

## Note of last Councillors' Forum meeting

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**Title:** Councillors' Forum  
**Date:** Thursday 2 March 2017  
**Venue:** 5th Floor Conference Suite, 5th Floor (South side), Layden House, 76-86 Turnmill Street,. London, EC1M 5LG

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### Attendance

An attendance list is attached as [Appendix A](#) to this note.

### Item Decisions and actions

#### 1 Welcome, Apologies and Declarations of Interest

The Chairman welcomed members to the meeting.

#### 2 The Health and Social Care Agenda for Local Government

The Chairman welcomed the Minister to the meeting.

Advising members that he would focus on Adult Social Care, the Minister discussed demographics and the implications of this on care, emphasising that local and central government would increasingly need to work together on this issue. Whilst 81% of councils believed that the implementation of the Care Act had been positive, 38% of councils were not confident they had enough money to implement the act over the next year. This would increase to 73% the following year. Though the money for social care had been reduced during the last Parliament, he advised members that an increase was now being discussed.

The Minister acknowledged that there was a challenge to government to ensure that the organisations responsible for providing care were performing well. Government could improve integration amongst organisations and increase the sharing of best practise. He emphasised the importance of recognising care as a high status career with more training and apprenticeships available, and clearer legislation in place to enable individuals to obtain leave for care purposes. The Carers' Strategy would be published soon to assist informal carers, whilst the Care Act would ensure there was a continuing assessment of carers' needs.

On STPs, he advised members that the 44 operating would be reviewed shortly.

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

- Members asked if extra resources would be linked to the inspection process as this would increase costs for local authorities.

- Members asked what the government's contingency plans were if a major national care provider went out of business. They were informed that the Care Quality Commission monitored the largest care providers and would work with local authorities to ensure that there were appropriate safety nets in place.
- Members raised concerns on social care provision within rural communities and the cost of delivering this.
- There were concerns that the status of carer was affected by the role being paid only the national minimum wage. It would be difficult to increase the status of the role unless the salary increased.
- Concerns were raised around delivering STPs with a lack of capital and in finding a way to grow capacity to provide care to people in their own homes.
- There was a brief discussion on finding carers if workers in the profession left following Brexit.
- There were concerns that some local authorities were negotiating with more than one STPs, due to the demographics in their area.
- There was a discussion around the increasing number of health issues in older people (particularly those with long term conditions). It would become more usual for older people to live with multiple conditions, since 80% of the population were now living over the age of 85 years.
- Members raised the issue of funding of social care. They were informed that the Chancellor was likely to address this in the forthcoming spring budget.

The Chairman thanked the Minister and the discussion was drawn to a close.

### **3 Chairman's Update**

**Decision:**

1. Members **noted** the report.

### **4 LGA Boards Chair's Reports**

**Decision:**

1. Members **noted** the reports.

## 5 Digest of the last meeting held on 19 January 2017

### Decision:

1. The notes of the last meeting were **agreed** as an accurate summary of the discussion.

### Appendix A -Attendance

| Position/Role | Councillor                   | Authority                               |
|---------------|------------------------------|---|
| Chairman      | Lord Gary Porter CBE         | South Holland District Council          |
| Vice-Chairman | Cllr Marianne Overton<br>MBE | Lincolnshire County Council             |
| Members       | Cllr Ian Stephens            | Isle of Wight Council                   |
|               | Cllr David Hodge CBE         | Surrey County Council                   |
|               | Cllr David Simmonds CBE      | Hillingdon London Borough Council       |
|               | Cllr Roger Phillips          | Herefordshire Council                   |
|               | Cllr Neil Clarke MBE         | Rushcliffe Borough Council              |
|               | Cllr Peter Fleming OBE       | Sevenoaks District Council              |
|               | Cllr Colin Noble             | Suffolk County Council                  |
|               | Cllr Izzi Seccombe           | Warwickshire County Council             |
|               | Cllr Morris Bright           | Hertsmere Borough Council               |
|               | Cllr Nigel Ashton            | North Somerset Council                  |
|               | Cllr Peter Golds             | Tower Hamlets Council                   |
|               | Cllr John Fuller             | South Norfolk District Council          |
|               | Cllr Glen Sanderson JP       | Northumberland Council                  |
|               | Cllr John Hart               | Devon County Council                    |
|               | Mayor Sir Steve Bullock      | Lewisham London Borough Council         |
|               | Cllr Simon Henig CBE         | Durham County Council                   |
|               | Cllr Simon Blackburn         | Blackpool Council                       |
|               | Cllr Sue Murphy CBE          | Manchester City Council                 |
|               | Cllr Judi Billing MBE        | North Hertfordshire District Council    |
|               | Cllr James Dawson            | Erewash Borough Council                 |
|               | Cllr Warren Morgan           | Brighton & Hove City Council            |
|               | Cllr Kate Haigh              | Gloucester City Council                 |
|               | Cllr Timothy Swift           | Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council |
|               | Sir Stephen Houghton<br>CBE  | Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council   |
|               | Cllr Helen Holland           | Bristol City Council                    |
|               | Cllr Richard Watts           | Islington Council                       |
|               | Sir Richard Leese CBE        | Manchester City Council                 |
|               | Cllr Linda Thomas            | Bolton Council                          |
|               | Cllr David Acton             | Trafford Metropolitan Borough Council   |
|               | Cllr Roger Lawrence          | Wolverhampton City Council              |
|               | Cllr Tudor Evans OBE         | Plymouth City Council                   |
|               | Cllr Alan Rhodes             | Nottinghamshire County Council          |
|               | Cllr Peter Reeve MBE         | Cambridgeshire County Council           |
|               | Cllr Bob Dutton OBE          | Wrexham County Borough Council          |
|               | Cllr Robert Bucke            | Tendring District Council               |

Cllr Alan Seldon  
Cllr Phelim MacCafferty  
Cllr Jeremy Hilton  
Cllr Claire Hudson  
Cllr Shabir Pandor

Herefordshire Council  
Brighton & Hove City Council  
Gloucestershire County Council  
Mendip District Council  
Kirklees Council

Apologies

Cllr Martin Tett  
Cllr Paul Carter CBE  
Cllr Keith Glazier  
Cllr Philip Atkins OBE  
Cllr Kay Hammond  
Cllr Stephen Parnaby  
OBE  
Cllr Roy Perry  
Cllr Teresa O'Neill OBE  
Cllr Anne Western CBE  
Cllr Paul Watson  
Cllr John Merry CBE  
Cllr Sue Woodward  
Cllr Judith Blake  
Cllr Anthony Hunt  
Cllr Andy Moorhead

Buckinghamshire County Council  
Kent County Council  
East Sussex County Council  
Staffordshire County Council  
Surrey County Council  
East Riding of Yorkshire Council  
  
Hampshire County Council  
Bexley Council  
Derbyshire County Council  
Sunderland City Council  
Salford City Council  
Staffordshire County Council  
Leeds City Council  
Torfaen County Borough Council  
Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council