

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

### **Armed Forces Covenant**

1. On 6 December I spoke at the launch of the third 'Our Community, Our Covenant' report commissioned by Forces in Mind Trust. The aim of the report was to examine the impact of the Covenant in reducing disadvantage for the Armed Forces Community and how the work of UK public sector organisations, under the Covenant, has achieved progress across six key policy and delivery areas of education, health, housing, children's services, employment, and adult social care. It highlighted the work councils have done, and their progress in putting in place the 'core infrastructure' (including appointing a Covenant champion) recommended by a previous 'Our Community, Our Covenant' report. It also included a set of recommendations about future delivery of the Armed Forces Covenant, which councils have a statutory duty to have regard to. In my speech I highlighted the importance councils attach to the supporting members of the armed forces community and their families. I also welcomed the revised toolkit in the new report but highlighted the need for councils to receive the funding they need to be able to deliver on the new duty in the Armed Forces Act 2021.
2. In December I also attended the Veterans Advisory Board, which was established in 2020 to provide ministers with expert advice on veterans issues. The membership of the Board was refreshed in the summer of 2022 and the LGA was invited to nominate a representative to attend, which I do in my capacity as Chair of the Community Wellbeing Board.

### **Public Health**

3. On 15 November, I was invited to speak at a panel discussion at the NHS Providers Conference in Liverpool. The session, titled 'Making sense of place to support local mental and physical health needs' included a panel discussion looking at how place-based collaborative working can improve the lives of local populations by thinking collectively about issues such as health inequalities and the cost-of-living crisis.
4. Between late October and the end of December, I have written several blogs on key public health issues and ideas. These covered a variety of topics, including celebrating 175 years of the role of Directors of Public Health, Healthy Start, World AIDS Day, and a blog co-authored with Professor Louis Appleby on breaking the link between financial security and suicide. The blogs can be found [here](#) on the LGA website.

5. On 17 January 2023, I held a constructive meeting with Neil O'Brien MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Primary Care and Public Health, we discussed the public health grant 2023/24, supporting the economically inactive back to work and the tobacco plan and alcohol strategy.

### **Vulnerable People**

6. In December 2022, the LGA Community Wellbeing Board agreed publication of a NHSE and Partnerships in Care and Health resource pack on accommodation based mental health, learning disability and autism support in adult community, crisis and acute services. It is available on the NHS Futures site.
7. In January 2023, the LGA Community Wellbeing Board agreed publication of the [Get in on the Act guidance](#) on the Mental Health Act 2022.

### **Adult Social Care**

8. The LGA published a thorough briefing on the 2022 Autumn Statement, which announced new funding for and investment in adult social care. In our response, we indicated that we were pleased that the Government provided this funding and accepted our ask for funding allocated towards the now delayed charging reforms to still be available to address inflationary pressures. While the additional funding is welcome, we were clear in our response that it falls significantly short of the £13 billion we have previously called for to address the severity of the pressures facing the service, including rising demand, and ensure councils can meet all of their statutory duties under the Care Act. We also reiterated our disappointment that the Government has again continued to rely on Council Tax and the social care precept as part of its package to increase funding for adult social care. As we have previously stated, Council Tax is not the solution for meeting long-term pressures facing high-demand national services such as adult social care. Council Tax raises revenue not necessarily aligned to need, leaving many councils struggling to raise the funds that they need locally.
9. In October, the LGA hosted two national webinars on adult social care assurance of which I hosted one and Sarah Pickup CBE, our deputy chief executive, hosted the other. The webinars were extremely well attended with more than 500 council delegates attending across the two sessions to hear from speakers from the Department of Health and Social Care, the Care Quality Commission, the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services and the LGA. The events were organised so that councils could hear directly from DHSC and

CQC on the emerging framework for assurance and the key issues ahead of the regime going live in April this year. Delegates were helpfully very forthcoming with questions and comments, which we know are informing DHSC and CQC's ongoing work in this area. We continue to push both the department and the regulator to make more information available to councils so as to aid preparations for assurance going live.

### **Press statements**

[Piecemeal funding won't fix health and care pressures – LGA statement](#)

[Underfunded social care struggling to help mitigate growing demand on NHS - LGA statement](#)

[LGA responds to Lords Adult Social Care Committee report: A “gloriously ordinary life”](#)

[Councils sound cost of living warning as temperatures plummet](#)

[LGA responds to ONS alcohol death data](#)

[LGA responds to latest ONS smoking habits figures](#)

[LGA responds to Centre for Mental Health report into pressure on mental health services](#)

[LGA responds to Government dental care plan](#)

[New LGA report warns local sexual health services are at 'breaking point'](#)

[LGA responds to Carers Trust report on unpaid carers](#)

[LGA responds to ADASS Autumn Survey 2022](#)

[LGA responds to Carers UK report on unpaid carers](#)

[LGA responds to new Age UK report: Why can't I get care?](#)

[LGA responds to CQC state of care report](#)

[COVID tooth extraction backlog: Fears for kids' teeth as hospital procedures plummet during pandemic](#)

### **Contact details**

Contact officer: Mark Norris

Position: Principal Policy Adviser

Phone no: 0207 664 3241

Email: [Mark.Norris@local.gov.uk](mailto:Mark.Norris@local.gov.uk)