

Community Wellbeing Board – End of Year Report

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, chaired by Cllr David Simmonds, reports to both the Children and Young People Board and the Community Wellbeing Board. The Task Group met with the Immigration Ministers in October 2017 and May 2018. Resources and information to support councils were provided on the LGA [website](#), and links made with related issues such as modern slavery, cohesion and integration.

Leadership development

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, an induction event and ongoing updates of the online '[must knows](#)' for new members. The LGA continued to work closely with ADASS on supporting councils on high profile issues such as [adult safeguarding](#) and [Transforming Care](#). 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, Jackie Doyle-Price MP.

Digital and data

4. Working with the Care and Health Improvement Programme, Cllr Izzi Seccombe OBE and Dr Adrian Hayter Co-Chaired a national digital summit in March with NHS Clinical Commissioners and support of NHS Providers. Seventy six delegates attended 'Delivering Health and Care in a Digital Age', including representatives from 31 councils. Lord O'Shaughnessy, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Health, gave the keynote speech.

Vulnerable People

5. Successfully argued against the Government's proposal to apply the Local Housing Allowance to supported housing. This would have failed to take account of the higher costs of this type of housing and posed an unacceptable financial risk to councils. Following a further consultation, the Government plans to publish a revised way forward this summer.
6. Successfully applied to intervene in the Royal Mencap Society's Court of Appeal case on sleep-in payments. Our intervention brought to the Court's attention the implications for the wider social care system if historic, current and future sleep-in payments remain an unfunded cost pressure. We await the judges' decision.

7. Submitted proposals to the Independent Review of the Mental Health Act that highlighted the role of local government in promoting mental wellbeing and the importance of prevention alongside legislative reform. A number of our points were reflected in the interim report that was published in June 2018 and the LGA is represented on the Advisory Panel. The final report will be published in November.
8. Following our calls for greater support for the voluntary and community sector with tackling loneliness, which can help to reduce demand on health and social care services, the Prime Minister announced a new £20 million fund to help strengthen local loneliness initiatives.
9. Secured a more person-focussed approach to Government policies on dementia, autism and people with learning disabilities through our engagement on national steering boards and consultation responses, supported by practical guidance and good practice for councils.

Adult Social Care

10. Arguing for additional funding to tackle the immediate 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, comprehensive media work and other lobbying and influencing work, the LGA has been a leading voice in highlighting the social care funding crisis and the need for additional resources. As a result of this work, and the work of others in the sector, we secured an additional £150 million for the sector in 2018/19 through the Adult Social Care Support Grant. Clearly against the scale of the challenge facing the sector, this does little to ease the pressure and we continue to highlight the consequences of inaction for the short-term. However, there is now clear and unanimous recognition from across the sector, including from Government, that adult social care requires more funding both for the short- and long-term. This is powerfully illustrated in, for instance, the recent final report of the joint Health and Social Care and Housing, Communities and Local Government Select Committee report on long-term social care funding.
11. As part of our work on the immediate funding situation, we produced our annual 'State of the Nation' report on social care funding. This included a series of powerful stories from individuals who use (or have used) social care and support along with a frank critique of how the £2 billion for social care announced in the 2017 Spring Budget was unhelpfully influenced at the national level to be directed more at alleviating pressures on the NHS. This included council case studies showcasing local government's efforts in reducing delayed transfers of care. At the time of writing, the publication has been downloaded 1,366 times.
12. Much of our attention has also turned towards the Government's care and support green paper and we have expressed frustration and disappointment at its further delay. As part of our efforts to influence the green paper, the LGA has produced a series of 'think pieces' exploring the key questions at the heart of the debate about the future of adult social care. These have involved articles from more than 20 sector experts including Barbara Keeley MP, Norman Lamb MP, Baroness Eaton, David Behan, Prof Jon Glasby, Anita Charlesworth, Duncan Selbie and Jon Rouse. All the publications have been published on a dedicated hub on our website. At the time of writing, the think pieces have

been viewed 7,204 times on our website. Through linked promotional messages on Twitter we have reached 120,500 people.

13. As part of our work to influence the green paper, we also held a very successful one day conference on the future of care in May. This was a sold out event with a range of high profile speakers including Andrea Sutcliffe, Stephen Dorrell and Clive Betts MP.

Public Health Transformation and Health Protection

14. 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 continued to argue that reductions in councils' public health grants of more than £600 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.
15. Air quality went to the top of the public health agenda and became the focus of intense media and government 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.
16. Childhood obesity continued to be a priority for central and local government. In March, the LGA released previously un-published evidence on the number of severely obese children. We reported data from the National Child Measurement Programme that showed 22,000 children leave primary school severely obese. We are pleased that the latest Child Obesity Plan includes clearer food labelling, which the LGA has long-called for, plus measures to introduce mandatory calorie information on menus, improve food standards and physical activity in schools and the option to introduce further fiscal measures. A specific "Trailblazer" programme to help to support councils develop their existing powers is also good news. The government have set a bold ambition to halve childhood obesity by 2030 but we remain determined to work with government on introducing further measures to address this crisis that are not included in the plan, including giving councils powers to ban junk food advertising near schools and the need for specialised support for obese and seriously obese children. In June we published ***Healthy Weight, Healthy Futures***, 21 case studies showcasing local action to tackle child obesity.
17. In March we held our sixth 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.

18. In the same month we published ***Public health transformation five years*** on 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.
19. In February, the LGA published two major reports, ***A Matter of Justice: A local government guide to tackling health inequalities*** and ***Adding years to life, life to those years: a guide to healthy and productive ageing***
20. In November we published the results of the Public Health Perception Survey. Most respondents (96 per cent) agreed or tended to agree that their council has a clear vision to improve public health for the local population, and the commissioning of public health services is well supported by their council. Similar proportions agreed or tended to agree that their council is aware of its issues and challenges with regard to public health, and knows how to address these issues (93 per cent) and that their council has delivered better public health outcomes for the local population (92 per cent). The top priorities for public health in their local area among respondents are giving children the best start in life (88 per cent), healthy ageing (67 per cent) and strong communities, wellbeing and resilience (56 per cent).
21. In October we published ***Using digital technology to improve the public's health: a guide for local authorities***

Children and young people's health

22. In December 2017 we published a good practice report called "Working with schools to improve the health of school aged children".
23. In the same month we published a number of case on councils who have brought health visiting and school nursing services in-house. The case studies aimed to share learning by looking at the questions and challenges raised by the process which includes regulatory, human resource, legislative issues.
24. In January 2018 the LGA published a good practice report called "Meeting the health and well-being needs of young carers".
25. In February 2018 we launched the Bright Futures children and young people's mental health campaign alongside the Children and Young People Board. Highlighting members concerns about the slow pace of the reform and the lack of national accountability for the £1.4 billion funding. In the campaign we call for greater accountability, mandatory independent school based counselling in every secondary school, improved standards and sustainable funding. Our call for independent counselling has been supported by the Association of Childrens Services, The Children's Society, the British Association for Counselling and Pyschotherapy.

26. In February 2018 we also responded to the Department for Education consultation on 'Changes to the teaching of Sex and Relationship Education and PSHE'. We raised members concerns about online, social media and digital safety, the opportunities to educated children and young people about their mental health and wellbeing as well as sexual health and called for PSHE to be made compulsory in all schools with the right for parents to withdraw.
27. In the same month we published a short guide to children and young people's mental health, as part of the 'Don't be left in the dark' series.
28. In February 2018 we also published local authority case studies on 'Lessons in local leadership and accountability for children's mental health services'. To support councils who may be experiencing similar challenges.
29. In March 2018 we re-published the Resources for councillors on supporting Relationship Sex Education (RSE) with updated statutory information about the move to statutory status of RSE in 2019 in all secondary schools.
30. In the same month we responded to the Government's Green Paper on "Transforming Children and young people's mental health provision". Whilst we welcomed its focus on earlier intervention and an emphasis on a whole school approach we highlighted members' concerns about the lack of recognition of local government's key role in the reforms, its overall lack of ambition and unaddressed capacity issues. In addition to raising our wider campaign calls.
31. In April 2018 we launched the LGA's children and young people's mental health peer learning programme. The programme offers bespoke support to eight councils and matches participating councils who are struggling with an aspect of their mental health provision with a council who has overcome a similar challenge. A report sharing learning will be published once the programme finishes in July.
32. In May 2018 we hosted an exhibition in parliament of our Bright Futures campaign with the Children and Young People Board. The exhibition showcased some of the incredible early intervention and prevention work which councils across the country are doing to support children and young people, including work to help those struggling with mental health issues and children's social care.
33. In the same month we re-published the publication "Good progress but more to do: teenage pregnancy and young parents" it featured new data, case studies and practical information to help councils sustain the good work and tackle health inequalities.
34. In June 2018 the LGA held a Roundtable event with the Children and Young People's Mental Health Coalition to identify joint strategic priorities and plan future activity that will continue to raise our members concerns about the reforms.

Future of health and social care integration

35. Since the launch of our vision for integration in June 2016, developed in partnership with NHS Confederation, NHS Clinical Commissioners and the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services, we have been effective in promoting a shared understanding that integration is not an end in itself but a means to improving health and wellbeing

outcomes, improving care and support and represents best use of resources. Furthermore, our vision of a place based, person-centred approach that invests in joined up community based services that promote health, wellbeing and independence has gained support and traction amongst key policy makers in Government and national organisations such as NHS England.

36. The approach and principles of Stepping up to Place the also forms that basis of our own leadership development offer delivered through the system leadership strand of the Care and Health Improvement Programme CHIP. We have also worked with NHS Confederation, NHS Providers, NHS England and other national organisations to ensure that the sector led approach and the underpinning principles of our vision is embedded in their leadership development and support programmes.

Better Care Fund

37. We have continued to vigorously represent the views of councils to the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC), the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) and NHS England in our discussions regarding the development of the Better Care Fund. However it is fair to say that we have had limited success in influencing the Better Care Fund. On the positive side, we were successful in reducing the national conditions for BCF from eight to four. The LGA has been strongly supportive of the intentions of the BCF, but have become increasingly concerned over the level of central direction, the reporting and bureaucratic burden and the disproportionate emphasis on support to the acute sector. Despite our strong representations we were unable to prevent the inclusion of a new national target on delayed transfers of care (DTC) in the BCF Planning Requirements for 2017/19, which were published in July 2017. This new condition imposed a new and unanticipated national target for DTC on local areas with the threat that allocations would be reviewed or national directions imposed in areas at risk of failing to achieve the target. The LGA did not support this move and as a result withdrew our support from the Planning Requirements.
38. Despite the withdrawal of our support for the BCF Planning Requirements, we continue to support local areas through the CHIP and to work with DH, MHCLG and NHS England to ensure that BCF continues to protect funds for adult social care and acts as a driver for community-based joined up care and support to keep people well and independent. As a result of effective local partnerships performance on DTC has greatly improved. The latest DTC figures show that councils have reduced the average number of delayed transfer of care days attributed to social care since July 2017 by 33 per cent while delays due to the NHS have fallen by 8 per cent.

Sustainability and Transformation Partnerships and Integrated Care Systems

39. The LGA survey of councillors' perceptions of and involvement in STPs published in July 2017 provided evidence that councillors had very little engagement with STPs. On the basis of the survey findings, we have continued to work with local and national partners to ensure that STPs have meaningfully engage with councils and their communities in the development and implementation of strategic plans to improve health and wellbeing outcomes, improve quality and safety of health and care services and ensure the financial sustainability of health and care systems. We have worked with NHS Confederation, NHS England and other national partners to develop a system leadership

offer to improve communication between political and clinical leadership at strategic level. This is now a central component of our support and development offer.

CWB Events and Publications

40. There were **322** national newspaper, online and broadcast CWB mentions **during the period August 2017-June 28 2018**
41. CWB Board Chair Cllr Izzi Seccombe was interviewed or mentioned in national print, online and broadcast media **251** times during this period.
42. CWB Board members Cllrs Linda Thomas and Cllr Jonathan McShane were also mentioned **12** times collectively in national print, online and broadcast media.

Highlights of the media coverage included:

43. Community Wellbeing Chairman Cllr Izzi Seccombe was interviewed on **BBC Radio 5 Live** and **Sky News Radio** and CWB member Cllr Jonathan McShane also appeared on **Good Morning Britain** and **Sky News**, about the LGA's press release warning of a "tipping point" in sexual health services. This was also reported on **BBC Radio 2, BBC Radio 4 Today, LBC, Talk Radio** and **TalkSport news bulletins** and in the **Guardian, Sun** and on **BBC Online, ITV Online, Independent Online** and **Mirror Online**. (3 August)
44. The **Mail, Mirror Online** and **Independent Online** covered the LGA's response to a report by the Care and Support Alliance which found that one in four care workers say cuts are making the service they provide no longer "fair" or "safe". (20 September)
45. Community Wellbeing Board Chairman Cllr Izzi Seccombe was interviewed live on **BBC Radio 4's Today programme** and also featured on **BBC Radio 5 Live's Wake-Up to Money programme** with the LGA's response to the Competition and Markets Authority's review of the care home sector, which was also reported on **BBC Online**. (November 2017)
46. Chairman Lord Porter was interviewed live on the **BBC News channel** about the significance for local government of the expansion of the Department for Health to include Social Care, and the need to ensure adult social care is properly funded. Lord Porter's comments were also broadcast on **BBC Radio 4** news bulletins and on **local BBC radio stations** across the country. (9-10 January)
47. LGA Deputy Chairman Cllr Peter Fleming was interviewed live on the **BBC News channel** and also appeared on **Sky News** and **ITV News** about the LGA's press release revealing that there were 170 operations a day to remove teeth in under-18s last year and call for urgent action to tackle sugar consumption. This was also reported separately on **BBC Breakfast, BBC News channel, LBC, Sky News Radio, Sky News Online, BBC Online, Independent, i paper, Express, Mail, Mirror, Telegraph, Guardian, Times, Sun, ITV Online** and **LBC Online**. (13 January)
48. The **Independent, Guardian Online, Mail Online** and **Express Online** reported the LGA's statement in response to a report by the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Hunger, about malnutrition in older people. The APPG claimed that more than one million older

people are at risk of “withering away in their own homes” as a result of malnutrition caused by social isolation and cuts to public services. (23 January)

49. The **Express** and **BBC Online**, **Mail Online** and **i paper online** reported the LGA's response to a National Audit Office report, which said the Department of Health and Social Care is not doing enough to support a sustainable social care workforce. (8 February)
50. Community Wellbeing Board Chairman Cllr Izzi Seccombe was interviewed on **LBC** and **BBC Radio 5 Live** and LGA Vice Chairman Cllr David Simmonds appeared on **BBC Breakfast** and **Sky News** about the LGA's press release, warning that the number of hospital admissions due to an older person falling is set to rise to nearly 1,000 a day by the end of the decade and the need for greater investment in cost-effective prevention work to help reduce the risk of falls. This was also reported in the **Telegraph**, **Independent** and **Mirror** and also on **LBC**, **BBC Radio 2**, **BBC Radio 4** and **BBC Radio 5 Live** news bulletins. (17 March)
51. The LGA's press release, calling on extra funding for councils to build on prevention work to tackle loneliness which has saved millions of pounds and reduced emergency hospital admissions, was reported in the **Telegraph**, **Sun**, **Mirror** and **Express** (9 June)
52. Community Wellbeing Board Chairman Cllr Izzi Seccombe featured in the **Express**, **Mirror** and **Guardian Online** with the LGA's response to the annual budget survey by the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS) which showed adult social care services are on the verge of collapse in some areas of England.
53. LGA Vice Chairman Cllr David Simmonds was interviewed live on the **BBC News channel** and also featured on **BBC Radio 2** news bulletins ahead of a speech by Theresa May announcing an extra £20 billion funding boost for the NHS in England and the need for an equivalent funding settlement for adult social care. This was also reported on **Sky News**, with Community Wellbeing Board Chairman Cllr Izzi Seccombe also featuring on **BBC Online** and the **Guardian**. The **Independent** and **i paper** also featured the LGA's response to reports that there will be no large cash injection to tackle the care crisis until the forthcoming spending review due in 2020. (17 – 18 June)

CWB in Parliament

54. Senior LGA members have engaged ministers and parliamentarians to promote our policy priorities. Below is a summary of our parliamentary activity in 2017/18:
 - 54.1. In January 2018, Lord Porter spoke during the debate on the NHS plans and the delivery of services over the winter period. In his speech, Lord Porter called for the adequate funding for social care and highlighted how without a sustainable adult social care system there could not be a sustainable NHS.
 - 54.2. In a debate on health and social care, Labour Peer Baroness Wheeler quoted from our briefing to reiterate that delayed transfers are a symptom, not the cause, of pressures on the NHS and to call for more investment in prevention and community services.

- 54.3. Crossbench Peer Baroness Greengross spoke in a debate on care for older people in September 2017, highlighting the consequence of long-term under funding of adult social care.
- 54.4. In February 2018 the Housing, Communities and Local Government Committee published the report following their inquiry into the housing for older people. The inquiry examined whether the housing available to older people was sufficient and suitable to their needs, and also took into account the pressures on health and social care. The report itself supported our call for a national focus on providing more housing for older people, and made helpful points about joining up with the Social Care Green Paper.

Financial Implications

55. None.