

8 March 2018

Minister of State for Care, Caroline Dinenage MP

Purpose

For information.

Summary

This paper provides background to the LGA Councillors' Forum discussion with the Minister of State for Care, Caroline Dinenage MP.

Recommendation

That the LGA Councillors' Forum notes this report as background.

Action

As directed by Members.

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Minister of State for Care, Caroline Dinenage MP

Background

1. The June 2017 Queen's Speech announced that the Government would "work to improve social care" and "bring forward proposals for consultation". The Cabinet Office assumed the coordinating role for this work to ensure a cross-Government approach.
2. In November last year, the Government announced its intention to publish a green paper on care and support reform "by summer recess 2018". Following the January reshuffle, it was announced that the newly renamed Department of Health and Social Care would assume oversight of the green paper process.
3. Caroline Dinenage MP was appointed as Minister of State for Care at the Department of Health and Social Care on 9 January.
4. There has not been a great deal of publicly confirmed detail on the green paper. What we know from Government announcements, parliamentary debate and discussions with officials is that:
 - 4.1 The green paper will focus on reform of care and support for older people only.
 - 4.2 A separate 'parallel process' of work to consider the needs of working age disabled adults is also being taken forward jointly between the Department of Health and Social Care and the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.
 - 4.3 The previously planned Carers Strategy is now not going ahead; the issues it would have addressed will be wrapped up in the green paper.
5. Ahead of the green paper, the Government is engaging with various parts of the wider care and support sector. The LGA, along with the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services, will meet with the new Minister in the coming weeks to discuss local government's hopes for the green paper.
6. The Minister's attendance at the LGA Councillors' Forum is another important opportunity for Members to learn more about the Government's plans for the green paper, and to share local government's views.

Ministerial biography

7. Caroline Dinenage MP was appointed Minister of State for Care on 9 January. Caroline was Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department for Work and Pensions from June 2017 to January 2018. She was Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Women, Equalities and Early Years at the Department for Education from July 2016 to June 2017. She was elected Conservative MP for Gosport, Stubbington, Lee-on-the-Solent and Hill Head in 2010. Between 1998 and 2003 Caroline served on Winchester City Council.
8. The Minister's responsibilities include:
 - 8.1 Overseeing all aspects of adult social care, including dementia, loneliness and disabilities.

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8.2 Hospital care quality and patient safety.

8.3 Community health services.

8.4 Health and social care integration.

Financial implications

9. Work on this policy agenda will be done within existing policy budgets.

Implications for Wales

10. The scope of the forthcoming green paper is England only.

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