

## **Community Wellbeing Board – from Cllr Izzi Seccombe OBE (Chair)**

### **Conferences, meetings and external events**

1. On 7 April, Cllr Linda Thomas spoke at an annual event in the North West on the state of the NHS and social care. Other speakers included Anita Charlesworth, director of research and economics at the Health Foundation, and Chris Hopson, chief executive of NHS Providers. In an event historically focussed on health, Cllr Thomas made an important contribution by providing the social care perspective, including how funding pressures on care and support are impacting across the whole system. Cllr Thomas set out the importance of social care in its own right, the scale of pressures facing the system and their consequences, and articulated the urgent need for reform to secure the short- and long-term security of social care. Cllr Thomas' remarks were very well received and delegates stated that it was very helpful to hear the local government perspective.
2. On 5 May, Cllr Doreen Huddart attended a Mental Health Workforce Roundtable to debate the pressures and needs for those working in this area.
3. On 15 June, Mayor Kate Allsop (Deputy Chair) spoke at an Age UK Influencing Conference, meeting with local Age UK organisations from across the country to discuss how local government and Age UK can work together to support the needs of older people.
4. Senior members of the CWB participated in the NHS Confederation's annual conference in Liverpool on 14 and 15 June. Cllr Richard Kemp (Deputy Chair) spoke at a popular session on the role of information technology in joining up services. Cllr Linda Thomas, (Vice Chair) took part in a panel discussion on the future of health devolution. She stressed the need for 'evolution not revolution' and that there was no single blueprint for health devolution. Building from the bottom up is the key to bringing the community with you on service transformation.
5. On 12 July, I attended the launch of 'Quality Matters'. Signed up by a range of national partners, it sets out what a range of organisations including the LGA can do to help champion a shared vision for high quality adult social care.

### **Board business**

6. The LGA gave written evidence to the House of Commons Communities and Local Government Committee's inquiry on housing for older people.

7. We also gave written evidence to the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Public Health's inquiry on managing demand in primary care.
8. The chair of the Resources Board and I wrote to the new social care and mental health parliamentary-under secretary, Jackie Doyle Price, and the Secretary of State for BEIS, Greg Clark, regarding the impact of the on-going legislative uncertainty around current and back-pay arrangements for sleep-in shifts.
9. Rachel Reeves MP spoke with members of the Community Wellbeing Board at the last meeting about the work of the Jo Cox Commission. This commission is carrying on the work of Jo Cox started on addressing loneliness. This has been a priority issue for the board for the year and we published a [report](#) on the issue in January 2016.
10. At our last two Board meetings (27 April and 19 June) Members have discussed the LGA's developing position on the future of adult social care and support. This has been in anticipation of an expected green paper, or proposals for consultation. Over the course of the two meetings, Members have heard from senior sector figures including: Richard Humphries, King's Fund, Glen Garrod, ADASS, Vicky McDermott, Care and Support Alliance and Sir Andrew Dilnot. Colleagues set out very clearly the extent of pressures facing social care and the need for urgent action to secure the short- and long-term security and sustainability of the system. The Board is continuing to develop its position in light of these discussions and national developments.

#### **Annual conference**

11. We launched the Board's report on mental health "[being mindful of mental health – the role of local government in mental health and wellbeing](#)" at annual conference, and it has been extremely well received. Many influential stakeholders and colleagues were seen thumbing through its pages.
12. To support the launch, we held a plenary that was chaired by my colleague from the Children and Young People's Board, Cllr Gillian Ford. Particularly moving was a presentation from a young person, Amanda, who has had lived experience of mental health problems as a child; and her perspective on what we as councils should be focusing on to help our young people. Sarah Norman, Chief Executive of Dudley Council gave a practical perspective on why economic growth needs good mental health, and Lord Victor Adebowale gave a rousing speech on the role of councils in the wider determinants of mental health.

13. I chaired a popular parallel plenary session on the urgent need to build a political consensus on agreeing a sustainable solution to funding adult social care. The session also considered the role of sustainability and transformation partnerships in achieving a sustainable health and care system. We heard from senior figures – Simon Stevens, Chief Executive of NHSE, Stephen Dorrell, Chair of the NHS Confederation, Clenton Farquarson, an expert by experience, and Margaret Wilcox, ADASS President in health and social care on the future holds, how we can build cross-party consensus for the way forward, and what the role is for STPs in addressing the adult social care challenges.
14. I chaired a workshop a well-attended workshop discussion on where public resources are most effectively invested in order to get the best possible health and wellbeing outcomes. We heard from three excellent speakers making a case for investing in their proposals – public health, adult social care and community support – which prompted much discussion from the audience.
15. I was also very pleased that Cllr David Simmonds, leader of the Conservative Group, gave the keynote address at a conference dinner hosted by the Citizen's Advice Bureau on mental health.

### **BCF Planning Requirements**

16. The LGA has withdrawn its support for the new BCF planning requirements after “late” changes included a much greater focus on delayed transfers of care from hospitals, along with tougher targets on meeting reductions. The new guidance also includes the threat of withholding money in areas considered “poor performing”.
17. The LGA will continue to push back strongly on the new guidance for 2017-19, which is a step back for the integration of health and care. The change to the new guidance, published on 3 July, applies to the £2 billion ‘improved Better Care Fund’ announced by the Government in the Spring Budget.
18. Councils have argued that they need “freedom and flexibility” over how the money is spent because local health and care system leaders are best able to direct the resources to meet local challenges. The LGA says that the annual funding gap facing social care will be £2.3 billion by 2020.
19. We have had assurance that no more than 10 per cent of funding would be affected by the performance review and that all the funding would stay with councils. But the principle is wrong and difficult in practical terms; councils have already agreed their plans locally and made commitments on how to spend this year's allocation.
20. The LGA is committed to working with government to find a way forward and resolve these issues that are in the best interests of local communities.

## Publications

21. On 5 July I launched the key findings of an LGA survey of councillors' views of Sustainability and Transformation Partnerships at a parallel plenary on finding a political solution for adult social care funding. The findings showed that the majority of respondents had not been involved in their STPs and did not have confidence that plans would achieve their objectives. (weblink: <https://www.local.gov.uk/councillors-perceptions-sustainability-and-transformation-partnerships-summary-key-survey-findings> )
22. On 23 June I launched the publication of a report for local authorities, local Defence Medical Services and those supporting the health needs of the armed forces community in England to help support and strengthen local relationships to meet the public health needs of armed forces populations, called meeting the [public health needs of the armed forces](#).
23. On 13 June I launched the publication '[A breath of fresh air: smokefree workplaces 10 years on](#)'. This June marked the 10th anniversary of the ban on smoking in public places. This shows what can happen when councils collectively take on a significant issue and what councils can do with their public health powers.

## Press Releases and Statements

24. I have recently made public statements on [new parents needing mental health support before leaving hospital](#), [responding to the CQC report on adult social care](#), [a lack of confidence in STPs](#), [responding to government rules around social care funding](#), [the 10 year anniversary of smoke free laws](#), [the ADASS budget survey in 2017](#), [the Reform report on adult social care](#), [on the new smoking figures published by NHS digital](#) as well as responses to the Queen's Speech announcements on [social care proposals](#) and [mental health reform](#).
25. Cllr Linda Thomas has also made public statements on the [King's Fund report on HIV](#), [responding to latest delayed discharges](#), [the Independent Age report on care homes](#), [Institute of Fiscal Studies research on social care spending](#), [the new House of Lords Select Committee report on sustainability of the NHS](#), [the NHS Delivery Plan](#), [Government rules over how to spend extra £2 billion social care funding](#) and [the BMJ report on public health budgets](#).

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