

Minutes of last Community Wellbeing Board meeting

Community Wellbeing Board

Tuesday, 19 September 2023

Smith Square 1&2, Ground Floor, 18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ

Attendance

An attendance list is attached as [Appendix A](#)

Item	Decisions and actions
------	-----------------------

1 Welcome, Apologies and Declarations of Interest

The Chairman welcomed Members and Officers to the meeting of the Community Wellbeing Board.

Apologies were received from Cllr Mike Bell. Cllr Stewart Golton was in attendance as a substitute.

2 Minutes of the previous meeting

The Minutes of the previous meeting were agreed by the Community Wellbeing Board.

3 Membership, Terms of Reference and Outside Bodies

Mark Norris, Principal Policy Adviser, introduced the item. Mark brought the Boards attention to the detail of the report setting out the operation and governance of the Community Wellbeing Board in the wider context of the Local Government Association to support the objectives and work of its member authorities.

Decision

That the Community Wellbeing Board:

1. noted its Terms of Reference;
2. noted the membership for 2023/24; and
3. noted the Board meeting dates for 2023/24.

The Community Wellbeing Board also agreed that Lead Members would confirm appointments to Outside Bodies at a later date.

4 Chris Whitty - verbal update on Health Ageing

Professor Chris Whitty, Chief Medical Officer for England, attended the meeting of the Community Wellbeing Board to give a presentation on healthy ageing. In the discussion that followed the following points were made:

- Members asked Professor Whitty how best local government can collaborate with partners on housing.
- In response Professor Whitty suggested common problems with housing needs to be exposed.
- Members also raised with Professor Whitty how best local government can collaborate with partners on loneliness and isolation.
- In response Professor Whitty acknowledged loneliness was indeed a huge driver of ill health. He explained that addressing these issues requires good environments that enable to move around freely both within and outside of the home. He emphasised the importance of Local Government in achieving this with the wide range of their various responsibilities and services.
- Members asked Professor Whitty what Local Government's lobbying priorities should be in light of the presentation.
- In response Professor Whitty responded with the following lobbying priorities:
 - Capital Investment to open up access to services for older people;
 - Public health interventions for example on smoking or obesity to delay the impact of ill health; and
 - We need a longer-term view and solution regarding social care.
- Members asked what the role of employment was in these issues?
- In response Professor Whitty explained that employment remained a significant factor in people's overall health and wellbeing. He did also emphasise that there would be strong links with the work of His Majesty's Treasury where employment was concerned.
- A Member of the Board drew attention to the work on supporting on ageing population being undertaken in Buckinghamshire.
- Members raised concerns regarding the impact of vaping on people's health.

5 Update on other Board business paper

Mark Norris, Principal Policy Adviser, summarised the update on other Board business paper.

Decision

Members of the Community Wellbeing Board noted the updates contained in the report.

6 Reflections on morning session and priorities for 2023/24

Mark Norris, Principal Policy Adviser, introduced the report outlining proposals for the Board's priorities and key areas of work, set against the available resources for 2023/24.

In particular the Community Wellbeing Board expressed the following views:

- Prevention and wellbeing should be more explicit about mental health and trauma.
- More focus and an explicit mention on the connection between health and housing in terms of prevention.
- That lived experience be woven into every strand of LGA work on Disabilities. Members asked this be added to paragraph 12.9.
- Members suggested we invite Healthwatch to come and speak to the Community Wellbeing Board at a future meeting.

Decision

Officers will develop a work programme to deliver these priorities incorporating Members views and comments.

7 Local Government white paper

Mark Norris introduced the report outlining the work within the LGA to develop a Local Government White Paper that was announced as an LGA priority at its annual conference, and a process for providing the Board's input to it.

Decision

The Community Wellbeing Board members:

- a) Noted the work in the LGA for developing a Local Government White Paper; and
- b) Agreed the process outlined in paragraph for developing the Board's contribution to the White Paper, with proposals being brought back to the Board at its December meeting.

8 Modern slavery in adult social care

Hazel Summers, Director, and Amanda Whittaker-Brown, Senior Adviser at Partners in Care and Health, attended the Community Wellbeing Board to provide an update on international recruitment. A confidential discussion followed in which Members expressed their concerns about the vulnerability of some of the care workers who have been recruited, the need for a 'whole council' approach and support for the action being taken.

Decision

That the Community Wellbeing Board:

- a. Noted the actions taken by the LGA with ADASS to prevent modern slavery in adult social care services; and
- b. Considered what other steps the LGA may take to support councils in this area.

Appendix A -Attendance

Position/Role	Councillor	Authority
Chairman	Cllr David Fothergill	Somerset Council
Vice-Chairman	Cllr Kaya Comer-Schwartz	Islington London Borough Council
Deputy-chairman	Cllr Sarah Osborne	East Sussex County Council

	Cllr Gillian Ford	Havering London Borough Council
Members	Cllr Teresa Murray Cllr Timothy Swift MBE Cllr Russ Bowden Cllr Anntoinette Bramble Cllr Joanne Harding Cllr Arooj Shah Cllr Wayne Fitzgerald Cllr Beccy Hopfensperger Cllr Angela Macpherson Cllr Rebecca Poulsen Cllr Adrian Hardman Cllr Dr Wendy Taylor Cllr Patricia Patterson- Vanegas	Medway Council Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council Warrington Council Hackney London Borough Council Trafford Metropolitan Borough Council Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council Peterborough City Council Suffolk County Council Buckinghamshire Council Bradford City Council Worcestershire County Council Newcastle City Council Wealden District Council
Apologies	Cllr Mike Bell	North Somerset Council
In Attendance	Chris Whitty	Chief Medical Officer for England
LGA Officers	Mark Norris Paul Ogden Alyson Morley Kevin Halden Emma Jenkins Emily Hackett Charli Fudge Kevin Halden Hazel Summers Amanda Whittaker-Brown	Principal Policy Adviser Senior Adviser Senior Adviser Senior Adviser Senior Adviser Adviser Adviser Adviser Care and Health Improvement Adviser Programme Manager