

Social care Funding & Reform

Purpose of report

For information

Summary

This short report provides an introduction to the speakers who will be attending the meeting to discuss adult social care funding and reform. It also provides a summary of the LGA's recent work on social care and support reform.

Recommendation

That Members note this update and share their views in the discussion.

Action

By the Community Wellbeing Board, as appropriate.

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Speakers

1. Stephen Chandler is Corporate Director of Adults and Housing Services at Oxfordshire County Council. In April this year, he succeeded James Bullion as President of the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS). Prior to his Oxfordshire position, Stephen was Director of Adult Services at Somerset County Council.
2. Cllr David Fothergill is Chairman of the LGA Community Wellbeing Board.
3. Cllr Anntoinette Bramble is Chair of the LGA Children & Young People Board.

Background

4. Adult social care funding and reform has long been a local government and LGA priority. In recent years, the LGA's work in this area has centred around our July 2018 green paper on care, health and wellbeing, 'The lives we want to lead', and our November 2018 response to our green paper consultation, which set out a number of recommendations on the future of care and support. This was a major piece of work, which received extensive national media coverage and generated more than 500 consultation responses from across the care and health sector, and the public.
5. Since 2018, our work on social care reform has continued under our green paper banner with further linked publications, as well as media stories and numerous relevant submissions to select committees and other inquiries.
6. COVID-19 has put social care firmly in the public spotlight and the reform agenda is now frequently framed by partners across the sector in terms the lessons that need to be learned from the pandemic experience. Much of the LGA's work on social care reform over the last year has also framed care reform in this way. Of further note, our work has also sought to tell the social care 'story' in a more positive way, rather than perpetuating dominant framing about the 'crisis in care' or as a 'problem to be fixed'. These of course have their place, but we are also seeking to describe the value of social care in its own right and the role it plays in helping people to live their best life which, in turn, helps strengthen our communities.

Activity over the last year

7. The following are some of the key highlights of our lobbying and influencing work over the last year:
 - 7.1 In July 2020 we held a successful and very well attended one day virtual event on the future of adult social care. Speakers included the Minister of State for Care, Helen Whately MP, (then) ADASS President, James Bullion, and Deputy Chief Inspector of Adult Social Care at CQC, Debbie Ivanova.

- 7.2 At this conference, we published a set of 'seven [principles](#) for social care reform' covering people who draw on care and support, the importance of social care's local dimension, funding, workforce, providers and commissioning, health and integration, and the scope of reform. More than thirty prominent national organisations acted as signatories to these principles.
- 7.3 In August 2020 we held five roundtables on the future of social care involving five key constituents of the social care sector: councils, health, the voluntary and charity sector, care providers, and people who draw on social care.
- 7.4 In September 2020, LGA deputy chief executive, Sarah Pickup, gave oral evidence to the Health and Social Care Select Committee as part of their inquiry on social care funding and workforce.
- 7.5 In November 2020 we worked with a number of national partners to set out shared [priorities](#) ahead of the Spending Review. These included: Government investment and reform proposals to ensure a long-term, sustainable future for social care; funding for short-term stabilisation; and investment to bolster preventative activity, secure a new deal for the care workforce, tackle inequalities, and fund innovation, particularly the use of technology.
- 7.6 In March 2021 we published a short [pamphlet](#) on the future of social care, which restated our seven principles for reform and called for a '1948 moment' for social care equivalent to that for the NHS. We also supported calls from elsewhere in the sector for a long-term plan for social care and set out our views on the immediate priorities for care and support as well as the kind of system we want to work towards for the future. Alongside this pamphlet, we published a [report](#) writing up, and reflecting on, the aforementioned 'future of social care' roundtables.
- 7.7 Ahead of this year's Queen's Speech, the LGA Chairman and Group Leaders [wrote](#) publicly to the Chancellor urging Government to put social care funding and reform at the centre of thinking on how best to emerge from the shadow of the pandemic.
- 7.8 In addition to the LGA's own 'on the day briefing' on the Queen's Speech, we also coordinated a [sector response](#) among a number of national partners, calling on the Government to bring forward its reform proposals and a clear timeline for action as a matter of urgency.
- 7.9 In June, the LGA published results of a survey of more than 600 councillors showing that more than 9 in 10 believe the Government should give greater priority to adult social care and start committing more resources to it. The LGA supported the survey,

which was run by Survation for Social Care Future. Also last month, the LGA worked with national partners on a [public letter](#) to the Prime Minister, Chancellor and Secretary of State for Health and Social Care on the importance of, and urgent need for, adult social care reform.

8. With the Government having restated its commitment to bringing forward proposals on social care reform this year, as well as the expected multi-year Spending Review in the autumn, this agenda will no doubt be extremely busy over the coming months. Through various channels, we will continue to push on the need for investment to help meet the continuing costs of COVID-19 and tackle the social care funding gap, as well action to move us towards a future care and support system that:
 - 8.1 addresses unmet and under-met need
 - 8.2 tackles workforce challenges by developing a new deal for the workforce
 - 8.3 improves provision, choice and control by thinking about how the system can best be driven by people's needs and experiences
 - 8.4 improves quality by being clear on the outcomes we are collectively seeking to achieve and how performance against them is coordinated and supported, including the role of sector-led support
 - 8.5 secures a more rational, sustainable and transparent funding model that is based on universal risk pooling
 - 8.6 protects people from facing catastrophic costs.
9. In line with all our work in this policy area in recent years, we will continue to balance public-facing work with ongoing discussions with Ministers and officials. We already have well-established links with the Department of Health and Social Care and these have been strengthened further through the recent creation of a new Ministerial Local Government Engagement Group. This groups brings together Care Minister, Helen Whately, senior DHSC officials, the LGA Chairman, the four Lead Members of the LGA's Community Wellbeing Board and a group of six council chief executives. The group's core focus is on adult social care reform and is an opportunity for the Minister to hear directly and exclusively from local government.