

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.

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Update Paper

Public Health

1. On 7 November, Cllr Gillian Ford chaired a webinar on “Creating a smokefree generation and tackling youth vaping,” with Professor Chris Whitty and other DHSC officials. The webinar had over 500 attendees.
2. On 15 November, Cllr David Fothergill chaired a session at UKHSA’s annual conference in Leeds titled “Knitting it together: Making health protection work in neighbourhood, place and system”

Swine Flu

3. The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) has detected a single confirmed human case of influenza A(H1N2)v. Influenza A(H1N2)v is similar to flu viruses currently circulating in pigs in the UK. This is the first detection of this strain of flu in a human in the UK.
4. As is usual early in emerging infection events, UKHSA is working closely with partners to determine the characteristics of the pathogen and assess the risk to human health. The case was detected as part of routine national flu surveillance undertaken by UKHSA and the Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP). UKHSA is monitoring the situation closely and is taking steps to increase surveillance within existing programmes involving GP surgeries and hospitals in parts of North Yorkshire.

Integration

5. On 11 October Cllr David Fothergill represented the LGA at the National Integrated Care Partnerships Chairs’ Network.
6. On 31 October we submitted our response to the Department of Health and Social Care consultation on the review of Section 75 financial flexibilities: <https://www.local.gov.uk/parliament/briefings-and-responses/review-section-75-arrangements-local-government-association>
7. On 28 November I attended the second annual National Integrated Care Services Conference in London. I chaired a session which discussed the joint LGA and NHS Confederation research on the future role and purpose of Integrated Care Partnerships. Sarah Pickup, acting Chief Executive, also chaired a session at the conference on ICSs and collaborations with wider partnerships.
8. On 4 December, the LGA and NHS Confederation will be publishing our joint research on the future role and purpose of ICPs.

Supported Housing

9. We recently co-hosted a number of roundtables with the National Housing Federation which looked at the challenges and opportunities of the new Supported Housing (Regulatory Oversight) Act and discussed what government will need to do to properly support implementation. The event was well attended by both councils and providers and was intended to provide them with a space to discuss concerns and to highlight the importance of local partnerships. Councils and providers alike both highlighted inconsistency across the country, a lack of resources and workforce issues, and the burden of over regulation reducing crucial homelessness provision as areas of high risk. Over 90 councils expressed an interest in this event, showing how keen councils are to learn more about the potential effects of the upcoming act.
10. Government have now said formal consultation of the Act may not be until February at which point we will be holding focus groups to look in more detail at each element of implementation. We will also be looking at what will be required from government, not just in terms of new burdens funding but also national training and guidance, addressing workforce issues, and the lack of affordable housing and move on options. We are also working on a number of case studies around supported housing in order to make the case for more ring-fenced funding for housing related support and highlight the importance of supported housing in preventing homelessness, care placements and delayed hospital discharges.

Suicide Prevention

11. Cllr Joanne Harding attended the National Suicide Prevention Strategy Advisory Group on Tuesday 21st November and highlighted the importance of local authorities in carrying out work related to suicide prevention. We asked the NSPSAG to consider making the case for extending funding relating to suicide prevention work and received support in that request from a number of other members. The chair of the group agreed that there is work to be done in considering how targets set for central government as part of the strategy will filter down locally.
12. The strategy, while positive, does not fully recognise the contribution of local government to suicide prevention. We are working on a series of case studies

with local authorities which will highlight this important work and argue for a continuation of funding. We are already hearing concern from some local authorities who will have to either decommission services or will not be able to expand on them in the spirit of the new strategy.

Armed Forces and Veterans Community

13. We are currently working with Shared Intelligence and RIND on a piece of research entitled “Our Community, Our Covenant, and beyond” which examines the practices and realities of how the Armed Forces Covenant and wider support are being delivered to reduce disadvantage amongst the Armed Forces Community. As part of this work, the LGA Armed Forces Covenant Network met, and highlighted a number of concerns such as a lack of funding for statutory duties and a dwindling workforce due to pressures on councils. There is also an open consultation from the Office of Veteran’s Affairs which is seeking evidence on the needs of veterans and their families which the network will be forming a response to.

Health and housing

14. Cllr Kaya Comer-Schwartz spoke at a Kings Fund conference on 7th November and presented LGA’s High Impact Change Model. The model aims to improve health and wellbeing through housing, and support local care, health, and housing partners to work together to deliver the range of housing that is most effective in enabling people with health and care needs to live independently. It also looks at how to shape local housing markets and services to achieve this.
15. We also engaged with the Principal OT Network to discuss a joint event in the new year which will look at the role of occupational therapy in prevention and explore what the main barriers are for OT’s as well as what support central government should provide to overcome these barriers.

Older People’s Housing

16. The Older People’s Housing Taskforce was created by the government in April of this year to investigate and understand the existing housing market for older people in England. Their aim is to look at options for the provision of greater choice, quality and security of housing for older people. LGA sits on the taskforce and is currently represented by Cllr James Jamieson. The taskforce recently sought views on what they should consider in order to further understand the

market and needs for older people's housing today which we responded to in full. We have asked the taskforce to present their findings at the NCASC on Thursday and the session will be chaired by Cllr Sarah Osborne.

People with Disabilities

17. The Cabinet Office's Disability Unit recently consulted on a new Disability Action Plan which set out how the DU will take concerted action across government to improve disabled people's lives. They held a full public consultation on their proposed areas for action which we responded to. We also responded to a LUHC Committee inquiry response on disabled people in the housing sector.

'Right care, Right Person'

18. Right Care, Right Person' (RCRP) is the National Partnership Agreement on Policing and mental health that was launched in July 2023. The LGA have continued to input into developing social care guidance on RCRP and are commenting on Police guidance. With ADASS we have also produced background information for the sector, including a FAQ. We continue to call for Police to introduce the RCRP approach in partnership with local authorities.

19. DHSC recently undertook a survey of integrated Care Boards and local Authorities to assess impact – this also looked at resources. The LGA and ADASS believe there may be cost implications from RCRP for councils notably for workforce – we are keen to see the results of the survey and will raise any new burdens that may arise.

20. The LGA Chairman recently met with John Pearce, ADASS President and discussed RCRP. And the Chairman will host a roundtable for health and social care leaders, including the Community wellbeing Board Chair, in January 2024.

Blue Badge Guidance

21. The LGA published [Blue Badge application: top tips for people with disabilities not online](#). This includes examples of councils who offer alternative means of support to residents to access Blue Badges and some 'top tips'.