

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

Mental health, learning disabilities and unpaid carers

1. In June 2023, a letter co-signed by Cllr Fothergill, Cllr Louise Gittins, Chair of the LGA Childrens Board and the Presidents of ADASS and ADCS, was sent to Ministers to outline concerns on the 'Right Care, Right Person' National Partnership Agreement on mental health and policing.
2. In July 2023, Cllr Fothergill sent a letter outlining LGA concerns on 'Right Care, Right Person' to Lisa Townsend, Police and Crime Commissioner, the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners Mental Health lead and Deputy Chief Constable Rachel Bacon, the National Police Chiefs Council lead for policing and mental health.
3. In August 2023, Cllr Fothergill chaired a joint meeting with the National Police Chiefs Council and ADASS on 'Right Care, Right Person'.
4. In September 2023, the LGA Community Wellbeing Board Lead Members agreed the LGA submission to the government consultation on the Oliver McGowan Mandatory Learning Disability and Autism training draft code of practice.
5. In September 2023, Cllr Fothergill chaired a LGA session on unpaid carers with a government led delegation from Taiwan.

Adult Social Care and Health

6. **Major Conditions Strategy** - The LGA has submitted evidence to the Major Conditions Strategy: <https://www.local.gov.uk/parliament/briefings-and-responses/lga-evidence-majorconditions-strategy> . The Government published its progress and rationale for the strategy in August. The final strategy will be published in Winter 2023/24.
7. **Hewitt Review of autonomy and accountability of Integrated Care Systems** The Government published their response to the House of Commons Health and Social Care Committee and the Hewitt Review enquiries into the autonomy and accountability of Integrated Care Systems in June: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/government-response-to-the-hscc-report-and-the-hewitt-review-on-integrated-care-systems> . The report is largely positive with the Government accepting many of the recommendations from both of the enquiries, though they rejected call for a 1 per cent increase in ICS spending on prevention. The Government's response to the call for a national peer-led approach to improvement support for ICSs is also disappointing.
8. On 11 September Cllr Fothergill met with the adult social care Lead/Cabinet Members from three of the five councils piloting the new regime of adult social assurance led by the Care Quality Commission. The meeting was an excellent opportunity to hear how

senior Members found the assessment process and provided valuable insight, which we will feed back to the regulator to help inform the wider rollout of assurance.

9. On 14 September, Cllr Fothergill represented the Community Wellbeing Board at the Health Devolution Commission meeting.

Public health

10. In early July 2023, the Chairs of the Community Wellbeing Board, Children and Young People's Board, Safer, Stronger Communities Board and the Environment, Economy, Housing and Transport Board (now known as the Local Infrastructure and Net Zero Board) wrote a letter to Secretaries of State Steve Barclay and Therese Coffey to outline our concerns about the environmental impacts of disposable vapes and their disproportionate use and marketing to young people.
11. On 14 July, the LGA [released a statement](#) calling for the Government to ban the sale and manufacture of single use vapes by 2024. We said that it is crucial that that ban comes into effect rapidly, as with the EU proposing a ban in 2026 and France rolling out a ban in Dec 2023, there is a risk that as markets close disposable vapes will flood into the UK. In July 2023, we [produced a series of FAQs about our policy position](#) (which has been regularly updated since publication).
12. Cllr David Fothergill gave a range of TV and radio interviews following our statement, including with BBC Breakfast, BBC News, BBC Radio 5 Live, ITV News, Sky News, LBC and Times Radio. The story also ran across national and regional news bulletins throughout the day. Since the story was released, the polling company YouGov [released a poll](#) which found that 77% of individuals surveyed would support a ban on disposable vapes.
13. In September 2023, the Government announced a series of measures to achieve its target of reaching a smokefree nation by 2030. The LGA released a [press release](#) where Cllr David Fothergill commented that, "Smoking is the single largest cause of preventable death worldwide and councils stand ready to help the Government achieve its ambition of eliminating smoking in England by 2030."

Press statements

14. The Board has made a number of media statements:

<https://www.local.gov.uk/about/news/lga-statement-pm-smoking-and-vaping-announcements>

<https://www.local.gov.uk/about/news/lga-responds-rsph-survey-greater-support-investment-public-health>

<https://www.local.gov.uk/about/news/uplifts-funding-needed-meet-demand-lga-health-foundation-analysis-adult-social-care>

<https://www.local.gov.uk/about/news/lga-responds-covid-19-vaccination-changes>

<https://www.local.gov.uk/about/news/crucial-delivering-care-lga-responds-ps600m-social-care-workforce-funding>

<https://www.local.gov.uk/about/news/councils-call-ban-disposable-vapes>

<https://www.local.gov.uk/about/news/social-care-workforce-plan-needed-lga-skills-care-report>

<https://www.local.gov.uk/about/news/scrap-plan-single-word-inspection-ratings-underfunded-adult-social-care-services-lga>

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