

Proposal to set up two Community Wellbeing Task Groups

Purpose

LGA Leadership Board to approve in accordance with the LGA Constitution

Summary

This paper sets out a proposal by the CWB Board to set up the following two Task and Finish Groups:

- a. On the future role of local government in respect of an ageing society; the opportunities and challenges that an ageing society presents and how local government might prepare itself in the immediate and longer term to respond to these; and
- b. On housing for adults with health and social care needs.

The CWB Board meets on 23 July where members will be invited to agree to this work going ahead. It has been brought to the Leadership Board to seek agreement in principle, in advance of CWB Board approval to enable initial work to start over the summer following the expected CWB Boards approval.

Recommendation

That the Leadership Board approves these two groups

Action

To be taken forward by officers as directed by members.

Contact officer: Helen Kay

Position: Senior Policy Advisor

Phone no: 0207 664 3234

Email: Helen.kay@local.gov.uk

Proposal to set up two Community Wellbeing Task Groups

Background

1. The LGA is called upon to input into a wide range of activity in the area of adults and conditions; Ministerial and Government led working groups on autism, mental health, disabilities, dementia; APPG groups on ageing, housing for vulnerable people and a range of partnership working.
2. Much of this work is useful and enables the LGA to actively influence the development of a number of high profile Government programmes.
3. There are, however, a number of areas which are growing in profile and importance for local government and where the LGA is currently engaged largely in re-active work.
4. This is particularly marked in the area of older people and ageing and in respect of housing for adults with care and support needs. There are important emerging opportunities and challenges for local government in these areas. This work would enable the LGA to pro-actively influence the development of policy and practice locally and nationally in these areas and would provide material to inform the LGAs 2015 Conference documents
5. Many of the issues that are arising in these areas are wider than a narrow adult social care agenda, as they encompass local councils' roles in respect of the wider built environment, housing, welfare issues, sport and leisure, transport and community engagement and support and link therefore to the work of other LGA Boards.
6. Housing for adults with care and support needs is a CWB priority.

Proposal

7. To address these issues and to promote active and meaningful engagement with members from across the LGA in developing coherent policy positions we would like to propose setting up time limited 'Task and Finish' Groups on the following key areas:
 - 7.1 Local government's role in respect of an ageing society; and
 - 7.2 A programme of work to review the role of local councils in supporting and enabling the delivering of integrated housing, health and care services for vulnerable adults.

8. Both task and finish groups would conduct their work over the autumn to report in March in time to influence the LGA's campaigns for Conference 2015 and the first spending review

The composition and role of the groups.

Ageing Society (Annex A)

9. This agenda spans the whole of local government; adult social care, culture, sport, planning, housing, the environment – and as such it requires a cross Board and cross party response from the LGA.
10. We are therefore proposing that the Task and Finish group is made up of 4-5 LGA members drawn from relevant LGA Boards (Community Well-Being; Culture, tourism, and sport; Environment, economy, housing and transport; City Regions and People and Places) working alongside a small number of co-opted representatives from key representative organisations (Age UK, JRF, ILC-UK). (Invitations will be sought when membership of the Boards is finalised in September).
11. The role of the task and finish group will be to:
 - 11.1. Oversee and steer the work on ageing;
 - 11.2. Review emerging themes and messages from the work;
 - 11.3. Provide a core support and challenge role as the project develops;
 - 11.4. Provide a clear link between the project and the work of relevant LGA's Boards – so that members are fully engaged in the work as it develops;
 - 11.5. Oversee and steer the delivery of the final report and its recommendations; and

Housing and Vulnerable people (Annex B)

12. We propose setting up a small 'task and finish' group to steer the programme and the development of recommendations emerging from it. The group will be made up of 2-4 members drawn from relevant LGA Boards.
13. We will aim to invite members from the Community Well Being Board and the Environment, economy, housing and transport Board in particular to form this 'task and finish group'.
14. We propose that that work of this task and finish group is to:
 - 14.1 Provide a core support and challenge role as the project develops;

16 July 2014

- 14.2 Provide a clear link between the project and the work of relevant LGA's Boards – so that members are fully engaged in the work as it develops;
- 14.3 Oversee and steer the delivery of a proposed good practice and next steps report, and the emerging work programme for the LGA in respect of this; and
- 14.4 Work with other colleagues within LGA - principally Communications, Current affairs and Campaigns to agree the overall communications strategy in respect of the project and its final report in particular.

Annex A: Task and Finish Group on what is Local Government's role in respect of an ageing society?

1. This paper sets out a proposal to set up a Task and Finish Group on the future role of local government in respect of an ageing society; the opportunities and challenges that an ageing society presents and how local government might prepare itself in the immediate and longer term to respond to these.

Why set up a Task and Finish Group in this area? What are the issues and what are we trying to achieve?

2. The UK population is ageing rapidly. There will, for example, be 51% more people aged 65 and over in England in 2030 compared to 2010 and 101% more people aged over 85 and over in England in 2030 compared to 2010. The potential impact of this significant growth has received considerable negative coverage; threats to economic growth and pressures on social care and health budgets being particularly newsworthy. Yet, living longer also represents important progress and could present society with real opportunities if these were positively harnessed and utilised at a local and national level.
3. There is no doubt that the changes in our population will create major challenges for individuals, for families and communities, and for local and national government over the coming years. Responding effectively and creatively to these challenges will require major shifts in our attitudes to ageing; including changes to models of employment for older people and the current cliff-edge of retirement; in current approaches to the promotion of well-being, prevention and early intervention for older people; and new ways of financing and supporting older people which better address the changing aspirations and needs of people as they live longer.
4. An ageing society presents particular challenges for local government, and especially in the context of austerity and further declining budgets, which are already having an impact on the delivery of front line and essential services.
5. This project would identify examples of good practice and new models that:
 - a. Help councils to a more pro-active approach to demographic change, so that they are better able to manage the significant changes that will take place over the next 10-20 years. This will need to include the core issues that local councils need to plan for and address and models of emerging or innovative practice that councils are already developing as part of a more strategic approach to their ageing populations;
 - b. Find new ways to enable and support older people to live healthier, fulfilling lives; developing new community based and community led approaches to promoting well-being, tackling loneliness, preventing ill-health, early intervention support

and new more empowering approaches to the provision of information and advice so that older people can navigate the system more effectively;

- c. Promote and develop innovative approaches to housing (and support) for older people – which might include new models of care/equity release, the provision of formal and informal support which enable older people to live within their own homes, and new models of supported accommodation and housing support which enable a more holistic approach to meeting the needs of older people as they change over time; and
 - d. Review how these might in turn translate into new ways of working for local government; what are the cultural, structural and leadership challenges necessary to support local government deliver a more enabling, community and asset based approach to an ageing population.
6. A number of high profile Inquiries and programmes of work have already been carried out to explore the implications of a rapidly ageing society, most notably the Filkin Commission on the UK preparedness for the challenges and opportunities of a rapidly ageing society, the Joseph Rowntree Foundation's programme of work on 'A Better Life' and the recently launched Commission on the voluntary sector and ageing established by New Philanthropy Capital and the ILK-UK for example. The LGA's Ageing Well Programme, which ended in 2012, aimed to address the challenges and opportunities of an ageing population. And in 2013, the LGA held a 'Ready for Ageing' roundtable, based on the findings of Lord Filkin's report.
7. Our aims in setting up this Task and Finish Group is to build on this work and develop it further; to explore the role of local government within the context of ongoing austerity in respect of public spending and to enable the LGA to take a more proactive role within this increasingly high profile area.

The role and composition of the Task and Finish Groups

- 8. This is an agenda which spans the whole of local government; adult social care, culture, sport, planning, housing, the environment – and as such it requires a cross Board response from the LGA.
- 9. We are therefore proposing that the Task and Finish group is made up of 4-5 LGA members drawn from relevant LGA Boards (Community Well-Being; Culture, tourism, and sport; Environment, economy, housing and transport; City Regions and People and Places) working alongside a small number of co-opted representatives from key representative organisations (Age UK, JRF, ILC-UK,). (Invitations will be sought when membership of the Boards is finalised in September).

16 July 2014

10. The role of the task and finish group will be to:
 - Oversee and steer the work programme;
 - Review emerging themes and messages from the work;
 - Provide a core support and challenge role;
 - Provide a clear link between the work on ageing and the work of relevant LGA's Boards – so that members are fully engaged in the work as it develops;
 - Oversee and steer the delivery of the final report and its recommendations;
 - Work with other colleagues within LGA - principally Communications, Current affairs and Campaigns to agree the overall communications strategy in respect of the work of the task and finish group and its final report in particular.
11. We would aim for the Task and Finish group to carry out its work over the Summer and Autumn 2014, so that a series of clear policy proposals and ideas for next steps can be developed and presented in early 2015, for consideration by an incoming government. A draft timetable has been set out at para 19.

Round table discussions.

12. The centrepiece of the Task and Finish Groups will be a small number of round table discussions/evidence sessions on key themes. Experts will be invited to present 'think pieces' and commissioned papers, and engage in a question and answer session, with the 'task and finish' group. The discussions from these would help the group to formulate their recommendations. These will be supplemented by the information gained through a commissioned literature review and call for evidence, set out below.
13. The themes for the round table discussions will include, the core areas set out at para 5 above

Commissioned literature review and call for evidence.

14. We are proposing to build on the research review on local government and the demography of ageing, currently being carried out as part of the 'need to know' review series, to ensure that this sets out clearly the implications of the evidence on ageing for local government.
15. We are also proposing to carry out a call for evidence – which would be distributed to key partners with an interest in an ageing society. The aim of this would be to understand what is currently working well (draw together examples of emerging innovative practice) in respect of the 4 areas set out above in para 13.

Outputs from the Task and Finish Group.

16. The main output from the Task and Finish Group will be a report. This would potentially include:
 - Background analysis and evidence gained from the literature review and Call for Evidence;
 - Summary of the key themes discussed by the group and the conclusions gained from these, in respect of local government's role vis a vis an ageing society;
 - A set of recommendations for local and national government emerging from this work.
17. This could be launched at a small seminar to review the findings from the commission, its implications for local government and key messages for an incoming Government in respect of an ageing society.

Timing for the Task and Finish Group.

18. We have set out a provisional draft timetable for the task and finish group below:

September 2014	1 st Task and Finish Group mtg:
October 2014	2 nd Task and Finish Group – round table discussions one/ two:
November 2014	3 rd Task and Finish Group – round table discussions three/ four:
Nov – mid Dec 2014	1 st draft of report produced:
Mid Jan 2015	4 th Task and Finish Group:
Mid Feb 2015	2nd draft of report produced:
Early March 2015	Report published:

Annex B: Taking forward a programme of work on housing for vulnerable people

1. The CWB agreed that creating a clear position and profile on housing for people with health and social care needs was a priority for the Board.
2. To take this forward, we are aiming to develop a programme of work to set out:
 - 2.1 The benefits that a more integrated approach to housing, health and care services can help deliver for vulnerable adults living in the community; and
 - 2.2 How local councils, working in partnership with health and social care providers, social housing providers, the voluntary sector and the private sector can most effectively contribute to this.
3. We are proposing to set up a small 'task and finish' group, made up of 2-4 members drawn from relevant LGA Boards to:
 - 3.1 Provide a support, challenge and oversight role of the programme as it develops;
 - 3.2 Provide a clear link between the project and the work of relevant LGA Boards so that members are fully engaged in the work as it develops; and
 - 3.3 Oversee and steer the delivery of the good practice and next steps report, and the emerging work programme for the LGA in respect of this.
4. We would aim to invite members, from the Community Well-Being and the Environment, economy, housing and transport Board, to take part in the task and finish group and hold the first meeting of this in September when the membership of the LGA Boards has been finalised.
5. Funding permitting, we would like to work in partnership with another organisation which leads on housing and support for adults with health and social care needs, to deliver the events. The organisations we could consider working with include the National Housing Federation, the Housing, Learning and Improvement Network and Sitra.

Background to the programme.

6. The introduction of the Care Act and current consultation on the regulatory framework and statutory guidance provide an important opportunity to review the role that housing and supported accommodation plays in the effective delivery of integrated approaches to meeting the needs of vulnerable adults with health and social care needs.

16 July 2014

- 7 As a result of lobbying, the Act now includes more explicit reference to housing and accommodation within it. The suitability of accommodation is explicitly listed as part of the definition of well-being in clause 1 of the Act; housing is explicitly referenced as part of local authorities new duty to promote the integration of health and care; and registered providers of housing are explicitly listed as one of the partners a local authority must co-operate with when considering and planning a person's need for care and support. The draft regulations and guidance also include a strong steer on the importance of the role of mainstream housing, specialist accommodation and/of housing services within all aspects of an integrated approach to the provision of health, care and support services.
8. The development of effective approaches to the integration of health, care and support for adults who meet the threshold for care and support services, is also supported by the work of the Health and Well Being Boards, Better Care Fund and Integration Pioneers.
9. There are however a number of key challenges in this area. These include:
 - 9.1 The lack of priority for housing in many local areas strategic planning for integration. It is clear from initial analysis of the priorities for Health and Well Being Boardsⁱ, Better Care Fund and Integration Pioneers that housing is not currently a core priority consideration in local area's strategic planning for integration for adults with health and social care needs;
 - 9.2 There are a number of financial and structural challenges for councils in the funding and development of supported accommodation and housing support for vulnerable adults. These include in particular the potentially negative impact of welfare benefits changes on the funding of housing related support, which could potentially put at risk existing and future housing with support schemes which enable vulnerable adults to remain in the community and which could also impact on the funding of supported accommodation for adults with significant care and support needs; and
 - 9.3 Effective engagement with and increased understanding of NHS commissioners and providers of the contribution that housing can make to the delivery of effective approaches to integrated support for adults with health and social care needs.
10. Many local councils are already beginning to develop and implement innovative practice in this area to address these challenges; whether led at a strategic level through their Health and Well Being Boards, via the Better Care Fund or through the development of effective partnership approaches between local councils, health partners, social housing providers and the private sector. Such solutions include innovative approaches to the development and funding of physical adaptations to housing, which can result in significant savings in respect of adults with health and care needs and the development of alternative integrated pathways for adults which more firmly embed housing solutions as a core part of an integrated service for example.

16 July 2014

11. Our aim is to support local councils; unitary and non-unitary build on such developing practice in this area, support them to utilise the opportunities that are currently available and to explore with them pressing challenges at an operational and strategic level, in order to find solutions to these.

12. We are therefore proposing to develop an initial programme of work that will:

- 12.1 Bring together examples of innovative practice that councils working with local partners such as health partners, social housing providers, private sector providers and voluntary sector partners are currently developing;
- 12.2 Hold a series of regional seminars to provide an opportunity for councils and their partners to review lessons from those areas within the region which are implementing or developing innovative and/or integrated approaches to the housing, health and social care needs of vulnerable adults.
- 12.3 We would aim to bring together the learning and practice examples from these regional events into a LGA report, the aims of which will be to:
 - Set out emerging lessons from practice; and
 - Set out the challenges and issues facing those delivering innovation in this area – locally, regionally and nationally.
 - The core messages and lessons to emerge from this work, will in turn inform future LGA's lobbying/policy development/sector improvement work in this area.

13. A proposed timetable for the events has been set out below:

- July: 'Call out' for local authorities involved in innovative practice in this area;
- July/August: Gain speakers and workshop leaders for the events
- Early September: Hold the first task and finish group.
- Early September: Publicise the regional seminars
- Nov – Dec: Hold the regional events
- Jan/Feb: Write up the events
- Feb: 2nd task and finish group – to review emerging themes and discuss next steps recommendations
- March: Publish the report and next steps document

Annex 1.

Possible format for each workshop.

- A national policy overview – what is the current context for local councils in respect of housing, social care and health – opportunities and risks. (We could ask a CWB Board member based in the relevant region to deliver this)
- Sessions on learning from practice – 2-3 examples of Councils and their partners engaged in innovative practice – how they have achieved this, what the benefits are and what are the barriers that still need to be addressed (locally and nationally)
- Discussion from those attending on what they perceive to be the opportunities and the risks – and how these might be overcome at local and national level. We would want this to focus down on what they might want to take away at a local level to change but also – their priorities for the LGA to take forward at a national level.
- A session to review the implications of the Care Act.