

Community Wellbeing Board – Report from Cllr David Fothergill

Exempt accommodation

1. Commonwealth Housing and the LGA have sent a [joint open letter](#) urging the Government to tackle the exploitation of the exempt accommodation system and work towards the provision of secure, appropriate, and good quality housing and support for adults and young people in vulnerable circumstances. The open letter was sent to the Secretaries of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, and for Work and Pensions, and has been signed by leading organisations and national membership bodies.
2. The LGA has also submitted written evidence to the Levelling-Up, Housing and Communities inquiry into exempt accommodation. Our submission made the case for councils to have greater oversight of exempt accommodation in order to address the non-commissioned providers that provide poor quality housing and inadequate support to people in vulnerable circumstances.

Ageing well housing

3. The LGA hosted a roundtable for 15 councils to feed into work to develop an updated and evidence-based policy narrative about housing and older people and the benefits it delivers, issues and barriers affecting housing for an ageing population, recommendations and opportunities, and a new suite of case studies that share how councils are working with partners to improve older people's housing choices and the results that is delivering for individuals and communities.

Armed Forces Covenant

4. The LGA has produced a [briefing](#) about the implications of the forthcoming statutory duty to have regard to the principles of the [Armed Forces Covenant](#). The duty will apply to specified public bodies, including councils, when carrying out certain functions across education, housing and education. The briefing also suggests practical steps councils can take to get ready for the duty's implementation later this year. The LGA is working with the Ministry of Defence to develop the statutory guidance that will underpin the duty.

LGA Asylum, Refugee and Migration Task Group

5. The [LGA Asylum, Refugee and Migration Task Group](#), which reports to the Community Wellbeing and Children and Young Peoples Board, met with Victoria Atkins MP, Minister for Afghan Resettlement, on 8 February. Chaired by the Cllr James Jamieson, members across the UK stressed the need for further engagement with local leaders, better data and joint work to support families move from hotels into permanent homes. The meeting was followed by a well-attended webinar for local leaders on 24 February on

the Afghan schemes chaired by Cllr Nick Forbes with both the Minister and Eddie Hughes MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Rough Sleeping and Housing, Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities.

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