

## Update Paper

### Purpose of Report

For information.

### Summary

This report sets out other updates relevant to the Board, and not included elsewhere.

**LGA Plan Theme:** Putting people first

### Recommendation(s)

**That Members of the Community Wellbeing Board are asked to:**

**Provide oral updates on any other outside bodies / external meetings they may have attended on behalf of the Community Wellbeing Board since the last meeting;**

**and Note the updates contained in the report.**

### Contact details

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### Supported Housing

1. The Supported Housing (Regulatory Oversight) Act is preparing for its formal consultation period towards the end of the year. The LGA are major stakeholders in this work and we have been using the new LGA Supported Housing Network to try to shape the contents of that consultation and ensure the act meets the needs for residents, councils, and providers. We held a workshop in July with councils where we looked at the proposals for the licensing scheme and submitted the minutes of that workshop to DLUHC. The main asks for implementation of the act were that the legislation be as simple as possible so that councils are able to implement it how they need in their area.
2. Capacity is increasingly highlighted as a huge area of concern for councils who are struggling with current caseloads due to workforce issues. Resourcing teams to deal with the administration of licensing and inspections and to effectively cope with a substantial increase in number of properties falling with this new licensing regime will be very difficult as there is massive shortage of skilled staff, particularly for HHSRS inspections.
3. There is also a recognition that providers will need to be supported, both by councils and central government, to meet license conditions in order to minimise any potential negative consequences on supply. At the networks next meeting, colleagues from DWP will come to discuss with councils how the legislation could interact with rules around welfare and benefit.
4. The LGA are supporting the NHF campaign asking central government to consider investing £1.6billion back into supported housing to recognise the important contribution this sector provides in reducing homelessness and preventing placements into care homes, prisons, and delayed hospital discharges.
5. We are also calling for the reinstatement of the £300m housing transformation which would have enabled councils to increase the supply of supported and retirement housing and integrate health, housing and care with housing.

### Older People's Housing

6. We recently submitted a report to Chris Whitty's office for his upcoming Chief Medical Officer's report on healthy ageing. The report featured several recommendations around healthcare systems, adult social care, housing, transport, and mental health - with the overarching theme being a person based, holistic approach which recognises the needs and contributions of older people, as well as a focus on partnership working and an investment in infrastructure which prevents social isolation and declining health.

7. We are also in the process of submitting evidence to the Older Person's Housing Taskforce which is currently attended by Cllr James Jamieson on behalf of the LGA. We are calling for the Taskforce to discuss the need for a suite of housing options for older people which is encouraged by the planning system, offers a multitude of different types of housing for different needs, and is bolstered by robust and good quality advice being made available in order to prevent housing decisions being made at the point of crisis only.

### People with disabilities

8. We are in the process of responding to a consultation on the Disability Action Plan which spans across multiple policy areas such as playgrounds, transport, and assistive technology. We are also responding to a select committee inquiry on disabled people's housing which will argue that councils need greater planning powers and resources to hold developers to account, ensuring that they build the right homes in the right places needed by different groups within the local community. Accessibility features and home adaptations are also vital to help keep people safe and independent in their homes and prevent avoidable admissions to hospital and care homes. Therefore we are calling for the Disability Facilities Grant to be continue to be fully funded to keep up with demand, as well as a long-term sustainable funding solution for adult social care, and funding and powers to kick-start a renaissance in council house building, such as through reform to the Right to Buy scheme. Government have on the 7th September announced an extra £50m for the Disabled Facilities Grant.

### Suicide Prevention

9. Since the CWB board agreed in May to support lines around the extension of local suicide prevention funding, we have embarked on a project to talk to councils where funding is ending, as well as people with lived experience. We want to highlight the excellent work done by councils in this area using funding from the NHS Long Term Plan, as well as warn of the potential impacts should this funding end. The announcement of the new national suicide prevention strategy is imminent, and we're hopeful we'll be able to respond with a press release calling for increased funding for delivery. ADPH, the Samaritans, and the National Suicide Prevention Alliance are supporting us with this work.

### Reinforced autoclaved aerated concrete (RAAC)

10. At the end of August the Department for Education instructed schools to close any buildings where RAAC had been found. This followed three incidents over the summer that led the department to reassess the risks associated with RAAC in the schools estate.

11. RAAC is a lightweight form of precast concrete and has been in widespread use from the 1950s through to the 1990s. It has been found in 27 sites in the NHS estate with several hospitals having to be rebuilt as a result.
12. So far no instances have been reported of RAAC in care settings but the LGA has encouraged councils to check all the buildings they own to see if they might have RAAC, and we are aware that some authorities are writing to commissioned services seeking assurance that their buildings do not have RAAC.
13. More information on RAAC and where to find information on identifying it can be found on the LGA's website: <https://www.local.gov.uk/topics/housing-and-planning/information-reinforced-autoclaved-aerated-concrete-raac>