

## **Community Wellbeing Board – Report from Cllr David Fothergill (Chairman)**

### **Public Health**

1. I spoke at the British Medical Association webinar earlier this month on working together to address health inequalities. In my speech I highlighted the important contribution councils can make to reducing health inequalities and in improving the health of the public through the many services we deliver, in particular our early years services, education, housing, employment and welfare, social care, leisure and public amenities, and environmental health and trading standards teams.
2. The Board jointly hosted with the Coastal SIG a webinar on Health in Coastal Communities earlier this month. This followed on from the Chief Medical Officer's recent report on the health in coastal communities which identified that the health challenges of coastal towns, cities and other communities are serious, and their drivers are more similar than their nearest inland neighbour. This means a national strategy to address the repeated problems of health in coastal communities is needed in addition to local action. In the webinar at which I spoke we highlighted the need to tackle the health problems of coastal communities vigorously and systematically to ensure we address the possibility of a long tail of preventable ill health which will get worse as current populations age. It also set out the significant strengths in coastal communities along with many exemplary and impressive examples of local work taking place to support the health of local citizens.
3. At the end of September the LGA hosted a webinar to discuss the recommendations of Dame Carol Black's Independent Review into Drug and Alcohol treatment and recovery services, and alongside it we published [Must Know: Treatment and recovery for people with drug or alcohol problems](#). The purpose of this guide, developed in partnership with Public Health England (PHE), is to raise awareness about drug and alcohol related harms and empower councillors by providing an introduction to treatment and recovery services, key considerations, signposting to useful resources, as well as any questions you need to ask to support effective decision making.

### **Health Integration**

4. At the start of October I spoke at the webinar jointly hosted by the LGA's Care and Health Improvement Programme with the NHS Confederation and NHS Providers on Integrated Care Partnerships in which I set out the LGA's and local government's key messages on Integrated Care Partnerships as part of a panel discussion.

### **Suicide Prevention**

5. In September, Cllr Rosi Sexton attended the National Suicide Prevention Strategy Advisory Group. Cllr Sexton emphasised that we all need to remain vigilant about the potential impact of the pandemic on suicide rates in the medium to long-term, especially

as the economic consequences continue to be felt, and continue to support groups at highest risk.

### **Better Ageing**

6. We hosted a webinar with Centre for Ageing Better which I chaired that discussed the findings of the [Good Home Inquiry](#). More than 80% of homes that will be needed in 2050 already exist today. Yet over 4 million of them are classed as being below the most basic minimum standard of decency. Over the last 14 months The Good Home Inquiry, supported by the Centre for Ageing Better, has set out to explore not only why we are in this position, but also what we can do about it. Speakers include David Orr CBE, Chair of the Good Home Inquiry, Emma Lower, Chief Executive Lendology, and Sean Johnson, Public Health Programme Manager, Lincolnshire County Council.

### **Loneliness**

7. Cllr Rosemary Sexton will be speaking on local governments role in addressing loneliness at the Institute of Government & Public Policy conference on 'Working in partnership to tackle loneliness and isolation' on 19<sup>th</sup> October. We continue to represent local government on the governments Tackling Loneliness Network.

### **Media work**

8. I have responded to a range of media issues including the Health Foundation Report on the impact of the pandemic on the clinically extremely vulnerable, the IPPR report on reducing health inequalities, the Skills for Care report on the value of adult social care, the Diabetes UK report on 1 in 10 having the disease by 2030, the Health Foundation analysis on the investment needed in public health, fuel shortages and their impact on adult social care, and the Unison survey on social care vacancy rates.

**Contact officer:** Mark Norris  
**Position:** Principal Policy Adviser  
**Phone no:** 02076643241  
**Email:** *mark.norris@local.gov.uk*