

Note of last Community Wellbeing Board meeting

Title: Community Wellbeing Board
Date: Thursday 4 February 2021
Venue: Virtual meeting

Attendance

An attendance list is attached as **Appendix A** to this note

Item	Decisions and actions	Action
1	Welcome, declarations of interest and apologies for absence Apologies were received from Cllr Adrian Hardman and there were no declarations of interest.	
5	Adult Social Care Funding and Reform – where next? The Chairman welcomed James Bullion, President of ADASS, and Anna Severwright and Lara Dowd from Social Care Futures (SCF) to the meeting. James gave a presentation outlining the challenges that Directors of Adult Social Services (DASSs) experienced both pre-Covid and during the pandemic. He highlighted the increased demand for Social Care, the financial pressures the sector was facing and explained the need for reform of the current system. He outlined that 60 per cent of Directors of Adult Social Services had experienced disruption to the way care was able to be provided and that in some areas, presentation of need during covid had risen by 60-70 percent. James also explained that there was a problem with the image of social care and that instability in the care market and significant workforce issues - 40 percent turnover, 10 vacancies, 20 per cent quality problems - was causing further problems. James highlighted the prospect of reform of both social care and the NHS, and that DASSs faced a year of potential upturn and reform. ADASS was calling for multi-year a settlement for adult social care to provide stability. James suggested that a public conversation about the future of social care was needed in order to find out what society expected. He said that integrated care systems should be built around people, health, housing, care and the community. James explained that good social care would require adaptations to housing and that alternative solutions to residential care would need to be found. Finally, he said that a workforce strategy would need to be developed and implemented and that the sector would need to fully embrace digital. The Chairman invited Anna, Convener of Social Care Futures and a user of social care, to address the Board. Anna agreed with the need for proper funding of the sector to achieve stability. Anna said that reform of social care would enable people	

who use social care to live the lives they want to live. She said that social care should be reframed as the public associated it with the NHS, crises and care homes and not care in the community.

Anna explained the SCF was holding an enquiry into social care called 'Who's care is it anyway' as social care was often discussed and decided on by people who did not have lived experience of care and called for members of the Board to participate in the enquiry. The final recommendations were due to be published late Spring/early Summer 2021.

Lara Dowd gave a personal testimony about her father and his experience using social care. She highlighted how important personalisation of care was and said how hard it was to find access to funding.

In the discussion that followed the following points were raised:

- Sustainable funding. Some areas reliant on the 2 percent council tax increase had a council tax base of 70 percent A and B Band properties. Local funding based on council tax would not deliver the funding needed.
- Concern that the LGA had been discussing this problem with government this for years and this would only continue. It was suggested that the Board make a public representation to the Secretary of State on the future of social care.
- There had been an 8 percent drop in occupancy, but the care market had not collapsed because of the investments councils had made which kept providers afloat.
- Concern over how long residents would accept annual council tax rises in order to pay for social care.
- Concerns about turnover of staff and the impact of this on their mental health.
- The role of education and skills so that social care could be presented as a career choice with a clear path and professional development opportunities.
- Good social care saves the NHS money and a good relationship between local government and the NHS would be crucial to achieving parity and reform.
- The need for local government to have a sense of confidence in social care and what it can achieve and articulate what social care is.

Decision

Members of the Community Wellbeing Board noted the speakers' presentation and information contained in the written report.

Action

Write to the Secretary of State asking for a commitment on Adult Social Care Reform.

3 Update on NHS England consultation

The Chairman invited Alyson Morley, Senior Advisor, to give a verbal update on the NHS England integrated care consultation.

Alyson explained that a White Paper on integrated care system proposals was due to be published in March 2021. It was unclear whether this would be consultative or would simply outline the Government's proposals. Following the publication of the White Paper, a Bill would be presented to Parliament sometime in the Spring, likely May 2021, in order for the final proposals to be implemented in April 2022.

There had been lots of engagement events, both with the LGA and local government more generally. The LGA's key messages, outlined in the report, were the need for parity of esteem between local government and the NHS, the need to address the wider determinants of health (housing, access to jobs), the importance of place and local government places, and that it should be acknowledged that in many places innovative, constructive, influential healthcare and wider partnerships already existed between councils and their partners. Wherever possible any new legislation should support existing partnerships that delivered on integration.

Alyson highlighted the progress made; the Secretary of State had accepted the need for wider and more meaningful consultation with local government on integration of care systems.

Members of the Community Wellbeing Board agreed that flexible, place-based solutions were needed, and that work must be built upon existing systems already in place e.g. Health and Wellbeing Boards. There was support for constructive co-operation with the Government's process.

Decision

Members of the Community Wellbeing Board agreed to note the report and verbal update.

4 Mental Health Act White Paper

The Chairman welcomed Kevin Halden, Adviser, to address the meeting. Kevin introduced the Government's White Paper on Reforming the Mental Health Act. The consultation was in response to the recommendations made in Sir Simon Wesley's 2018 independent review. The content of the White Paper was extremely technical, it reflected the Review and detailed how the Mental Health Act was used and how practise could be improved. In particular, the rising numbers of people detained under the act and the disproportionate number Black and Ethnic Minority (BAME) people detained and it introduced measures that could mitigate against this. The reforms aimed to meet better the needs of people with autism, learning difficulties and people with serious mental illness within the criminal justice system. The new Mental Health Act was likely to come through in May 2022.

Kevin explained that the proposed changes outlined in the White Paper were based on four basic principles; choice and autonomy, least restriction, therapeutic benefit

and ensuring patients are viewed as individuals.

Kevin outlined the LGA's key messages:

- The LGA supports the Mental Health Act reforms and four principals.
- It is important that the new act clearly identifies the role and responsibility of local government.
- The new Act needs to reflect the operational needs and pressures on local government particularly around an improved (Approved Mental Health Professional) AMHP workforce.
- The new act should be fully funded on a long-term basis.
- The new Act should support councils to grow the capacity and capability of voluntary sector providers, such as Independent Mental Health Advocacy (IMHA) services, who are operating in an increasingly fragile market.
- It is important to recognise that to achieve a reduction in detentions is not solely about legislative change. There needs to be a system-wide shift towards prevention, away from medicalisation and treating mental ill health, to early intervention and support for recovery through integrated community-based services.

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

- Long term housing for people with mental illness and adults with learning disorders would be needed.
- Members of the Board were pleased to see a distinction between those with autism and those with learning difficulties.
- Mental health facilities served people from multiple local authority areas, however the advocacy costs of those who had been detailed were picked up by the council where the facility was located.
- Patients shouldn't be treated equally but treated according to their individual needs.
- Greater investment in community services was needed
- Concerns that the pandemic had exacerbated mental health issues and that this is was not reflected in the document.
- Concern that children and young people under 25 were missing from the document.
- Glad to see the focus on the individual and choice and autonomy.
- Voluntary sector and faith organisations would be key in reaching the BAME

communities

- Concerns were raised over insufficient specialist places for people suffering with eating disorders.

For information, Kevin then gave an update on a recent legal judgement separate to White Paper but related to the Mental Health agenda. There was a legal ruling at the end of January 2021 in the case of Devon Partnership NHS Trust vs the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care (2021) which challenged the guidance on mental health assessments on the grounds that it did not provide certainty to practitioners over the use of remote assessments. The Court decided that video assessments were not legal and that doctors and AMHPs must be present when deciding whether or not to section someone. The LGA and ADASS planned to commission their own legal advice in response to the judgement.

Decision

Members of the Community Wellbeing Board agreed to the lines of submission.

Action

Community Wellbeing Board Lead Members would give sign off on the final submission. Legal guidance will be circulated to members of the Community Wellbeing Board once available.

5 Other Board Business

Comments were made that:

- Combatting loneliness would be increasingly important.
- Suicides and attempts at suicide had increased. Concerns were raised that there was insufficient support provided to coroners and the bereaved.
- No specific funding had been made available for the Armed Forces Covenant.

Decision

Members of the Community Wellbeing Board noted the updates contained in the report.

6 COVID-19 Update – Lockdown 3, Shielding and Vaccination programmes

Mark Norris, Principal Policy Adviser and Paul Ogden, Senior Adviser, gave an update to the Board on the LGA's Covid-19 related work since the previous meeting including Lockdown measures, the shielding programme, the roll-out of COVID-19 vaccines, self-isolation and role of local authorities in local test, trace and outbreak management.

Mark advised that officers had been seeking clarity from Government on what the transition out of lockdown would look like and explained that officers had also been in discussions with the Department of Health and the Joint Biosecurity Centre about

what support would be provided to local authorities when managing local outbreaks.

There had been a change to local surge testing in response to new variants.

On vaccinations Mark advised that:

- Significant roll out had taken place so far with over 10 million vaccines administered.
- Groups one to four out of nine had been vaccinated.
- Discussions would be held on how best to vaccinate the estimated 1.7 million unpaid carers (priority group six).
- Roll out had been patchy; 97 percent of people over the age of 80 in the North East had been vaccinated but this was far lower in London and the South East.

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

- The LGA should have a view on how the UK exit's 'Lockdown 3'.
- Concerns were raised that the public had unrealistic expectations that coronavirus could be eliminated and would eventually be completely eradicated.
- A National Annual Vaccine Strategy would need to be developed and implemented. Concerns that local government would not be able to continue to redeploy staff to the NHS in the numbers needed to deliver this.
- Concerns were expressed that NHS England was not sharing meaningful data with local authority health protection teams.
- A view was expressed that ambulance staff, teachers, election staff, police officers, fire officers and shop workers should be vaccinated as a priority.
- Concerns around the supply of vaccines across the country and of a north/south divide surrounding vaccine roll out.
- Concerns about vaccine hesitancy amongst certain communities and how to combat this.

Decision

Members agreed to note the update on the LGA's Covid-19 related activity since the Board's last meeting including the related LGA Behavioural Insights Projects 2020/21.

7 Note of the previous meeting

Decision

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 2 December 2020 were agreed.

Appendix A -Attendance

Position/Role	Councillor	Authority
Chairman	Cllr Ian Hudspeth	Oxfordshire County Council
Vice-Chair	Cllr Paulette Hamilton	Birmingham City Council
Deputy-chair	Cllr Richard Kemp CBE	Liverpool City Council
Deputy-chair	Cllr Claire Wright	Devon County Council
Committee Member	Cllr David Fothergill	Somerset County Council
Committee Member	Cllr Colin Noble	Suffolk County Council
Committee Member	Cllr Jonathan Owen	East Riding of Yorkshire Council
Committee Member	Cllr Judith Wallace	North Tyneside Council
Committee Member	Cllr Sue Woolley	Lincolnshire County Council
Substitute Member	Cllr Wayne Fitzgerald	Peterborough City Council
Substitute Member	Cllr Arnold Saunders	Salford City Council
Committee Member	Cllr Louise Gittins	Cheshire West and Chester Council
Committee Member	Cllr Arooj Shah	Oldham MBC
Committee Member	Cllr Shabir Pandor	Kirklees Metropolitan Council
Committee Member	Cllr Natasha Pantelic	Slough Borough Council
Committee Member	Cllr Amy Cross	Blackpool Council
Committee Member	Cllr Denise Scott-MacDonald	Royal Borough of Greenwich
Substitute Member	Cllr Joanne Harding	Trafford Council
Substitute Member	Cllr Bob Cook	Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council
Committee Member	Cllr Doreen Huddart	Newcastle upon Tyne City Council
Committee Member	Cllr Neil Burden	Cornwall Council
LGA Officers	Mark Norris Alyson Morley Paul Ogden Kevin Halden Matthew Hibberd Amy Haldane	