

26 March 2020

## **Update on Other Board Business**

### **Purpose of report**

For information and comment.

### **Summary**

Members to note the following updates:

### **Recommendations**

Members of the Community Wellbeing Board are asked to:

1. **Provide oral updates** on any other outside bodies / external meetings they may have attended on behalf of the Community Wellbeing Board since the last meeting; and
2. **Note** the updates contained in the report.

### **Action**

As directed by members.

**Contact officer:** Mark Norris  
**Position:** Principle Policy Adviser  
**Phone no:** 020 7664 3241  
**Email:** [mark.norris@local.gov.uk](mailto:mark.norris@local.gov.uk)

## **Update on Other Board Business**

### **Future of adult social care**

1. On 6 March we launched a new publication, *Towards change, towards hope*, on the future of care and support as part of our wider green paper work, *The lives we want to lead*. The publication calls for a change in how we talk about social care, sets out revised figures on the short- and medium-term funding gap (£810 million in 2020/21 and £3.9 billion in 2024/25), calls for a much greater focus on prevention and wellbeing, proposes ways in which the NHS can support such a move, and sets out some principles that should underpin decision-making on reforms for how social care is paid for and funded. The publication has been very well received amongst partners and on social media – particularly by those organisations representing people who use care services and who are calling for a more positive vision for social care. They have praised the LGA’s “leadership” of the debate and encouraged other organisations to follow our lead. Figures from 13 March show that the publication has been downloaded more than 450 times and has reached more than 14,500 people on Twitter alone. Given the enormous and understandable attention on Covid19, these are positive figures.
2. On the same day that our new publication launched, the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care posted a public letter on social media to all parliamentarians requesting views and opinions on reforming social care to commence a process of cross-party working. The letter state that ‘structured talks’ would then be held in May. In our response to the 2020 Budget we welcomed the Secretary of State’s letter and set out our eagerness to be part of building cross-party consensus. The timescale for structured talks is now obviously subject to change given the priority of responding to Covid19.

### **Suicide Prevention**

3. The Association of Directors of Public Health (ADPH), LGA, Public Health England (PHE) and the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) have worked together to develop a public mental health support offer, starting with suicide prevention from September 2019 to March 2020. The SLI programme is delivered in partnership by ADPH and LGA and is funded by £600,000 from DHSC.
4. Despite a delay with DHSC confirming funding, we are on course to achieve the year 1 deliverables, and have received positive feedback from councils on all elements of the programme:
  - 4.1. National: a series of tools, products and events to provide wider and easy access to the good practice and learning. This includes new case studies on aspects of suicide prevention that councils identified as areas for further support which will shortly be available on the LGA’s website.
  - 4.2. Regional: a grant to support to build capacity for SLI activity that is targeting a larger number of local authorities who could further strengthen an already solid approach to suicide prevention with less intensive support
  - 4.3. Local: bespoke expert support that is helping a relatively small of number local authorities identifying as facing delivery challenges around suicide prevention.

5. Subject to DHSC confirmation, a similar amount of funding will be available in 2020/21. In line with Lead Members' steer, we are proposing year 2 further develops and allows more councils to benefit from the types of activity we delivered this year. In particular, further funding for the regions to build on and spread existing SLI activity and sustain improvement in the medium term, and extending the bespoke support offer in response to demand from councils and highly positive feedback in year 1.
6. There remains merit in moving upstream to public mental health SLI offer at the first given opportunity, and therefore it is proposed year 2 should include scoping a public mental health SLI offer in depth, with the timescales allowing ample opportunity to do so thoroughly. In year 3 and beyond, the SLI activity will broaden out to public mental health.

#### **Overnight sleep-in shifts in social care**

7. Members are aware that we intervened on behalf of councils in an ongoing case which centres on the issue of whether sleep-in workers are only entitled to the minimum wage when they are awake for the purposes of working. Last month, the Supreme Court heard a Unison-led appeal challenging the Court of Appeal ruling which found in favour of the charity Mencap. It could be some time before the final judgement is handed down. We will keep you updated with any developments.

#### **Supported Housing**

8. We are continuing to support councils who have raised concerns with us about the treatment of Specialist Supported Housing in the Housing Benefit Regulations. We are identifying the extent to which councils are affected and assisting their efforts to engage DWP and MHCLG.