

Update on other board business

Purpose of report

For information.

Summary

This report sets out other updates relevant to the Board, and not included elsewhere.

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.

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Update on other board business

Test, Trace and Outbreak Management

1. The LGA Test, Trace and Outbreak Management Team have facilitated a series of webinars in collaboration with the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC). The webinars have been a platform for councils to share their learning from their experience responding to local outbreaks. They have also served as an opportunity for Chief Executives, Directors of Public Health, councillors and council officers to directly raise questions with DHSC and their partners. Shared learning from these webinars, Q&A sets produced after, and any other related resources can be found on the [Testing, Contact Tracing and Outbreak Management Khub](#). The webinars facilitated so far, in chronological order are the following:

- 1.1 [Outbreak Management: Food Processing - Experiences, Lessons Learned, and the Role of the HSE](#)
- 1.2 [Testing Prototypes, Communications and Engagement](#)
- 1.3 [Data for Local Outbreak Planning](#)
- 1.4 [Local testing and contact tracing systems: local innovation and lessons learnt](#)
- 1.5 [The reopening of universities: supporting councils with the implications for local areas](#)

The National Institute for Health Protection and other public health functions

2. The Secretary of State for Health and Social Care's announced on 18 August 2020 the creation of a brand-new organisation to extend the existing science-led approach to public health protection – the National Institute for Health Protection (NIHP). The NIHP will bring together the existing health protection responsibilities discharged by Public Health England (PHE) with the new capabilities of NHS Test and Trace, including the Joint Biosecurity Centre, creating a single agency. As the NIHP develops the government will also need to establish the right future system and organisational arrangements for improving the health of individuals and our population. The impact of Covid-19 on key groups of the population has highlighted the importance of levelling up health to support future resilience.
3. The DHSC have established a new Population Health Improvement Stakeholder Advisory Group to provide expert advice to Ministers on this aspect of the Improvement work from representatives from public health, local government and health care. This Group will input into a high-level options paper to be published in October. Cllr James Jameison, represents the LGA on this group along with local government colleagues from SOLACE and the Association Directors of Public Health.
4. The reform of public health agencies in the middle of a pandemic is not without risk. Board members can read an article by the Chair setting out the LGA's views on the public health reforms here <https://www.lgafirst.co.uk/features/public-health-reforms/>

Roll out of HIV Prevention Drug (PrEP)

5. The Government has announced the [PrEP grant determination for 2020-21](#), which means councils in England can finally provide uncapped access to the game-changing HIV prevention drug. This was delayed due to the COVID-19 epidemic but the roll-out of PrEP (pre-exposure prophylaxis) will begin from 1 October.
6. LGA fully supports using PrEP as part of an effective HIV prevention strategy. Local authorities have invested hundreds of millions in providing sexual health services since taking over responsibility for public health seven years ago, and we firmly believe that PrEP could significantly reduce levels of HIV in the community. This is a potentially life-saving drug which can help us achieve the Government's ambition of getting us closer to zero transmission by 2030.
7. In 2016, the LGA were 'Interested Parties' in a High Court and subsequently Appeal Court action between the National AIDS Trust and NHS England.

People in vulnerable circumstances

8. **Mental health, wellbeing and suicide prevention** – our focus since the last Board has been on supporting the mental health and wellbeing COVID-19 response:
 - 8.1. Produced briefings, practical support and shared good practice on [public mental health](#) and tackling [loneliness and social isolation](#) in partnership with the Association of Directors of Public Health (ADPH). We have also fed into the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government's (MHCLG) 'Tackling Loneliness' work.
 - 8.2. Worked with the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC), the Department for Education (DfE), Public Health England, NHSE/I, NHSX and the voluntary sector to help ensure that national guidance and tools complement and reflect locally led activity, that local government's voice was represented on various national mental health and wellbeing 'cells' and linked to the mental health subgroup of the Adult Social Care Taskforce.
 - 8.3. Joint meeting CWB Lead Members, CYP Lead Members and the Emotional Wellbeing Steering Group to give a steer on mental health and wellbeing priorities. Members identified particular concern about the impacts on 14 to 25-year olds, which has been taken forward in our policy work and forthcoming practical resources for councillors.
 - 8.4. With the Centre for Mental Health, published [Our Place](#), substantial new research that examined how nine councils are promoting good mental health and preventing poor mental health in communities, including early learning from COVID-19.

- 8.5. Worked with partners to produce advice, guidance and support to help councils to respond to and manage the different wellbeing needs of staff, including those staff working remotely at home; keyworkers and other frontline council staff who remain at work in our communities; social care staff; and schools/teaching staff who remain at work or who are providing more remote/online teaching.
 - 8.6. Emphasised the need for a continued focus on safeguarding vulnerable people's human rights as Government considered the impact of the pandemic on mental health legislation.
 - 8.7. Continued to make the case for a locally led all ages and whole family / household approach to mental health and wellbeing, including to the Inter-Ministerial Mental Health COVID-19 recovery group. Highlighted how much universal services, such as playgrounds, open spaces, libraries and general opportunities for play and social interaction are necessary for good mental wellbeing for all ages. Also highlighted the importance of a locally led approach in recognition that some people are at greater risk of the mental health impacts of COVID-19 than others, and that targeted support was (and continues to be) needed.
 - 8.8. Cllr Richard Kemp represented the LGA at the National Suicide Prevention Strategy Advisory Group and the Suicide Prevention and Self Harm APPG, highlighting the need for DHSC to swiftly release funding for the 2020/21 LGA/ADPH sector led improvement programme.
9. **Armed Forces Covenant** – the Government's manifesto includes a commitment to further enshrine into law the Armed Forces Covenant in order to address Ministerial concern that members of the armed forces are still suffering disadvantage in accessing public services. A 'duty to have due regard' to the Armed Forces Covenant will be placed on housing, education and health services. Over the summer we worked with our network of Armed Forces Covenant Officers and the Ministry of Defence to ensure that councils have a genuine opportunity to shape the plans and to understand potential New Burdens. This work is ongoing.
10. **Housing** – supported housing providers and commissioners have been on the frontline of the COVID-19 response. We have worked with our network of supported housing advisers to identify operational concerns and feed them into Government. Due to civil service re-deployment, we have been unable to progress policy work, but this is now re-starting. We understand the Government's Supported Housing National Statement of Expectation will shortly be published. Councils are increasingly concerned about the interface between supported housing and the benefit system. Technicalities in the Housing Benefit regulations mean that some councils are picking-up a significant shortfall in housing benefit subsidy. We will shortly publish a joint LGA/ADASS/NHSE advice note for local commissioners in response to the Social Housing Regulator's concerns about specialised supported housing funded by the lease-based model and are raising councils' concerns about artificially inflated rents and quality concerns for some properties.

11. We have updated, and will shortly re-publish, the joint LGA/ADASS/Age UK/Care and Repair England guide to accessible housing in response to COVID-19.
12. **Sleep-ins** – while awaiting the Supreme Court decision in the Unison Appeal about whether ‘sleep-in time’ should be classified as working time, and therefore be subject to the requirements of the National Minimum Wage Regulations 2015, we have continued to work with councils, ADASS, DHSC, ADCS, DfE and providers to plan for the possible outcomes. We have continued to emphasise Members’ position that we support fair pay for care workers, whatever the outcome of the Unison Appeal.
13. **National Autism Strategy** – The government are aiming to publish the national autism strategy by the end of 2020. The strategy will be for adults and children. We have continued to work with the DHSC to feed into the national autism strategy. We have submitted a response to the DHSC proposed priorities based on the key priorities for social care identified by the LGA and ADASS. We will continue to feed into the strategy as it is developed, and we will identify any new burdens or sector support needs arising from its implementation.
14. **End of Life Care** – In September, we published our [guide](#) for councils on end of life care in partnership with ADASS. This guide was begun in early 2020 and was nearing completion in March 2020. It has been revised to reflect the new challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. The guide seeks to help councils play a leading role in how people in their local areas experience end of life care, including during the pandemic.
15. **Healthy ageing** – In September, Cllr Hudspeth chaired a Webinar on Healthy Ageing with Sir Muir Grey, Director of the Optimal Ageing Programme and Alison Giles, Associate Director of the Centre for Ageing Better. The Webinar looked at the challenges and opportunities of an ageing society, with preference to the impact of COVID-19, and how councils can contribute to healthy ageing.

Asylum, Refugee and Migration

16. The LGA Asylum, Refugee and Migration Task Group met with Chris Philps MP, Minister with responsibility for immigration, on 22 September to discuss joint work across local and central government on supporting adult and child asylum seekers. The Task Group reports to the Community Wellbeing and Children and Young People’s Board, is chaired by Cllr Nick Forbes, and is attended by LGA lead members and regional representatives from across the UK.

COVID-19 Adult Safeguarding Insight Project: Findings and Discussion (September 2020)

17. The Insight project was developed to create a national picture regarding safeguarding adults' activity during the Covid-19 pandemic. Local insight and data on safeguarding activity was requested on a voluntary basis and 92 (over 60%) of local authorities participated. A report has been drafted from the collated data and commentaries and is attached at **Appendix A** in the private report pack. The report has been discussed at the ADASS Safeguarding Adults policy Network meeting, Adult Social Care Hub Safeguarding workstream meeting, verbally reported to the National Network of SAB Chairs meeting and the work has been both welcomed and supported.
18. The report covers the period up until the end of June 2020. Feedback from participants and consultees was that this was inadequate to ascertain the impact, particularly Section 42 enquiries. A proposal to extend this project for a further 3 months, or longer, was broadly supported. Proposals have been agreed by the Adult Social Care Data and Outcomes Board for NHS Digital to undertake a non-statutory half year collection regarding the first six months of 2020/21, which would include some Safeguarding Adult Collection items. The data would be less detailed than that collected through the Insight project. The LGA's Care and Health Improvement Programme (CHIP) and NHS Digital are working closely together to ensure the two approaches are aligned and do not unnecessarily duplicate work for local authorities.
19. CHIP senior management team has agreed to:
 - 19.1. co-badge the report, using both LGA and ADASS logos (subject to agreement by ADASS Trustees);
 - 19.2. publication of the report on the LGA website;
 - 19.3. dissemination through relevant bulletins;
 - 19.4. development of presentations for webinars etc based on the content;
 - 19.5. circulation as a word document pending design (due to potential delays);
 - 19.6. to sharing anonymised comparative regional data with regions (through regional safeguarding leads); and
 - 19.7. supporting continued voluntary data collection with a follow up report following further collation and analysis.

National Report on Safeguarding Adults Reviews (SARs) and Executive Summary

20. The CHIP safeguarding workstream commissioned Suzy Braye, Michael Preston-Shoot and Research in Practice to undertake a review of SARs published in 2018/18 and 2018/19 to inform future priorities for sector led improvement in safeguarding adults' practice. This is a 'once in a decade' opportunity to identify learning from SARs at a national level, as there is no regular reporting mechanism.

21. The draft full report was discussed at the ADASS Safeguarding Policy Network and Adult Social Care Hub meetings mentioned above, as well as circulated to the Chief Social Worker for Adults (and is attached as **Appendix B** in the private report pack). The findings have been verbally reported to the National Network of SAB Chairs meeting and the work has been both welcomed and supported. The full report is lengthy and academic, reflecting the considerable work that has been undertaken, the range and depth of analysis. The 6-page Executive Summary has been developed and is also attached as **Appendix C**. It is planned to provide targeted briefings (for members, practitioners, Safeguarding Adults Boards, etc) with an offer of webinars for a range of audiences, including the ADASS regions, to disseminate the findings. This will also provide opportunities for engagement and consultation on the sector led improvement priorities.
22. The priorities for improvement will subsequently be developed into a plan, which will inform the work of the CHIP adult safeguarding workstream in 2021/22 and beyond.
23. CHIP senior management team agreed to:
- 23.1. co-badge the report and summary, using both LGA and ADASS logos (subject to agreement by ADASS Trustees);
 - 23.2. publication of the report and summary on the LGA website and dissemination through the relevant bulletins, and development of targeted briefings and presentations for webinars etc based on the content; and
 - 23.3. circulation as Word documents pending design (due to potential delays) due to the level of sector interest in the detailed report.

Making Safeguarding Personal (MSP) Outcomes Framework 2019/20

24. The MSP Outcomes Framework project continued during 2019/20, with project management support from NHS Digital. The report on the work comprises of a summary covering paper (**Appendix D**) and a power point slide presentation from the project manager (**Appendix E**). This project is currently paused for 2020/21 due to Covid-19.

Annual Report of National Safeguarding Adults Board Chairs Network 2018/19

25. The previous annual reports of the Network have been published on the LGA website as the Network does not have its own website. The 2018/19 report (see **Appendix F**) was delayed due to changes in the Network Co-ordination role and has not been presented previously.