

Community Wellbeing Board - End of Year Report

Background

1. The Community Wellbeing Board (CWB) has responsibility for the Local Government Association's (LGA) activity in the areas of the wellbeing of adults. The LGA has continued to promote the leadership role of local government in health and care.

Achievements

2. Securing additional funding to tackle the adult social care funding gap remained a key focus of the LGA's work over the last year. As a result of this work, and the work of others in the sector, we have secured additional funding and flexibility for adult social care.
3. We successfully argued for a reduction in the number of national conditions attached to the Better Care Fund (BCF) funding and in pressing for improved BCF resources to come directly to local government rather than through Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs).
4. 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, which are now a core part of our support offer on integration.
5. In February 2017 lead members of the CWB and Children and Young People Board (CYP) hosted a meeting on children and young people's mental health with a range of different stakeholders. Greater local accountability on spend and quality of services and building capacity and capability of providers emerged as two key themes.
6. The LGA's joint report with Forces in Mind Trust, "Our community, our covenant", setting out the main challenges and opportunities for local government in supporting the armed forces community was extremely well received. Our toolkit received further praise in the Defence Committee report on the armed forces covenant.

LGA Asylum, Refugee and Migration Task Group

7. The LGA Asylum, Refugee and Migration Task Group, Chaired by Cllr David Simmonds, reports to both the CWB and CYP Board. This has included a meeting and an event with the Immigration Minister, and resources to support councils.

Public Health Transformation and Health Protection

8. 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 (PrEP). NHS England said the onus fell on councils to fund PrEP. The LGA branded this as a "selective and untenable" reading of the Public Health Regulations 2013.

9. 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.

Care and Health Improvement Programme

10. Working with the Care and Health Improvement Programme (CHIP), 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.

Adult social care funding

11. Securing additional funding to tackle the adult social care funding gap has remained a key focus. As a result of this work, and the work of others in the sector, we have secured the following for adult social care:
 - 11.1. Greater flexibility with the social care council tax precept (provisional local government finance settlement).
 - 11.2. The £241 million Adult Social Care Support Grant (provisional local government finance settlement).
 - 11.3. An additional £2 billion for adult social care through the improved Better Care Fund (2017 Spring Budget).

The Better Care Fund (BCF)

12. We successfully argued for a reduction in the number of national conditions attached to the BCF funding. We were also successful in pressing for improved BCF resources to come directly to local government rather than being channelled through CCGs.

The future vision of health and social care systems

13. We have continued to promote a sector-led approach to integration. We have secured 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 BCF. We also worked with the 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.

Sustainability and Transformation Partnerships

14. 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

partnerships. In September 2016 we produced a joint briefing for the party conference season with the NHS Confederation, NHS Clinical Commissioners and NHS Providers.

15. We have recently conducted a survey of senior elected members' views of STPs. A summary of the key findings will be launched at the LGA annual conference in July.

Vulnerable People

16. Mental health has been a high profile issue, with the focus on increasing awareness of the key role of local government in mental wellbeing and in direct mental health support. This culminated in the launch of the LGA report "Being mindful of mental health – the role of local government in mental health and wellbeing".
17. We have been lobbying on the proposed application of the Local Housing Allowance (LHA) cap to supported housing, and associated local government top-up fund. We held a successful engagement event with over 60 councils and the LGA response to the consultation was well-received. Cllr Seccombe chaired the DCLG/DWP task and finish group.

Programme of work and priorities 2017/18

18. A draft work programme for 2017/18 will be presented at the Board's September meeting. The proposed priorities for the Board for 2017/18 are:
 - 18.1. Continue to share good practice to support council's in the delivery of the Healthy Child Programme and promote the role of Councils in supporting the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people.
 - 18.2. To continue advancing the argument for additional funding for adult social care.
 - 18.3. To continue developmental work on a new 'social movement for social care'.
 - 18.4. To engage closely with the Government on its proposals for the future of adult social care funding and reform.
 - 18.5. To help build cross-party consensus on solutions for the longer-term.
 - 18.6. To influence the Mental Health Bill and any other associated legislative change.
 - 18.7. Raising awareness of the importance of end of life care and planning for the challenges of an ageing population.
 - 18.8. Emphasising the importance of support to working age adults with social care needs, particularly for autism, mental health and learning disabilities, within any Government proposals for the future of adult social care funding and reform.
 - 18.9. The proposed reform of funding for supported housing, housing for older people, and the important role of housing and having a home in health and wellbeing.
 - 18.10. The Community Wellbeing Board will continue to champion the Armed Forces Covenant and will work with the Ministry of Defence and the Cabinet Office on the support councils give to the armed forces community and veterans.

Financial Implications

1. All work programmes are met from existing budgets and resources.