

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

Mental health, learning disabilities and unpaid carers

1. In October we submitted a response to the Cabinet Office's Disability Action Plan consultation.
2. In October 2023, I agreed the LGA publication 'Blue Badge application: top tips for people with disabilities not online'. This publication is in response to an Age UK report highlighting difficulties some older people have applying for Blue Badge Parking permits online. It includes case studies from three councils who offer alternative means of support to residents to apply for Blue Badges and some 'top tips' for other councils.
3. On 7 November Cllr Kaya Comer-Schwartz spoke at a Kings Fund event on the importance of collaboration between health and housing services.
4. On 10 November I responded to a Public Accounts Committee final report on supported housing calling highlighting the need for an appropriate level of new burdens funding to recognise the substantial impact the new legislation will have on councils.
5. On 10 November, [I responded to the Chief Medical Officer's annual report](#), "Health in an Ageing Society", highlighting the key role councils can play in helping to increase quality of life for older people.
6. On 21 November Cllr Joanne Harding attended the National Suicide Prevention Strategy Advisory Group to push for the continuation of local suicide prevention funding which is due to end in 2024.
7. On 12 January we sent [a letter to Minster Buchan](#) which I signed calling to protect homelessness services from being decommissioned by boosting and ring-fencing funding for supported housing.
8. On 15 January 2023, I attended the LGA Chairman's roundtable on 'Right Care, Right Person' (RCRP) the National Partnership Agreement. The roundtable included senior leaders from local authorities, police, health and the voluntary sector. The aim of the roundtable was to identify and share emerging issues around RCRP. Key actions were identified to take forward.
9. In January 2024, I agreed the publication of the LGA and Partners in Care and Health legal guide: 'Preparing for adulthood: Young people with a learning disability and autistic young people'. The LGA commissioned the guide to pull together in one place, relevant legislation and guidance to assist local council

staff working in this area including social workers and lawyers.

Adult Social Care and Health

10. On 17 October I chaired the latest in our series of webinars on adult social care assurance. Alongside directors from the Care Quality Commission and the Department of Health and Social Care, I was delighted to welcome senior Members and officers from Lincolnshire and Suffolk County Councils, two of the five council pilot sites that tested the assurance process last year. The webinar enjoyed another big turnout and attendees had ample opportunity to pose their questions to speakers. The answers to a number of those questions have been published on our website here: <https://www.local.gov.uk/events/past-event-presentations/adult-social-care-assurance-learning-cqc-pilots-and-elected-0>
11. On 28 November, I chaired a panel discussion on the role and future of Integrated Care Partnerships at the second annual ICS conference. Sarah Pickup, Acting LGA Chief Executive, also contributed to a panel discussion on the importance of collaborative working at the conference.
12. I was delighted to co-chair the annual National Children and Adult Services Conference in Bournemouth in November, along with my colleague Cllr Louise Gittins, Chair of the Children and Young People Board. The conference took place over 3 days and – with 1000 attendees, over 40 sessions and a large exhibition – it offered a fantastic opportunity for attendees to come together to discuss and learn about the latest thinking and developments in the sector. Keynote speakers included Helen Whately MP, Minister of State for Social Care, Andrew Gwynne MP, Shadow Minister for Social Care and Amanda Pritchard from NHS England and the interactive workshop sessions demonstrated our commitment to ensuring people with lived experience of services were involved both as speakers and delegates.

Public health

13. On 15 November 2023, I chaired a panel session at the annual UK Health Security Agency national conference in Leeds. The session, titled, “Knitting it together: making health protection work in neighbourhood, place and system” featured presentations from Dr Renu Bindra, Deputy Director of Clinical and Public Health Response, UKHSA, Robin Tuddenham, Chief Executive, Calderdale Council and Jennifer Connolly, Associate Director for Improving Population Health at West Yorkshire Combined Authority, followed by an audience Q&A. The session discussed the role of health protection in systems working and how we can make it the best it can possibly be.

Press statements

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

<https://www.local.gov.uk/about/news/lga-responds-ukhsa-hiv-survey>

<https://www.local.gov.uk/about/news/lga-responds-care-workforce-pathway>

<https://www.local.gov.uk/about/news/lga-urges-family-hub-extension>

<https://www.local.gov.uk/about/news/councils-warn-rise-synthetic-opioid-use>

<https://www.local.gov.uk/about/news/lga-lancet-cancer-survival-study>

<https://www.local.gov.uk/about/news/lga-smokefree-2030-consultation>

<https://www.local.gov.uk/about/news/councils-need-support-and-funding-adult-social-care-assurance-process>

<https://www.local.gov.uk/about/news/lga-responds-cqc-pilot-adult-social-care-assessment-results>

<https://www.local.gov.uk/about/news/further-savings-mean-tough-decisions-social-care-leaders>

<https://www.local.gov.uk/about/news/impacts-social-care-reforms-must-be-assessed-lga-nao-report>

<https://www.local.gov.uk/about/news/20-cent-uplift-needed-healthy-start-meet-soaring-food-inflation>

<https://www.local.gov.uk/about/news/kings-speech-lga-statement-tobacco-and-vapes-bill>

<https://www.local.gov.uk/about/news/wider-issues-must-be-tackled-order-support-unpaid-carers-lga-carers-uk-research>

<https://www.local.gov.uk/about/news/lga-nao-report-drug-related-harms>

<https://www.local.gov.uk/about/news/lga-responds-cqc-state-care-report-5>

<https://www.local.gov.uk/about/news/lga-national-child-measurement-programme-statistics>

Contact details

Contact officer: Mark Norris

Position: Principal Policy Adviser

Phone no: 020 7664 3241

Email: Mark.Norris@local.gov.uk