to infrastructure, investment in culture heritage and sport, and supporting local businesses.
2. CTS Lead Members have reinforced the LGA's significant concerns about the proposed local delivery arrangements for European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) in 2014-20 by writing to Greg Clarke MP and Lord Ahmad to highlight the potential negative impact on funding for the visitor economy. Tourism is one of the fastest growing economic sectors and an inability to flex ESIF priorities to reflect this could hold back local growth.
3. On 16 February, I met Emma Chappel, Senior Production Services Manager, Creative England, the national organisation that supports and promotes film, television, games and digital content production in England, outside London. The UK's creative industries, which include IT, film and music, are booming and were worth a record £76.9 billion in 2013. We discussed the importance of Creative England forging partnerships with councils who can make the connections to the wider economic landscape.
4. I was delighted to speak at the VisitEngland Isle of Wight Visitor Economy conference on 24 February. My speech was an opportunity to outline how the visitor economy stands to benefit from the LGA's 100 Days campaign and greater devolution of growth, skills, transport, infrastructure and planning.

Magna Carta

5. Cllr Peter Golds OBE, CTS Board lead for historic anniversaries, attended the Magna Carta 800th Anniversary Committee on 28 January and 20 February. Cllr Golds updated Committee members on how the LGA is supporting councils across the country to involve communities in the anniversary and using it as a springboard to renew local democracy.
6. Cllr David Sparks OBE has written an article for the March edition of the Committee's newsletter. This was an opportunity to raise the profile of the LGA's role in the anniversary and link it to the LGA's devolution campaign.

Culture

7. I was delighted to attend the launch of the Warwick Commission report "Enriching Britain: Culture, Creativity and Growth" on 17 February at the Shard. The Commission recognised the innovative ways in which councils are supporting culture and the creative industries in a challenging fiscal climate, but challenged all public bodies to do

5 March 2015

more to encourage even wider participation. I am looking forward to exploring the recommendations further with Vikki Heywood, Commission Chair and RSA Chair.

Libraries and Archives

8. I was very pleased to speak at the LGA / Arts Council England leadership seminar for library portfolio holders on 5 February at the wonderful new Exeter Central Library. 13 portfolio holders attended. I updated colleagues on the Sieghart independent libraries review and spoke about the vital role of political leadership in driving reform and making the connections that will enable public libraries to thrive in a challenging fiscal climate. The event included case studies from Devon County Council and Somerset County Council, with a focus on links to health.
9. I had a very positive meeting with Jeff James, Keeper and Chief Executive, The National Archives on 2 February. We discussed shared priorities including the capacity of local archive services, innovative delivery models, historic anniversaries, and the introduction of the 20 year rule. In particular, I emphasised the importance of the New Burdens Funding for councils covering the total costs of the shift from the 30 to 20 year rule.

Sport

10. Cllr Sonja Crisp, Member Peer, introduced the LGA/Sport England Leadership Essentials Programme on 11-12 February 2015, which supported 9 sport portfolio holders supported to lead transformational change of sport services. Cllr Crisp emphasised the opportunities for sport from health reform. A number of case studies and interactive sessions covered topics including links to public health, commissioning, working with National Governing Bodies and improving facilities.

Culture, Tourism and Sport Annual Conference

11. I am looking forward to welcoming 120 councillors and senior officers to this year's annual conference in Durham. We will be exploring the implications of devolution for the sector, sharing latest innovation and setting out our offer to help the next government tackle the biggest social and economic challenges this country faces. Speakers include Sir Peter Bazalgette, Chair Arts Council England, Penelope Viscountess Cobham, Chairman VisitEngland, Sir Laurie Magnus, Chair English Heritage, Rosie Millard, Chair of Hull UK Capital of Culture 2017 and journalist, Roly Keating, Chief Executive the British Library, Steve Cram CBE, Chancellor Sunderland University and former athlete and Fin Kennedy, award winning playwright. We have worked very closely with Cllr Simon Henig, CTS Board Vice Chair and Leader of Durham City Council and are looking forward to excellent study tours.

Contact Officer: Helen Murray
Position: Head of Programmes
Phone no: 0207 664 3266
E-mail: helen.murray@local.gov.uk

Environment, Economy, Housing and Transport Board – report from Cllr Peter Box CBE (Chair)

Infrastructure Act 2015

1. On 12th February the Infrastructure Bill became an Act following Royal Assent. Importantly for councils the Act, following extensive LGA lobbying, now includes the requirement for the successor government-owned company to the Highways Agency, Highways England, to produce route strategies on which to base future investment plans. The Highway Agency split the motorway and trunk road network into 18 routes, and produced strategies for each, including priorities, challenges and opportunities would be produced to outline operational and investment priorities. The aim was to cut red tape for nationally significant infrastructure projects and boost investment to regions. Further statutory guidance and the license terms for the new company will set out how the new company will have to consult and work with councils.
<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/infrastructure-act-will-get-britain-building>.

RAC Foundation Meeting

2. I recently met Philip Gomm, Head of External Communications at the RAC Foundation. The foundation publishes influential research on topics such as parking income and potholes compensation claims. We discussed the financial pressures facing councils, highways maintenance funding and addressing the challenges posed by the projected increase of 43 per cent increase in traffic on local roads by 2040. I think, and hope, that a constructive dialogue has been initiated.

Active Travel and Community Transport

3. The LGA's Economy, Environment, Housing and Transport Board has set up and commissioned two councillor-led task and finish groups to look at the current issues facing councils in promoting active travel and community transport, including funding and policy barriers that prevent councils from doing more to support these important areas. If any councils wish to discuss their councils work on these areas please contact kamal.panchal@local.gov.uk or charles.loft@local.gov.uk.

Chairs of Regional Flood and Coastal Committees

4. I met with the Chairs of the 12 Regional Flood and Coastal Committees on 12th February to discuss local government's work on ensuring communities are resilient to flooding, including investment in flood defences and the work the LGA has been doing to lobby for funding for flood defences and to promote councils role in preparing for and responding to flooding events.

Meeting with Brandon Lewis MP

5. The Board's Vice Chair Cllr Mike Jones met with Housing and Planning Minister, Brandon Lewis on 9th February to discuss local government's role in increasing

housing supply with a particular focus on LGA proposals for pooling public land, funding for infrastructure and affordable housing and supporting small and medium sized house builders.

Affordable Housing Conference

6. Cllr Keith House chaired the LGA's affordable housing conference on 17th February which provided the opportunity to hear about the recent review for Government on Local Authorities role in housing supply and explore how councils are securing investment and delivering new affordable homes.

Meeting with National Housing Federation

7. Lead Members of the Board met with the Chair and Board of the National Housing Federation on 3rd February to discuss our shared ambitions to build more affordable homes. We have agreed to work with the NHF in the lead up to the election to ensure that the role of councils and housing associations in tackling the shortage of affordable housing is recognised.

Visit to Luton

8. On 18 February I visited Luton Borough Council to receive a briefing on various initiatives, projects and challenges for Luton, including the Vauxhall Van Plant, Northern 7 Shell Napier Park, the University and Sixth Form, Airport growth, housing and constrained boundary challenges and the skills deficit. I met with Cllr Hazel Simmons, Leader of the Council, Cllr Dave Taylor, portfolio holder for Environment, and Trevor Holden, Chief Executive.

Contact officer: Helen Murray / Ian Hughes
Position: Heads of Programmes
Phone number: 020 7664 3266 / 0207 664 3101
E-mail: helen.murray@local.gov.uk / ian.hughes@local.gov.uk

Improvement & Innovation Board – report from Cllr Peter Fleming (Chairman)

IMPROVEMENT

1. Our focus has been around the launch of the consultation on the future of sector led improvement “Taking stock: where next with sector-led improvement”. This has been promoted widely in the sector and with national stakeholders. Members are encouraged to respond to the consultation which closes on 13th March and can be accessed online at <http://www.local.gov.uk/sector-led-improvement>
2. I, along with Cllrs Jill Shortland, Claire Kober and Ian Stephens, participated in a podcast designed to stimulate debate around the consultation. We shared our experiences of sector-led improvement and discussed possible areas for development in the future. You can view the podcast on our website or on the LGA YouTube channel <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YRz5MdoAIN8>. If the podcast is successful, the Board may consider repeating the exercise in order to promote its work.
3. The launch of our consultation has been covered widely in the trade press and national media and I made the objectives of the consultation clear. ‘Local government is one of the most trusted parts of the public sector but with rising public expectations and resourcing pressures, political parties are thinking about potential policy changes impacting on local government. Now is the right time for us to ask whether what we are currently doing is the right approach for the future or whether any changes are needed.’

PRODUCTIVITY

4. I met with Lord Young, Enterprise Adviser to the Prime Minister, to raise concerns that provisions in the Small Business, Enterprise and Employment Bill could be used to introduce a one-size-fits-all approach to procurement, contrary to the principle of localism. This would be detrimental to local government’s innovative approach to procurement with local small businesses and the voluntary sector. The Small Business, Enterprise and Employment Bill continues its passage through the House of Lords in March and you can read the LGA briefings [here](#).
5. Councillor Shirley Flint spoke at the Inside Government Conference ‘The Future of Local Government Commercialism: Improving Services, Increasing Efficiencies’ on 28 January. The conference focused on the need to adopt a more commercial culture and approach across local government at times of financial constraint. Delegates also discussed how to innovate and transform service delivery to provide better, more efficient public services.

LEADERSHIP

6. On 5 and 6 February, Councillor Judi Billing delivered sessions to Opposition Leaders and Deputy Leaders on the Effective Opposition programme which aims to enhance members’ self-awareness; influencing, engagement and alliance-building skills; consideration of the role of officers in this context; and ultimately, effectiveness in opposition.
7. On 23 February, Councillor Billing delivered a ‘Be a Councillor’ session to members and officers at the South East Employers’ Local Democracy and Accountability Network. The discussion covered



ideas around how to recruit new talented candidates, understanding their needs, and supporting them effectively.

Contact officer: Dennis Skinner
Position: Head of Leadership and Productivity
Phone no: 020 7664 3017
E-mail: dennis.Skinner@local.gov.uk

People & Places Board – report from Cllr David Hodge (Chairman)

Non-Metropolitan Commission

1. Building on the findings of the interim report, published in November 2014, the Commission publishes its final report on 5 March. Copies of the report will be available on line.
2. There were a number of issues raised at the Board meeting on 15 January 2015 in a discussion on the interim report, published before Christmas, as follows:
 - 2.1 Councils would be keen to undertake greater powers on economic development and skills. Non-metropolitan areas needed to be empowered.
 - 2.2 Local authorities have done a great deal of valuable work in public service integration and multi-agency working. This was particularly the case in areas such as LEP, social care and health.
 - 2.3 Democratically elected authorities should 'hold the ring' and a rebalancing of powers between central and local government was needed. There should not be an emphasis on structures and governance alone.
 - 2.4 Local authorities cannot raise monies as they see fit and a financial model needed to be acceptable and accountable to local electorates. What were the areas that we would like to see devolved from central government?
 - 2.5 There was potential for devolving to non-metropolitan areas, e.g. LEP boundaries should be redefined. The LGA should have been consulted on this.
 - 2.6 Local Government needed to offer central government ways to demonstrate clearly how it had been cost-effective and had borne cuts of 40% but increased efficiency. Local Government had been successful in making savings and can demonstrate to central government that it could be trusted to undertake more devolved tasks.

Public Service Reform

3. At the January Board meeting, Members discussed the emerging findings from the public service transformation research project. Our external research partner, RAND Europe, has worked with 9 places to map their approach to locally-led transformation. In particular, they have analysed the drivers that enable improved outcomes for residents and savings for the exchequer and identified the barriers that stop faster progress. It is clear that places are building upon a strong track record of partnership working around economic growth to re-shape public services around the needs of people, with some impressive results already evidenced. For example, the Cornwall case study shares how identifying older people at risk from dependency on health and social care, and putting in place preventative measures to help mitigate those risks, resulted in a 40 per cent reduction in costly long-term hospital admissions, and a 30 per cent fall in emergency admissions, amongst the client group.

4. The March Board will discuss the implications of the research for the LGA's wider campaigning on devolution and the support that we offer to councils on service transformation. This is a joint project with the City Regions Board and they will also be discussing the findings at their March Board.

Employment, skills and welfare

5. Members of the People & Places Board were shared an advance copy of the second in a series of three LGA Commissioned reports written by Inclusion. Its focus is on the impact of current national skills, employment and welfare systems from the perspective of individuals, which will be published soon.
6. The City Regions and People & Places Boards commissioned the Centre for Economic and Social Inclusion to analyse the skills and employment challenges to be faced by an incoming or returning Government, and offer a proposed local government solution including options for devolving the work programme in 2017. Board Members commented on the second in a series of three reports (to be published in coming weeks). It focuses on the obstacles, confusion and disincentives that the current employment, skills and welfare system presents, demonstrated through various touch-points and interactions from the perspective of the unemployed and people with low skills. It will be published in coming weeks. The LGA and Inclusion will then move into the third and final stage to prepare a model for how a local government solution will offer solutions to those challenges, which is being developed with a number of councils. The work should be completed before purdah, and a final draft format should be ready for lead members comment towards the end of March.
7. In parallel, we are also working with DWP to inform their thinking on successor arrangements to the Work Programme, ran a joint workshop with the national network of employment providers (ERSA), and working with a range of other stakeholders to ensure that our wider proposals have support wider than this sector.

Contact officer:

Position: Carolyn Downs
LGA Chief Executive

Phone no: 020 7664 3213

E-mail: carolyn.downs@local.gov.uk

Resources Board – report from Cllr Claire Kober (Chair)

1. With 3 months to go to the Local and General Elections, things continue to move apace in the world of local government finance. Recent weeks have seen the make-up of the local government finance settlement confirmed, the publication of the Independent Commission on Local Government Finance's final report, as well as a submission to Government on the 2015 Budget.

Local Government Finance

2. Local Government Finance Settlement: The final make-up of the local government finance settlement was announced on 3 February, with the only notable change being an addition of £74 million of funding for local welfare, health and social care allocated to upper-tier authorities. The LGA issued an alert to finance officers to inform of the changes.
3. Budget 2015: Fellow Board Lead Members and I cleared the LGA's Budget 2015 submission which was submitted to Government on 13 February. The submission calls on the Government to protect funding for local public services, such as social care and others. It also acts as a place marker for further lobbying work in the run-up to the Spending Review, setting out the LGA's position on devolution, economic growth, children's social care and education among other areas.
4. Future Funding campaign: The campaign to protect funding for local public services in the next Spending Review gathers pace, with a number of media releases and publications already launched and further activity planned for the coming months. Notable activity to date includes briefing MPs and Lords ahead of the local government finance settlement debate, as well as press releases on local authority reserves, social care funding pressures and columns in the trade press.
5. The Independent Local Government Finance Commission published its final report on 18 February. In it, the Commission set out plans for a 10 year programme of devolution that would see more than £200 billion in annual public expenditure being controlled by groupings of local authorities. The report can be downloaded from the Commission's website:
<http://www.cipfa.org/iclcf-home/documents/iclcf-final-report>.

Municipal Bonds Agency

6. The Agency completed its second equity raise at the end of February and is continuing its progress towards launching its first bond. Following a rigorous recruitment process, Sir Merrick Cockell has been appointed as Chairman of the Board of Directors and Adrian Bell its Vice Chairman. While Sir Merrick is well known within the local government, Adrian is formerly the Chairman of Royal Bank of Canada Europe Limited and now the head of Debt Markets for Canaccord Genuity in London. Recruitment of a further three non-executive directors is on-going.

EU Funding

7. Ministers committed to give strategic decision making powers to the 39 LEP areas over how, when and on what their share of England's 2014-2020 £5.3 billion European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) is spent. This followed successful LGA lobbying for EU funding allocations to be devolved in England, and for Brussels rules to bind national governments to work with councils on all aspects of EU funds, and greater devolution of funding through EU mechanisms.
8. However at recent Growth Programme Board (GPB) meetings - established to make decisions about the programme - Lord Ahmad confirmed his decision that local partnerships' role would be relegated from 'strategic' to 'advisory', with no guarantee that their work will be funded, and that

the LGA proposal for a small number of those partnerships to select projects was rejected. LGA elected members on the GPB - Cllr David Sparks (Chairman), Cllr Ian Stewart (Cumbria), Cllr Roger Phillips (Herefordshire) and Cllr Sir Albert Bore (Birmingham) have consistently made the point that these decisions fall short of previous Ministerial commitments, do not meet the European Commission's own ambition for a "simpler, more local" programme and are out of step with Growth Deals and devolution to other parts of the UK.

9. The LGA Chairman wrote to Communities Secretary Eric Pickles plus other Ministers to set out our disappointment about the decisions, the unintended consequences on growth, and for a reversal of decisions. No response has been received. The issue has mobilised a cross party effort of LGA elected members to persuade Ministers to reverse the decisions. An LGA parliamentary question has also been submitted on the issue. An LGA press release is imminent.

Welfare Reform

10. Following lobbying from the LGA Chair and Resources Board, the Government announced an additional £74 million for local welfare and social care in 2015/16. The announcement came in the final Local Government Settlement and responded to concerns raised by the LGA and a range of charities about the impact of the proposed withdrawal of funding. The funding will help councils continue to provide a crucial safety net support to some of their most vulnerable residents.

Workforce

11. Senior Managers: Agreement has been reached on pay for chief officers. It is 2 per cent on guaranteed FTE basic salaries of £99,999 or less (as at 31 December 2014) with effect from 1 January 2015 to 31 March 2016. No offer has been made to those earning £100,000 or more. An identical offer has been made to Chief Executives and is still under consideration by the unions.
12. Soulbury and Youth & Community Workers: An agreement has been reached with the Soulbury unions on pay for 2014-16. It involves an increase on all pay points of 2.2% from March 2015 (which is a delay of 6 months on the usual settlement date). The agreement runs to March 2016. An identical offer has been made to Youth & Community Workers on which the unions are currently consulting their members as the best that can be achieved through negotiation.
13. LGPS Governance Regulations and Local Pension Board Guidance: On 28 January 2015, the [Local Government Pension Scheme \(Amendment\) \(Governance\) Regulations 2015](#) were laid before Parliament. These regulations include provisions for new local pension boards, the Scheme Advisory Board at national level as well as provisions for the employer cost cap. In addition the Shadow Scheme Advisory Board (SSAB) of the LGPS in England and Wales issued guidance for Administering Authorities on the creation and operation of local pension boards. It was accompanied by a response to the consultation on the guidance held in autumn 2014 as well as a template terms of reference for a local pension board.
14. Relationship with Skills for Care: Skills for Care coordinate skills development for a vital segment of the local government workforce as well as for many organisations that we commission services from. Whilst there has been a good relationship at an operational level, the LGA is keen to strengthen the governance relationship, so we can ensure that sufficient attention is given to the needs of councils as the primary commissioners of services. From now on, relations with Skills for Care will be managed jointly by the Resources Board and Community Wellbeing Board.
15. Pay and Reward debate at the Councillors' Forum: The last meeting of the Councillors Forum saw a discussion on strategic pay and reward challenges, with a presentation two senior partners from Mercer Consulting. The report described challenges at every level of the pay structure from dealing with low pay to attracting professionals in the middle pay ranges and ensuring we have a

fair and transparent approach to top pay. The Employers' Side of the NJC will be seeking to further the debate in regional meetings based on the original Resources Board paper.

16. Social Work/Social Care Career: A guide for members focused on improving retention of qualified social workers has been developed with the Public Sector People Managers' Association (PPMA) and is now in production.
17. The LGA has agreed to sponsor a category award at the upcoming social worker of the year awards, as part of our campaign. The category has yet to be finalised in detail but will link to our theme of keeping experienced social workers in the workforce.
18. The workforce team is developing further benchmark social work role profiles to aid job evaluation and career development. The profile set will focus on new roles being developed as part of care responsibilities and roles inherited from the NHS.
19. Finally, the LGA is supporting a consortium of councils and ADASS bidding to develop an apprenticeship for family workers.

Public Health

20. Continuity of service: The LGA has recently issued a technical guidance note on the difficult issue of offering continuity of service, particularly for redundancy purposes. Although there are potential costs, most HR specialists consulted take the view that necessary recruitment can be hampered if specialists working in the NHS and PHE are reluctant to give up their service years when moving to local government. Full change would require alterations to the modification order and the Cabinet Office has not indicated a willingness to do this so far.
21. Public Health pay awards: Staff who transferred into local government in 2013 have no automatic entitlement to any further NHS pay awards under the current "static" interpretation of TUPE which means that only the terms at the point of transfer apply. They also have no automatic entitlement to the NJC award, unless they have been harmonised to local terms and conditions which hasn't happened as yet. The issue is now an active one for the unions and has been covered in the local government press. Further consideration will be given to the best advice to give councils on what has to be a local decision.
22. Family & Childcare Trust (FTC) partnership: The FCT will work alongside the LGA and representatives from councils across the UK to develop a set of family friendly guiding principles to support change programmes. These will not be prescriptive and will build on existing good practice in councils, but will aim to provide clear benefits in terms of recruitment and retention, performance and improved service user experience.

Contact Officer: Nicola Morton, Sarah Messenger and Ian Hughes
Position: Heads of Programmes
Phone no: 0207 664 3109 / 020 7664 3101
E-mail: Nicola.Morton@local.gov.uk / Sarah.Messenger@local.gov.uk / Ian.Hughes@local.gov.uk

Safer & Stronger Communities Board – report from Councillor Ann Lucas OBE (Chair)

Joint LGA, Solace and ADCS CSE Summit

1. The Board's Chair, Cllr Ann Lucas, chaired the morning session of the joint LGA, Solace and ADCS summit on tackling child sexual exploitation in January. Delegates for this session heard from speakers from the Home Office as the department responsible for the national group on sexual violence against children and vulnerable adults, NHS England, the Association of Chief Police Officers, the Deputy Children's Commissioner for England, and the National Working Group – a network of practitioners with a focus on child sexual exploitation and trafficking. The morning session then concluded with reflections on the presentations and discussions by representatives from Solace and ADCS.

National Group on Sexual Violence Against Children and Vulnerable Adults

2. Cllr Lucas represented the LGA at the national group on sexual violence against children and vulnerable adults, chaired by the Minister for Crime Prevention, Lynne Featherstone MP, towards the end of January. The meeting had an update on the government's work in response to the Jay report on child sexual exploitation in Rotherham and the Home Secretary's report on this to interested stakeholders. The LGA raised a number of points for inclusion in the report including a national campaign to raise awareness of CSE, and gathering of good practice around information sharing.

HMIC Peel Advisory Group Meeting

3. Cllr Sophie Linden attended the January meeting of Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary's advisory group around the effectiveness strand of the new police inspection framework PEEL (Police Effectiveness Efficiency and Legitimacy). The results from the first PEEL assessment of each police force were reported at the end of November and the meeting considered what format the effectiveness strand inspections should take in 2015. This included consideration of the core questions that inform the effectiveness assessments and what diagnostics could be used to provide answers to these questions.

Suffolk Domestic Abuse Conference

4. The Board's Vice-Chair, Cllr Joanna Spicer, spoke at the conference Suffolk County Council organised in late January to discuss approaches to domestic abuse in the county and how they might need to change. Cllr Spicer talked about the national context around domestic abuse and the lobbying the LGA has been doing to push government to give greater support to approaches that bring budgets together and allow joint commissioning.

Drug Related Deaths Summit

5. A summit was jointly held by Public Health England, Drugscope and the LGA in late January to discuss the increases in drug related deaths between 2013 and 2014. Cllr Sophie Linden chaired the event on behalf of the LGA. The summit was attended by people working in substance misuse in councils, the police, the health service, the voluntary sector and government departments. The morning session was taken up with presentations around the issue including further analysis that had been carried out on drug related deaths

data, as well as perspectives from agencies working directly with people with substance misuse problems. The afternoon was then spent discussing the implications of these findings on substance misuse treatments and commissioning of services.

Future of Safer and Stronger Communities Conference: Tackling Crime and ASB

6. At the end of January Cllr Lucas spoke at an event organised by Salford University on the future of tackling crime and anti-social behaviour and stressed the importance of partnership work, pointed out that what works in cutting crime varies between different places and differs over time, and highlighted how multi-agency working was necessary to make best use of the new tools and powers for tackling anti-social behaviour. Cllr Lucas also pointed out the need in a time of reducing budgets for more work to be done in local areas on preventing people being drawn into crime, and councils had already built up experience and skills in this area through their work around Troubled Families.

Year Ahead conference and 'Remodelling Public Protection' report

7. Cllr Philip Evans attended the annual 'Year Ahead in Regulatory services' conference, which looked ahead to the work of trading standards, environmental health and licensing services over the next Parliament. Cllr Evans used the conference to launch an LGA discussion paper entitled 'Remodelling public protection.' The paper aims to prompt further discussion and seek views on the work that councils are doing to create sustainable environmental health, trading standards and licensing services.

LGA / CQC / HSE memorandum of understanding

8. The LGA has signed a memorandum of understanding with the Care Quality Commission (CQC) and Health and Safety Executive (HSE) relating to the enforcement of health and safety law. In April this year, the CQC will assume responsibility for all safety and quality of care issues relating to patient / service users in registered providers, when health and safety responsibilities transfer from councils and the HSE. The enforcement of health and safety in relation to staff and members of the public will remain the responsibility of councils (in regard to residential homes) and the HSE (in regard to nursing homes and hospitals).

Fire and Rescue Leadership Essentials

9. Cllr Jeremy Hilton hosted a Fire and Rescue Leadership Essentials course on 3rd and 4th February in Coventry. The course gave delegates the opportunity to develop their understanding of fire and rescue authorities, improve their knowledge of key strategic issues facing the sector, appreciate how leadership style can assist in the management of organisational change, and how communication and stakeholder engagement could be improved. The course was attended by eight leading members from a variety of fire and rescue authorities and was very successful and well received.

Contact officer: Helen Murray
Position: Head of Programmes
Phone no: 020 7664 3266
Email: helen.murray@local.gov.uk

Document is Restricted

LGA location map

Local Government Association

Local Government House
Smith Square
London SW1P 3HZ

Tel: 020 7664 3131

Fax: 020 7664 3030

Email: info@local.gov.uk

Website: www.local.gov.uk

Bus routes – Millbank

- 87** Wandsworth - Aldwych
- 3** Crystal Palace - Brixton - Oxford Circus

For further information, visit the Transport for London website at www.tfl.gov.uk

Public transport

Local Government House is well served by public transport. The nearest mainline stations are: Victoria and Waterloo: the local underground stations are

St James's Park (Circle and District Lines), **Westminster** (Circle, District and Jubilee Lines), and **Pimlico** (Victoria Line) - all about 10 minutes walk away.

Buses 3 and 87 travel along Millbank, and the 507 between Victoria and Waterloo stops in Horseferry Road close to Dean Bradley Street.

Bus routes – Horseferry Road

- 507** Waterloo - Victoria
- C10** Canada Water - Pimlico - Victoria
- 88** Camden Town - Whitehall - Westminster - Pimlico - Clapham Common

Cycling facilities

The nearest Barclays cycle hire racks are in Smith Square. Cycle racks are also available at Local Government House. Please telephone the LGA on 020 7664 3131.

Central London Congestion Charging Zone

Local Government House is located within the congestion charging zone.

For further details, please call 0845 900 1234 or visit the website at www.cclondon.com

Car parks

- Abingdon Street Car Park (off Great College Street)
- Horseferry Road Car Park
- Horseferry Road/Arneway Street. Visit the website at www.westminster.gov.uk/parking

