

Community Wellbeing Board – Report from Cllr David Fothergill

Understanding health and care reforms: opportunities and implications for local government

1. On 11 May, Cllr David Fothergill chaired a national webinar on the health and care reform agenda. The session convened senior figures including Sally Warren, director of policy at the King's Fund, Matthew Taylor, chief executive of NHS Confederation and Sarah McClinton the new president of ADASS, to consider the main components of the reform agenda and the opportunities and implications for councils. The webinar was extremely well attended, with more than 380 delegates joining and posing numerous questions and comments. All speakers and delegates were clear about the huge scale of the reform agenda and its potential impact on an already over-stretched workforce. Local government's strengths – particularly community engagement, co-production and innovative handling of operating in such a constrained financial environment – were considered vital attributes for Integrated Care Systems to draw on, helping to widen collaboration and embed meaningful accountability. Despite the challenging timescales and concerns about the adequacy of funding for particular aspects of the reform agenda, speakers were optimistic that the reforms present an opportunity to deliver the kind of health and care system we want and need for those who have cause to draw on it.

Local Government Association (LGA) and Association of Directors of Public Health (ADPH) Annual Public Health Conference, March 23-24 2022

2. The annual conference, organised by the LGA in partnership with the Association of Directors of Public Health was opened by Professor Chris Whitty, Chief Medical Officer for England, who was joined by leading public health experts in a range of sessions over two days.
3. Sessions covered the very latest thinking on national policy issues, including 'Taking stock: Covid-19's long-term global impact', 'Health security: looking to the future' and 'Mind the gap: working together to reduce health inequalities'. Other important topics such as climate change, Levelling Up and pregnancy, birth and early childhood were also discussed.
4. Delegates were able to put their questions and comments to those involved in shaping and implementing them at strategic and community levels, on issues such as the reform of the public health system and the impact of Covid-19 on health inequalities. They had the opportunity to participate in sessions sharing good practice from local areas and to discuss issues that mattered to them.
5. All lead members chaired at least one session at the webinar. Cllr Fothergill chaired the keynote address with Professor Chris Whitty and another session about early development with Dame Andrea Leadsom MP and other sector leaders. Cllr Sarah Osborne chaired a climate change session with Marvin Rees, Mayor of Bristol. Cllr Rosemary Sexton chaired a session about active transport with Chris Boardman and Janet Atherton, and Cllr Louise Gittins co-chaired a session with Professor Matt Ashton (Director of Public Health, Liverpool) about health inequalities with Professor Michael Marmot.

6. A full selection of the conference material, including the presentations, is available to [download from the LGA website](#)

School Nursing

7. In April, the LGA published an infographic to highlight and define the role of a school nurse, who they are commissioned by and how they contribute to the vital health and wellbeing of children aged five to 19 years old.
8. It explores the full range of interventions which school nurses can offer and their impact on key government priorities such as reducing child health inequalities, emotional wellbeing and mental health, encouraging healthy weight and childhood immunisations. It also includes key evidence on the impact of school nursing interventions on advancing outcomes for child health, in addition to supporting quotes from key stakeholders.
9. The document has received high numbers of page views since it was published and can be accessed [here](#).

Whole Systems Approaches to Promoting Healthier Weight: Virtual Conference 2022

10. On 19 May 2022, the Local Government Association ran a full day conference on re-engaging with Whole Systems Approaches (WSA) to promoting healthier weight. Three sessions were held throughout the day, providing an overview of WSA (Session 1), actions local areas have taken as part of their own WSA (Session 2) and Tier 2 Adult Weight Management Services (Session 3).
11. Cllr Louise Gittins chaired the second session and Cllr Rosemary Sexton chaired the third session. An average of 250 participants from across local and national government attended each session.
12. Speakers included Margie van Dijk (Team Leader, Obesity and Healthy Weight Team, Office for Health Improvement and Disparities), Professor Paul Gately (Professor of Exercise and Obesity at Leeds Beckett University and founder of MoreLife) and Sally Williams (Content Lead, National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR)). Seven local authorities presented at the conference, including Hull, Oxfordshire, Liverpool, Sandwell, North Tyneside, Bristol.
13. In addition, the organisation Food Active presented about their Healthy Weight Declaration which focuses on population-level interventions which take steps to address the social, environmental, economic and legislative factors that affect people's ability to change their behaviour.

Start for Life: Family Hubs Announcement

14. On 2 April 2022, the government announced [the 75 local authorities eligible](#) for a share of £302 million to create new Family Hubs in their areas. Family Hubs are intended to be one-stop-shops where families can access important services such as parenting advice and breastfeeding support.
15. Family Hubs are for families with children of all ages, but with a Start for Life (the critical 1,001 days from conception to age 2) offer at their core. £100 million of this funding will be shared among eligible areas to roll out bespoke parent-infant relationship and perinatal mental health support.

16. On 23 May 2022, the Government [announced the seven local authorities](#) that will receive funding from the first wave of the £12 million Family Hubs Transformation Fund. The Fund aims to support twelve local authorities with the costs of moving to a family hub model, and the Government hopes to collate learnings and best practice which will help more councils to move to a family hub model in the future. The final five councils that will receive funding are expected to be announced in the coming months. This funding is in addition to the £302 million announced for the creation of 75 Family Hubs.
17. We continue to work with the government's joint Start for Life Team (Department of Health and Social Care and Department of Education) and local authorities to develop these proposals, ensuring they are fair on councils and do not add any new burdens.

10 year drug strategy

18. On 25 May, the LGA gave evidence to the Home Affairs Committee inquiry into the 10 Year Drug Strategy. Councillor Joanne Harding, Trafford Council, Maggie Boreham, City and Hackney Public Health Team, Hackney Council and Prof Jim McManus, Director of Public Health at Hertfordshire County Council and President of the Association of Directors of Public Health gave evidence to the Inquiry where we welcomed the strategy, called for sustainable long-term funding, a workforce strategy and greater co-ordination across local and national partnerships.

Smokefree 2030

19. In February, Sajid Javid, Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, announced an independent review into tobacco control policies needed to achieve the Government's target of making England smoke free by 2030. The 'smokefree' target will be said to have been reached when the proportion of adults smoking falls to 5 per cent or less.
20. The review, which we understand will publish their findings next month is led by Javed Khan OBE, the former Chief Executive Officer of children's charity Barnardo's, who is tasked with providing "independent, evidence-based advice that will inform the Government's approach to tackling the stark health disparities associated with tobacco use". The LGA welcomes the ambitious target and we have met with Javed Khan and officials to push for sustainable funding to meet the 2030 'smokefree' ambition, support a 'polluter pays' smokefree 2030 fund, consideration of a tobacco licensing scheme, improved coordination between the NHS and local government, tackling the supply of illegal tobacco with tough enforcement and a continued roll-out of vaping products.

Health and Care Act 2022

21. [Health and Care Act 2022 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](#) is now on the statute books and the LGA has published a summary of the provisions of the legislation that have most relevance to local government: <https://www.local.gov.uk/publications/get-act-health-and-care-act-2022>. The LGA broadly supports the ambitions of the Act to improve collaboration within the NHS and between the NHS, local government and other partners in order to improve health and care services, improve population health outcomes and address health inequalities.
22. We will continue to work with Government and NHS England to ensure that integrated care boards (ICBs) and integrated care partnerships (ICPs) support and enhance the work with existing place-based partnerships – in particular health and wellbeing boards – to join up care and support and to invest in preventative approaches to population health.

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