

Adult social care future funding and reform

Purpose of report

For background.

Summary

This report provides brief background to the Board's discussion with colleagues from the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS) and Social Care Future (SCF) on future funding and reform.

Recommendation

Members of the Community Wellbeing Board are asked to:

1. Note the information contained in the report as background context to the discussion with ADASS and SCF.

Action

As directed by Members.

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Adult Social Care Future Funding and Reform

Future Background

1. The LGA published its green paper on the future of social care, *The lives we want to lead*, in July 2018. Since then, the LGA has published: a response to its green paper consultation (November 2018); a publication to mark one year on from its green paper, including comment pieces from sector experts (July 2019); and a further publication restating the case for change, the issues that need to be addressed through reform and the options available (March 2020). Alongside this work on reform, the LGA has continued to make the case for adult social care funding for the short- and medium-term. The LGA has worked closely with a number of national partners on these two crucial agendas.
2. Over the last year, and as responding to the pandemic has become the overriding priority, our policy work on the future of care and support has taken a back seat. It has not halted completely, however: social care reform was a key feature of the (virtual) National Children and Adult Services Conference in November last year; and the LGA held a series of roundtables with colleagues from across the care and health sector – including people with lived experience – last year to consider the lessons that need to be learned from the pandemic as we look to shape the future of care and support. Similarly, our work on social care funding has focussed on the resources needed to ensure social care can best play its vital frontline role in responding to the pandemic.
3. Whilst the pandemic remains a clear priority, the twin debates about future reform of care and support, and social care funding for the short- to medium-term (in part as laying the ground for future reforms) are returning to the fore, particularly as we look ahead to this year's expected multi-year Spending Review and consider the Prime Minister's recent comments to the Liaison Committee: "The pandemic has highlighted the difficulties that the social care sector is in. It clearly needs reform and it needs improvement."
4. Today's discussion with representatives from ADASS and SCF is therefore an opportunity to consider the key issues the LGA should be prioritising in its future work on social care funding and reform over the coming months – particularly in light of the experience of the last year and what the pandemic has revealed and/or underlined about adult social care and support.
5. ADASS will reflect on the current funding situation facing social care and consider what is needed from the Spending Review to secure sustainability for the immediate years ahead. SCF describe themselves as, "a growing movement of people with a shared commitment to bring about major positive change in what is currently called 'social care'". They summarise the future they seek through the following question: "Don't we all want to live in the place we call home with the people and things that we love, in communities where we look out for one another, doing the things that matter to us?".

4 February 2021

SCF will update the Board on the work they are doing in support of their movement's aims.

Implications for Wales

6. Health and social care policy are devolved to the Welsh Assembly.

Financial Implications

7. This report has no financial implications for the LGA although the subject matter is clearly of major significance to the ongoing financial sustainability of social care and local government overall.

Next steps

8. Members' comments and views, along with the discussion with colleagues from ADASS and SCF, will shape the LGA's influencing and campaigning work on adult social care funding and reform.