

Community Wellbeing Board Achievements 2016/17

Purpose

For information and discussion.

Summary

This report provides an overview of the issues and work the Board has overseen during the last year. It sets out key achievements in relation to the priorities of the Community Wellbeing Board in 2016/17.

Recommendation

Members are invited to note the achievements against the Board's priorities in 2016/17.

Action

Officers to action as appropriate.

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Board Achievements 2016/17

Background

1. The Community Wellbeing Board has responsibility for Local Government Association's (LGA) activity in the areas of the wellbeing of adults, including lifelong learning, training, health and social care and for the wellbeing of all people in the areas of community cohesion, asylum and immigration. The LGA has continued to promote the vital leadership role of local government in the health and care system.

LGA Asylum, Refugee and Migration Task Group

2. The LGA Asylum, Refugee and Migration Task Group reports to both the Community Wellbeing and Children and Young People Board. Chaired by Cllr David Simmonds, the Task Group and cross-Board lead LGA members have been involved in the development of a range of national schemes that support refugees and asylum seekers. Working with local authorities, regional bodies and national partners, it has also flagged key issues including the need for additional resources, greater alignment across the programmes and more transparent and real time data. The LGA contributed directly to the response to the Calais camp clearance and the development of a national transfer scheme for unaccompanied children, and is continuing to raise concerns around the impact of current dispersal system for adults and families. This has included a meeting and an event with the Immigration Minister in November and February respectively, and resources and information to support councils as outlined on the LGA [website](#). Councils have great expertise in bringing communities together and the Safer and Stronger Communities Board has pulled together resources to support local activity on cohesion and will lead the response to Casey Review of integration.

Care and Health Improvement Programme

3. Working with the Care and Health Improvement Programme, the ongoing programme of [leadership development](#) for lead members included ongoing support for regional networks, a leadership essentials programme, and an induction event, as well as ongoing updates of the online '[must knows](#)' for new members. The LGA continued to work closely with the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services on a sector led improvement approach to supporting councils on key issues in adult social care, such as [adult safeguarding](#), [Transforming Care](#) and implementing the [Mental Capacity Act](#) including the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards. The National Children and Adult Services (NCAS) conference was well attended, including sessions led by Board lead members and a closed session for members with the (then) new Parliamentary under Secretary, David Mowat MP.

Public Health Transformation and Health Protection

4. The last 12 months has been a year when local government has been grappling with reduced public health resources, and this was in the context of continuing reductions to overall council funding and pressures on the NHS. Interventions to tackle teenage pregnancy, excessive alcohol consumption, physical inactivity, sexually transmitted

infections and substance misuse cannot be seen as an added extra for health budgets. The LGA have argued that reductions in councils' public health grants of more than £530 million by the end of the decade will impact on councils' ability to continue their good work. To take vital money away from the services which can be used to prevent illness and the need for treatment later down the line and ease the pressure on the NHS is counter-productive.

5. Air quality went to the top of the public health agenda and became the focus of intense media attention. Local authorities have a central role in achieving improvements in air quality; their local knowledge and interaction with the communities that they serve mean that they know the issues on the ground in detail. They are best placed to decide and work with partners to implement the appropriate solutions in regards to local transport, smoke control, planning and public health. LGA have worked collaboratively with Defra and PHE to generate an updated suite of tools which will help local authorities to take action to improve air quality.
6. Childhood obesity continued to be a priority for central and local government. As part of our child obesity campaign work, we have called for fundamental reforms, such as a mandatory reduction in sugar in soft drinks, better sugar labelling on food and drink products, calorie counts on menus in chain restaurants, and for councils to be given powers to ban junk food advertising near schools. The LGA called for the income generated from the proposed sugar levy on soft drinks to be administered by councils, who are best placed to work with schools and communities to fight childhood obesity.
7. The LGA achieved a significant milestone on behalf of its membership in the commissioning of prevention services at the Royal Courts of Justice. The National Aids Trust (NAT), supported by the LGA, was successful at the High Court and subsequently in the Appeal Court in challenging NHS England's decision that it did not have the legal powers to commission the HIV treatment Pre Exposure Prophylaxis, also known as PrEP. NHS England said the onus fell on councils to fund PrEP, as local authorities are responsible for HIV prevention. The LGA branded this as a "selective and untenable" reading of the Public Health Regulations 2013.
8. In March we held our fifth Annual Public Health Conference. The LGA's national annual flagship conference on public health offered a valuable opportunity to analyse the implications for local government and public health. The event highlighted the innovative work already being undertaken by councils and public health teams, with their partners and communities, and it looked at how to build on existing best practice to identify and tackle the challenges and opportunities of the new public health landscape.
9. In the same month we published *Public health transformation four years on: maximising the use of resources* a series of case studies showing how local authorities are making progress on improving health and wellbeing and tackling health inequalities since public health was transferred to local authorities in April 2013. Public health teams, working with a 'Health in All Policies' approach across councils, are tackling persistent problems like adult and childhood obesity, mental illness, alcohol abuse, sexually transmitted

infections and the health impact of isolation and loneliness in old age, as well as addressing some of the serious health inequalities that still exist within and between communities.

10. In October 2016, Public Health England undertook a review of the five mandated health visitor checks delivered by health visitors between birth and two and a half years to provide advice to the government on whether the mandate should continue following regulations expiring in March 2017. In anticipation of future changes to public health funding, the LGA (with other local sector partners including the Society Of Local Authority Chief Executives, the Association of Directors of Public Health and the Association of Directors of Children's Services) argued that mandate should be considered alongside the work on business rates retention and the public health grant.
11. In March 2017 the government confirmed that the five mandated health visitor checks would continue. The LGA publication *Improving outcomes for children and families in the early years: a key role for health visiting services* demonstrated through a series of local council case studies how councils have used the transfer of commissioning responsibilities for the 0-5 Healthy Child Programme, as an opportunity to translate PHE's six early years high impact areas into local context, focussing commissioning on the particular health issues that are most relevant for the 0-5 population in their local communities.
12. The continuing rise in drug-related deaths is a major concern to councils and our health partners. Latest figures that show the number of registered heroin deaths increased by 26 per cent between 2014 and 2015 and are now the highest on record, Councils are committed to ensuring drug users get the right support and treatment. The LGA continues to explore the complex causes behind the rise in deaths and produce practical messages for key decision makers who can help prevent future drug related deaths.
13. In February, the LGA published *Public health working with the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector: new opportunities and sustainable change* a set of case studies showing how public health and the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector are working together. The case studies show how public health and the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector (VCSE) are working together to make a real difference to people's health and wellbeing.
14. Nearly 10 million people live in areas of England defined as rural. This number is increasing and the population is growing older. Their health is as important to us as the health of the 45 million who live in our cities and large conurbations. Although many rural areas are, in general, affluent, even wealthy in some cases, this is not true of all rural areas (the 'north/south divide' can be seen in the countryside as well as in cities). And within even the most affluent areas, there can be real hardship, deprivation, ill health and inequalities. These are some of the issues the LGA discussed in our document *Health and Wellbeing in Rural Areas*, produced by the LGA in partnership with PHE.
15. In October we published *Health in all policies: a manual for local government*. Health in All Policies (HiAP) is an approach to policies that systematically and explicitly takes into account the health implications of the decisions we make; targets the key social

determinants of health; looks for synergies between health and other core objectives and the work we do with partners; and tries to avoid causing harm with the aim of improving the health of the population and reducing inequity.

16. There is a growing body of research which shows how faith groups can have a positive impact on both the health of their members and wider communities. Faith groups make an important contribution to this work through their commitment to service, both with their own members and with wider communities. The role of faith groups was discussed in our document *Working with faith groups to promote health and wellbeing*, produced by the LGA in partnership with Faith Action.
17. In December, the *Healthy futures: supporting and promoting the health needs of looked after children* publication highlighted that health (especially mental health) outcomes for looked after children are significantly worse than for the child population as a whole. The case studies highlighted both the council's public health responsibilities but also their corporate parenting role in supporting vulnerable children and the need for closer working between children's services, schools and public health colleagues.
18. Our publication *Working to support positive parenting and relationships. What can councils do?* recognised councils renewed focus on initiatives to support parents, given the body of evidence which shows that the quality of parent-child relationships particularly in the early years, is a key influencer on the social determinants of health throughout the life course.
19. In February, we published *Suicide prevention: a guide for local authorities*. On average in England 13 people take their own lives every day. This affects their families, their friends and people they work and live with. For every death, another six to 60 people are thought to be affected directly. Local government's public health remit means we have responsibility for addressing many of the risk factors, such as alcohol and drug misuse, while our wider responsibilities for housing and local growth mean we can have an impact on the wider determinants. Councils have been active on suicide prevention work in recent years. Following the publication of the 2012 strategy, councils were given the responsibility of developing local suicide action plans through their work with health and wellbeing boards. By the end of the year, 95 per cent of areas had plans in places or were in the process of drawing them up.
20. In November we published *Helping people look after themselves: a guide on self-care*. The case studies in our report demonstrate councils are involved in a range of innovative work to further embed the self-care agenda.

Adult social care funding

21. Securing additional funding to tackle the adult social care funding gap has remained a key focus of the LGA's work over the last year. Through written and oral evidence to numerous parliamentary inquiries and debates, publications, comprehensive media work and other lobbying and influencing work, the LGA has been a leading voice in highlighting the social care crisis and the need for additional resources. As a result of this work, and the work of others in the sector, we have secured the following for adult social care:

- 21.1. Greater flexibility with the social care council tax precept (provisional local government finance settlement).
 - 21.2. The £241 million Adult Social Care Support Grant (provisional local government finance settlement).
 - 21.3. An additional £2 billion for adult social care through the improved Better Care Fund (2017 Spring Budget).
22. While these measures do not constitute full solutions for the short- or long-term, they are demonstrable measures of progress, particularly in the current financial context. The announcement of a green paper on social care in the 2017 Spring Budget, which the LGA had also called for, provides an important opportunity to build on this progress in seeking a lasting and sustainable solution for this vital service.

The Better Care Fund

23. We successfully argued for a reduction in the number of national conditions attached to the Better Care Fund (BCF) funding. The Department of Health and Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) 2017-19 Integration and the Better Care Fund Policy Framework reduced the number of national conditions. For 2017-19, there are four national conditions, rather than the previous eight: 1. Plans to be jointly agreed; 2. NHS contribution to adult social care is maintained in line with inflation; 3. Agreement to invest in NHS commissioned out-of-hospital services, which may include 7 day services and adult social care; and 4. Managing Transfers of Care - a new condition to ensure people's care transfers smoothly between services and settings.
24. We were successful in pressing for improved Better Care Fund resources to come directly to local government rather than being channelled through Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs). The iBCF can be used to meet adult social care needs, including backfilling planned reductions to services, reducing pressures on the NHS, including supporting more people to be discharged from hospital when they are ready and ensuring that the local social care provider market is supported.

The future vision of health and social care systems

25. Following the launch of our *Stepping up to the place* self-assessment framework, the Care and Health Improvement Programme piloted facilitated integration workshops in 12 areas, throughout the summer and early autumn of 2016. After successful evaluation the piloted integration workshops are now a core part of our support offer on integration. These workshops enable local health and wellbeing system leaders to identify their ambitions, capacity, capability and commitment to make meaningful progress to achieving a fully integrated local health and care system. A further nine workshops have been completed and eight more are planned up to July 2017. The workshops have been warmly received by health and wellbeing boards, with participants saying: "Probably the best self-assessment/discussion I've been involved in." and "Exceeded my expectations in terms of generating conversations that we need to have."

26. We have continued to promote a sector-led approach to integration in our discussions with Government and NHS England on improvement support for integration. For example, we have secured the commitment from the Department of Health and NHS England that the *Stepping up to the place* facilitated integration workshops will be a key part of the process for areas wishing to graduate from the Better Care Fund.
27. We also worked with the Care and Health Improvement Programme (CHIP) and national health partners to develop a system-wide peer challenge to assess the extent to which all partners in a health and social care system are working effectively to improve the health and wellbeing of their populations. The CHIP team have conducted two successful pilots and after evaluation we are seeking to work with five other areas to pilot this innovative approach.

Sustainability and Transformation Partnerships

28. We have continued to press for councillors and Health and Wellbeing Boards to be fully engaged in the development and implementation of Sustainability and Transformation Plans. In September 2016 we produced a joint briefing for the party conference season with the NHS Confederation, NHS Clinical Commissioner and NHS Providers with the following messages:
- 28.1. Sustainability and transformation plans (STPs) provide a key opportunity to bring together local partners to resolve deep-seated issues, but local solutions must be whole system and realistic to succeed.
 - 28.2. The funding pressures on each part of the system cannot be solved in isolation, so each STP must identify the totality of the health and adult social care finance and quality gap it faces.
 - 28.3. Ensuring ownership of local plans will require meaningful engagement with all stakeholders.
 - 28.4. Appropriate community engagement and consultation will be essential.
 - 28.5. A commitment to integration must be at the heart of the STP process.
 - 28.6. A focus on prevention remains important.
 - 28.7. Robust governance and clear lines of accountability is central to the successful implementation of STPs.

29. We have recently conducted a survey of senior elected members' views of STPs in response to widespread concerns from our member authorities that councillors and local communities are not being meaningfully engaged in the developed of plans. A summary of the key findings will be launched at the LGA annual conference in July.

Vulnerable People

30. The priority areas for this work stream for 2016-17 included supported housing; the links between housing, homelessness, health and care; mental health and children's mental

health; suicide prevention; carers; the armed forces; dementia; autism and learning disabilities and appropriate adults; as well as a continuing focus on older people, personalisation and end of life care.

31. Influencing the development of the Government's policy on supported housing was a key area of work for the year; after the announcement that Government intended to introduce the Local Housing Allowance (LHA) cap on supported housing and give councils a 'local top up fund' to resource the additional cost above the cap. The LGA's main concern has been the impact on the most vulnerable in our communities: older people, homeless, those fleeing domestic violence, those with mental health issues, veterans, etc; as well as the financial basis and sustainability of the top-up fund and other proposed interventions. Several local government and parliamentary briefings were produced, we wrote to all relevant ministers and secretaries of state, held round table discussions, and met with stakeholders, officials and ministers. We held a successful engagement event with over 60 councils. The LGA response to the consultation was cross-cutting, detailed and well-received. The LGA sat on three of the four DCLG/Department of Work and Pensions task and finish groups, and Community Wellbeing Board Chair, Cllr Seccombe, chaired one of them.
32. The LGA Housing Commission report was launched in January, setting out a vision and associated recommendations for the future of housing for older people. This will be complemented by a case study report on good practice that will be launched over the summer.
33. Mental health has been a high profile issue for the year, with the focus being on increasing awareness of the key role of local government in both mental wellbeing and in direct mental health support. The LGA report on mental health, 'Being mindful of mental health – the role of local government in mental health and wellbeing' will be launched at annual conference, and sets how councils influence the mental wellbeing of our communities and how council services, from social care to parks to open spaces to education to housing, help to make up the fabric of mental health support for the people in our communities. The LGA has also been influencing the development of the PHE Mental Wellbeing Concordat, also due for publication in July, alongside a consensus statement on the importance of prevention in mental health.
34. Children and young people's mental health and wellbeing has been high on the national agenda this year, with an increasing focus from the government and a range of stakeholders on the quality of mental health services. This is against a backdrop of increasing demand for services, workforce difficulties and a recognition that mental health is not being given equal priority to physical health.
35. In February 2017 lead members of the Community Wellbeing Board and Children and Young People Board hosted a special meeting on children and young people mental health and wellbeing, inviting a range of different stakeholder representatives to form a rounded understand of the issues and determine future work priorities. The need for greater local accountability on spend and quality of services and building the capacity and capability of the providers in the system emerged as two key themes which will be taken forward over the coming months.

36. Alongside mental health, suicide prevention has increased in prominence. The LGA has a seat on the National Suicide Prevention Advisory Group and has been influencing the Government's response to the APPG report on suicide prevention. As such, we expect the development of a sector-led self-assessment on suicide prevention strategies to be made available to councils, rather than the establishment a national quality monitoring regime.
37. We have continued to influence the development of the Government's Carers Strategy, sitting on the Carers Strategy Steering Group, looking to focus on Carer Friendly Communities and viable solutions to support carers. However, Government postponed the released of the strategy, and we are waiting to find out if it will be part of the anticipated Green Paper on adult social care and an ageing population.
38. The LGA published its joint report with Forces in Mind Trust on the armed forces covenant: 'Our community, our covenant', setting out the main challenges and opportunities for local government in supporting the country's armed forces community. It has been extremely well received by councils, MPs and members of the House of Lords. An updated version with more case studies will be launched at annual conference. As a result, the LGA has agreed a joint action plan with the Ministry of Defence (MOD) and DCLG on the next steps, which will include new online resources for councils. The LGA has also been influencing the Office of National Statistics to include a question on veterans in the next census. Finally, the LGA has been involved in national discussions on rebasing and the release of MOD land as part of the one public estate programme, and held a very successful event with councils and the MOD in May.
39. Dementia continues to be a high profile issue, as we expect to see the number of diagnosis and support costs to increase in future years. The LGA sits on the boards of the Prime Ministers Challenge on Dementia 2020, including the Programme Board, the Citizen's Engagement Group and the Meaningful Care Delivery Group. We contributed to shaping the toolkit on citizen's engagement and the national survey on the Prime Ministers Challenge. We are influencing the work stream looking at social care and dementia, and have been influencing the development of performance indicators for CCGs. The LGA is working with the national Dementia Action Alliance to produce a case study guide for councils on post diagnosis support for people with dementia.
40. There has been increased work with the Home Office on the provision of Appropriate Adults for vulnerable adults in custody and the development of a missing people's strategy.
41. We have taken part in and hosted a number of events, including an event on Autism in November. At NCAS we had sessions on 'caring for and housing an ageing population', supported housing, and mental health, and the 'Think Local Act Personal' shared commitment on 'Engaging and empowering communities', which the LGA is a signatory to, was launched.
42. With Brexit being an important issue nationally, we also submitted evidence to the Health Select Committee inquiry into Brexit and health and social care.

CWB Events and Publications

43. The statistics below give an indication of the reach of the Board's activities in the media, with member authorities and with other key stakeholders:
- 43.1. Twitter Followers: @LGAcomms 18,952 followers, @LGAwellbeing 4,404 followers
 - 43.2. Number of events held: 5
 - 43.3. Attendees at National Children and Adult Services Conference: 905
 - 43.4. Number of publications: 36
 - 43.5. Number of downloads from the LGA website: 41,397
 - 43.6. There were **528** national newspaper, online and broadcast CWB mentions **during the period September 2016-June 7 2017**.
 - 43.7. CWB Board Chair Cllr Izzi Seccombe was interviewed or mentioned in national print, online and broadcast media **237** times **during this period**.
 - 43.8. CWB Board members Cllrs Linda Thomas, Jonathan McShane and Richard Kemp were also mentioned **14** times collectively in national print, online and broadcast media.
44. Highlights of the media coverage included:
- 44.1. CWB member Cllr Jonathan McShane was interviewed live on **Good Morning Britain** about the LGA's press release calling on GPs to prescribe exercise outdoors to patients, in a bid to get people doing more physical activity. CWB Chairman Cllr Izzi Seccombe was also interviewed on **BBC Radio 5 Live** and across **BBC local radio** stations and the LGA's lines reported on **BBC Radio 2** and **LBC** news bulletins. LGA Deputy Chairman Cllr Peter Fleming was also interviewed on **BBC Breakfast** with coverage also in the [Sun](#), [Mirror](#), [Mail Online \(twice\)](#), [Express Online](#) and [BBC Online](#). (6-7 September)
 - 44.2. Cllr Izzi Seccombe featured on the front page of the [Sunday Express](#) with the LGA's call for pharmacies to play a bigger role in providing public health services. (16 October)
 - 44.3. LGA Senior Vice Chair Cllr Nick Forbes was interviewed on **BBC Radio 5 Live** about the LGA's press release warning that social care services that support elderly and disabled people are facing "an existential crisis" despite being as important to national wellbeing as the NHS. This was also reported on [Mail Online](#), [Guardian Online](#) and [Express Online](#). (2 November)
 - 44.4. Cllr Izzi Seccombe was interviewed by **Sky News Radio** and Cllr Jonathan McShane also appeared on **BBC Breakfast** and **BBC Radio 5 Live** about the LGA's [press release](#), warning that millions of GP visits are unnecessary and are for minor ailments where patients could instead be helped to treat themselves.

This was also reported across **BBC News** and on **BBC Radio 2**, **BBC Radio 4's Today programme**, **BBC Radio 5 Live**, **LBC**, **TalkSport**, **Sky News** and **ITV News** bulletins. The LGA's release also featured on [BBC Online](#), [Mail Online](#), [Times Online](#), [Independent Online](#) and in the [Guardian](#), **Sun** and **Sunday Telegraph**. (November 5)

- 44.5. The LGA's [response](#) to the Court of Appeal ruling that NHS England has the power to commission PrEP was reported in the [Mail](#) and on [BBC Online](#), [Sky News Online](#), [Mail Online](#), [i paper online](#), [Express Online](#), [Sun Online](#) and [Metro Online](#) and also on **BBC Radio 5 Live** news bulletins. (10-11 November)
- 44.6. Cllr Izzi Seccombe was interviewed prior to and following the Autumn Statement announcement on social care funding on **BBC News**, **BBC Radio 4's World at One** and **PM** programmes and on **BBC Radio 5 Live**. Cllr Seccombe also featured in the [FT](#), [Guardian](#) and on [Independent Online](#). (24-25 November)
- 44.7. Cllr Seccombe was interviewed on **BBC Radio 4's Today programme**, **BBC News channel**, **BBC Radio 5 Live** and **LBC** with the LGA's warnings that increasing the social care precept on council tax will not be enough to fill the adult social care funding gap. Cllr Seccombe also appeared across **BBC News** bulletins including on the **BBC One O'Clock News**. The LGA's lines were also reported in the [Observer](#) and [Sunday Express](#) as well as on [BBC Online](#), [ITV Online](#), [Telegraph Online](#), [Guardian Online \(twice\)](#), [Mail Online](#), [Mail Online](#) and [Mail Online](#) (three separate stories), [Mirror Online](#) and [Sun Online](#). (11-12 December)
- 44.8. LGA Deputy Chairman Cllr Peter Fleming featured on **Good Morning Britain** and **Channel 5 News** about the LGA's [press release](#) on how more than 40,000 children and young people a year are having teeth removed in hospital, mainly because of decay. This also featured on **Sky News**, **BBC Radio 5 Live** and **LBC**. CWB Vice Chair Cllr Richard Kemp was also interviewed live across **BBC local radio stations** and LGA Vice Chair Cllr Marianne Overton featured on **Talk Radio**. The [Guardian](#), [Guardian Online](#), [Telegraph](#), [Times](#), **i paper**, [Sun](#), [Mirror](#), [Express](#), [Mail](#), [Mail Online](#), [ITV Online](#) and [Good Morning Britain Online \(twice\)](#) also reported the LGA's lines. (11-12 January)
- 44.9. Community Wellbeing Board Chairman Cllr Izzi Seccombe took part in a **BBC Radio 5 Live** discussion on the social care crisis, and also featured on **BBC Radio 4's File on Four** programme about the financial pressures on councils to fund social care and the impact on the care provider market. Cllr Seccombe also took part in a live debate on the issue on **LBC**. (5-6 March)
- 44.10. Chairman Lord Porter was interviewed live on the **BBC News channel** and also appeared on **Sky News** with the LGA's response to the Spring Budget announcement on social care. Community Wellbeing Board Chairman Cllr Izzi Seccombe was also interviewed on **BBC Radio 5 Live** on the morning of the Budget and on [BBC Radio 4's The World Tonight](#) programme later the same day. The LGA's Budget submission lines prior to the announcement also ran on **BBC Online** and across **Sky News**, **ITV News**, **BBC Radio 2**, **BBC Radio 4** and **BBC Radio 5 Live** news bulletins. Following the Budget announcement, the LGA's response was reported in the **Telegraph**, **Express**, **Metro** and [BBC Online](#) as well

as being mentioned on the **BBC Daily Politics** programme and on **LBC, BBC Radio 2, BBC Radio 4 and BBC Radio 5 Live** news bulletins. (8-9 March).

CWB in Parliament

45. Senior LGA members have engaged ministers and parliamentarians to promote our policy priorities. Below is a summary of our parliamentary activity in 2016/17:

- 45.1. In a statement to the House of Commons in December 2016, Defence Secretary, Michael Fallon MP, presented the Government's armed forces covenant annual report. He praised the LGA's covenant toolkit for councils, compiled jointly with the Forces in Mind Trust.
- 45.2. Our toolkit received further praise by the Defence Committee in its 2017 report on the armed forces covenant, in which the Committee stated that the publication includes "some examples of outstanding action at the local level".
- 45.3. During Prime Minister's Questions in February 2017, Jeremy Corbyn MP, referenced an LGA media release in which our Chairman warned that rises in council tax permitted through use of the social care precept would be insufficient to adequately fund social care.
- 45.4. In March 2017, our Chairman spoke during the debate on the Chancellor's Budget statement. Lord Porter raised concerns the Budget did not include greater measures to facilitate local authority housebuilding, but acknowledged the announcement of £2 billion to alleviate the immediate pressures on social care.
- 45.5. While debating budgets for social care in Liverpool in March 2017, Labour's Steve Rotherham told MPs that he could not agree more with Lord Porter's assessment of social care services across local government. He said his Party was fully in agreement that services for the most vulnerable in our communities were at breaking point.

Committee inquiries

46. In 2016/17, we gave evidence to more than 40 parliamentary inquiries, encompassing a range of issues. Each separate inquiry covered policy areas of relevance to local government, and presented an opportunity to put forward councils' concerns and interests to parliamentarians. Our evidence to inquiries often forms part of the key recommendations to Government contained in the final committee reports. Key highlights include:

- 46.1. Our lobbying for the Government to urgently invest more money in social care throughout the year was reflected when the Prime Minister, Theresa May MP, appeared before the House of Commons Liaison Committee in December 2016. Particular highlights of the session included questioning on adult social care funding, and the LGA's key concerns were repeatedly raised by the Committee.
- 46.2. Both the LGA's Chief Executive, Mark Lloyd, and Deputy Chief Executive, Sarah Pickup, raised councils' serious concerns over their ability to fund social care when

they gave evidence to the Communities and Local Government Committee's inquiry into social care. Following publication of the inquiry report in March 2017, the Committee recommended an increase in immediate funding from the Government, and an urgent review into the long-term funding of the sector. MPs also called on the Government to work with the LGA.

- 46.3. Alongside our calls for extra funding to plug the gap in social care, we argued that councils should be able to allocate additional revenue raised from the transition to 100 per cent business rates retention to fund immediate shortfalls in social care. The Communities and Local Government Committee backed our call in its March 2017 report on social care.
- 46.4. Cllr Izzi Seccombe, Chairman of our Community Wellbeing Board, appeared before the Women and Equalities Committee. Cllr Seccombe reiterated the LGA's concerns about a lack of capacity in local government planning departments. The Committee shared our concerns in its report, and recommended that the Government work with councils on providing the specialist expertise necessary for the creation of an accessible and inclusive built environment.
- 46.5. As part of the Health Committee's inquiry into suicide prevention, Cllr Richard Kemp, Lead Member of our Community Wellbeing Board, gave evidence on behalf of the LGA in January 2017. The Committee's report emphasised the need for greater clarity over funding arrangements for mental health services, which we have been consistently calling for.
- 46.6. The LGA also gave [written evidence](#) to the Health Committee's inquiry in Brexit and Health and Social Care. In the submission, we reiterated the LGA's five priorities for Brexit: local government's position post-Brexit, EU funding, developing a new legal base for local government, community cohesion and place-based impact.
- 46.7. Cllr Izzi Seccombe gave oral evidence to the British-Irish Parliamentary Assembly Committee on the importance of taking action to combat childhood obesity. The report publication was delayed due to the announcement of the General Election.
- 46.8. Prior to the General Election being called, the Health Committee announced they intended to hold an inquiry into Sustainability and Transformation Plans. This was in response to the NHS England's Five Year Forward View Delivery Plan being published. Although the inquiry has been suspended due to the General Election – we will call for the Health Committee to consider holding an inquiry into STPs in the new parliamentary session.
- 46.9. In June 2017, Cllr Linda Thomas spoke at the NHS Confederation Conference on the importance of health and devolution.



Community Wellbeing Board

19 June 2017

Financial Implications

47. None.