

Community Wellbeing Board – report from Cllr Katie Hall (Chair)

Dementia

1. Sir Merrick Cockell met with Jeremy Hughes, Chief Executive of the Alzheimer's Society on 20 January regarding the **Dementia Movement and Dementia Friends Champions**, a proposal for Councils to nominate a person within their authority to undergo training from the Alzheimer's Society on dementia and cascade learning to other staff in their community. The LGA have agreed to promote the initiative and are urging local authorities to make a commitment to the issue of dementia by allowing a volunteer to be trained as a Dementia Friends Champion from that authority, to then cascade learning to other staff.
2. Cllr Gillian Ford, Deputy Chair of the Community Wellbeing board attended the **Dementia Friendly Communities Champion Group** on 6 March. Among the items discussed were plans to recognise the progress that Champions are making towards promoting dementia issues in their communities via an event on 20 May. The Group also agreed to develop a Standard process for recognising a Dementia Friendly Community across its stakeholders.
3. 5 years after the introduction of the dementia strategy, Cllr Ford also attended an **All Party Parliamentary Group Policy Roundtable on improving the support people receive after dementia diagnosis** on 26 February. Discussion included consideration of the possibility of developing a minimum standard for post diagnosis support and what "good" might look like. During the meeting, Cllr Ford emphasised that any support role taken by Local Authorities would need to be adequately funded to support additional burdens.

Learning Disability and Winterbourne View

4. I attended the latest meeting of the **Learning Disability Programme Board** on 25 February, a policy advisory group chaired by Norman Lamb MP which works to improve health and wellbeing outcomes for people with learning disabilities and their families. This meeting emphasised the need for each area to seek faster progress on Winterbourne view. I am writing to each Lead Member for Adult Services to encourage the political leaders in each area to be a key driver for change with NHS partners. Following the meeting, Lead Members of the Community Wellbeing Board are considering taking a leadership role with local health and social care stakeholders to ensure that those with learning disabilities have adequate discharge plans upon leaving hospital.
5. The appointment of Programme Director, Bill Mumford in December 2013 marked the beginning of the second 'implementation' phase of the **Winterbourne View Joint Improvement Programme's** (JIP's) activity to help local areas meet the commitments outlined in the Government's Concordat. After engaging with local areas to get a detailed understand of the challenges facing area partners, the JIP has been consulting with partners on a more focused set of objectives, taking a 'local', area-by-area, person by person approach. It is progressing its local engagement and support work; sixteen local areas are now working with the JIP as early adopters of its support activity though an in-depth review process, and there are 19 more local areas set to join them by the end of April. The programme will look to learn from each of those areas about the

challenges and solutions to moving each individual into the right kind of community based placement, with the right support to them.

6. Support is available to all 152 local areas, with a spectrum of support options, ranging from one-to-one engagement with members of the JIP team to national and regional events and the development of tools and resources. More detail on what is on offer is available [here](#). Activity includes a programme of commissioning seminars specifically linking NHS England specialised commissioning with local health and social care commissioning, and a series of learning seminars in partnership with Think Local, Act Personal (TLAP), focusing on joint working between families, providers and commissioners. The JIP is also supporting the Common Purpose group (set up by ADASS and the Care Providers Alliance) to engage commissioners with community-based providers.

Better Care Fund (BCF)

7. Progress continues on implementing the **Better Care Fund**, a £3.8bn pooled budget between the NHS and local government to deliver better care for people in all Health and Wellbeing Board areas. The first draft of all 151 local plans for using the fund were submitted on 14 February 2014, with regional local government leads and NHS Area Teams leading on evaluating submissions to identify areas in need of support. Early indications are that many areas are pooling significantly more than their minimum pooled budget. The LGA has secured £2.7 million for regional ADASS leads for use across all Health and Wellbeing Boards in a region to support the BCF and Care Bill implementation.

Public Health

8. On 24 February, I wrote to the Parliamentary under Secretary of State for Health, Jane Ellison MP regarding the very concerning, and in some cases lethal internet binge drinking game '**NekNomination**'. The letter highlighted the internet safety campaigns councils are launching across the country to provide links for parents, carers and young people who use the internet, and offering advice and support over alcohol-related issues. In the letter, I emphasised that Local Government Association (LGA) has publically urged Twitter and Facebook to introduce health warnings on their sites and sought the Minister's backing for prominent messages to be posted on both social media sites, spelling out the risks.
9. In a press release on 8 March, I expressed concern over the current lack of clarity surrounding how **e-cigarettes** are marketed in light of new Scottish research highlighting how e-cigarette advertising aimed at young people closely resembles the early marketing of regular cigarettes. While recognising that when responsibly marketed, e-cigarettes and other nicotine delivery systems have public health benefits in helping smokers quit, my statement warned that current haziness surrounding e-cigarette advertising could threaten to undermine decades of hard work by health bodies to tackle youth smoking. The LGA welcomes [a new public consultation](#) launched by advertising watchdogs on this issue.

Children's Health

10. The Community Wellbeing and Children and Young People's Board held a joint Board meeting on 5 March to discuss and agree a way forward on key issues related to children's health, including the **transfer of 0-5s public health commissioning to local authorities in 2015**. Members emphasised the need to retain local flexibility regarding service delivery and

advocated an outcomes-focused rather than a prescriptive approach to mandating the service provided by local authorities and NHS Area Teams.

11. The Board also received presentations from colleagues in the Mental Health Coalition regarding children's mental health issues and from the National Children's Bureau regarding the **Special Education Needs and Disabilities reforms** proposed in the Children and Families Bill. During discussions **on children's mental health**, members agreed for the LGA to submit a response to the [Health Select Committee inquiry on Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services](#) (CAMHS).

Other issues

12. With the **Care Bill** entering its final stages in Parliament, the LGA released a [joint press release with ADASS, CSA and Solace](#) colleagues, calling on the Government to support a joint amendment that will give the Care and Support Reform Programme Board – comprised of local government, the wider care sector and the Department of Health - the opportunity to feedback on whether the money being made available is the right amount to implement the provisions in the Bill. As part of the statement, I warned of the potential for the Bill's good intentions for modernising the care system to be undermined by insufficient funding.
13. At the Community Wellbeing Board on 5 March, members agreed to support and promote **Think Local Act Personal (TLAP)**, the national, cross sector leadership partnership to drive forward work with personalisation and community-based social care through its communication channels, events, peer challenges, and by highlighting examples of good practice. The Board will also provide an elected member to represent the LGA on the TLAP Board, bringing their insight into the leadership role elected members can have to pursue personalised care within their authorities.
14. Cllr Ford attended the **English Forums on Ageing** Chairs meeting on Wed 26th February 2014 at the Department of Work and Pensions on behalf of the LGA. The forums are comprised of regional partners that promote older people and ageing issues at local level. EFA Chairs were keen to work with the LGA to find ways to engage with local authorities in their regions. Cllr Ford stressed that the LGA are looking to promote the issues through influencing existing bodies engaged in 'ageing society' such as the Age Action Alliance, UK Advisory Forum on Ageing and the ADASS Older People's Network, and are planning future events in relation to older people and housing. She drew attention to the LGA's proposals on rewiring and the funding settlement which stress the importance of proper planning for an ageing population.

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