

Minutes of last Community Wellbeing Board meeting

Community Wellbeing Board

Tuesday, 5 December 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
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1	Welcome, apologies and declarations of interest
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Apologies were received from Cllr Timothy Swift, with Cllr Lorna Fielker attending as his substitute.

Cllr Wendy Dalton, Cllr Sally Howell and Cllr Rowena Bass attended to observe the meeting.

2	Adult Social Care funding
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John Jackson, Care and Health Improvement Adviser (National Finance Lead), gave a presentation on adult social care funding. In particular he explored current financial pressures including the significant increase in spending in the previous year, and overspend this year of £515 million and the huge pressures on the care sector. John took the Community Wellbeing Board through the data behind these issues and pressures on social care.

In the discussion that followed, the following points were made:

- In response to a query John explained that the figures he gave did not include self-funders, and that he estimated that would be additional 200,000 people.
- Members requested to share these points with the Minister as a part of a constructive letter.
- A view was expressed that as a part of a letter to the Minister sustainable longer-term funding.
- A view was expressed that a national budget for younger peoples social care could be explored as some local areas will be faced with extremely challenging budgets for this service.

Decision

The Community Wellbeing Board noted the presentation.

Action

Officers to draft a letter to the Minister emphasising the data and findings of the presentation and asking for sustainable longer-term.

3 King's Speech

Mark Norris, Principal Adviser, introduced the report on The King's Speech that occurred the previous month setting out the government's legislative programme for the new Parliamentary session. He also raised that the Community Wellbeing Board may want to reflect on what it felt was missing from The King's Speech giving further news on mental health as an example.

Decision

The Community Wellbeing Board:

- (a) Noted the inclusion of the Tobacco and Vapes Bill in the King's Speech; and
- (b) Agreed the proposed high profile engagement prioritisation of the Tobacco and Vapes Bill within the LGA's lobbying activity over the coming Parliamentary session.

4 LGA's Local Government White Paper

Mark Norris, Principal Adviser, introduced the item on the LGA White Paper explaining this was currently an internal piece of work on all LGA Boards to develop proposals for inclusion in the LGA's Local Government White Paper. This paper sets out proposals on what the Board might suggest under the key areas the LGA has identified.

The following points were made in the discussion that followed:

- Members expressed views that there should be more emphasis on the importance of ICBs.
- The importance of Leadership in health was raised, in particular raising if leadership in ICBs requires reviewing.
- Members asked the LGA raise with Government that public health officers be given greater weight in particular in meetings of ICBs and that local authorities should have greater involvement in ICBs.
- Views were expressed that conferences, such as the recent ICS conference, need to be more joined up with the local government sector and that this should be explored.
- Members raised that Health and Wellbeing Boards are a good example of a body that is successful while having a wider membership.
- A Member emphasised the importance in an increased emphasis on using research findings on the wider determinants of health to ensure that local public health innovations are always evidence based.

Decision

That the Community Wellbeing Board:

- (a) Noted the key areas set out in paragraph 5 of interest to the LGA as well as the emerging themes in paragraph 6; and
- (b) Commented on the proposed approaches set out in paragraphs 8 to 19 and that these are then submitted by the Board as its contribution to the Local Government White Paper.

Action

Alyson Morley, Senior Adviser, will prepare a set of words regarding Members views and comments on ICBs which will be cleared by the Lead Members of the Community Wellbeing Board.

5 National Childrens and Adult Services Conference 2023 - update

Cllr David Fothergill, Chairman of the Community Wellbeing Board, gave an update on the recent National Childrens and Adult Services Conference that had been held in Bournemouth. In particular he raised the following as key issues that had emerged:

- The financial and capacity crisis in adults and children's services had been a focus of the event, and the huge disappointment of the Autumn Statement.
- The growing cost and demands of SEND and children and young people's mental health services was raised throughout.
- Workforce had been a key priority.
- The importance of co-designing care and support with people with lived experience, in order to ensure services are fit for purpose.
- Concerns were raised regarding the CQC assessment of local authority adult social care commissioning. In particular, the burden on local government and the introduction of one-word judgements.
- There was a strong emphasis on co-production and the inclusion of voices of lived experience in service design, including housing.
- The role of advice and assistance in early prevention.

In the discussion which followed, Members also raised:

- Attendance was a positive mix of both Members and Officers.
- It had been good to see attendees agreeing the importance of a patient centred approach.
- The Chairman raised that it was unfortunate that some Councils had been unable to afford their Directors of Adult Services attending NCASC and that he would raise this at the Executive Advisory Board.
- Views were expressed that there had been important messaging around the wider determinants of health emerging from challenges faced in some Local Authorities.
- Members expressed their thanks to Emma Jenkins, Adviser, and all other colleagues involved in arranging NCASC.

6 Smokefree generation and vaping consultation

The Community Wellbeing Board received a presentation from Richard Boden, Head of Tobacco Control and Gambling, Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID), updating them regarding the *Smokefree generation and vaping consultation* announced on 12 October 2023. At the time of the meeting the consultation was still live. In particular he stated that under the proposed approach children younger than 14 would never be able to buy tobacco and the intention was for this to come into effect in 2027 to give sufficient time to embed legislation. He also raised that there

was additional funding available to stop smoking services.

In the discussion that followed, the following points were made:

- Richard explained that consultation was especially needed as to whether the ban on the purchase of tobacco for future generations needed to be extended to non-nicotine vapes.
- Richard stated that so far the majority of responses had shown support for smokefree generation policy.
- The Chairman raised that both Australia and France had very recently voted to specifically ban disposable vapes and asked whether that was an option in the UK. In response, Richard explained that it was a decision point the Government will be making.
- In response to a concern raised Richard confirmed that regulations on packaging and retail would be explored.
- In response to a concern raised that banning tobacco would lead to an illicit market Paul Ogden, Senior Adviser, explained that although industry often claim this there is no evidence to show that this is the case. He also emphasised the importance of funding trading standards officers.
- Paul also raised that a number of tobacco companies own vape companies.
- Paul raised the environmental and waste impact of disposable vapes as around 5 million are thrown away each week and very few recycled.
- Richard emphasised that tobacco was an exceptional product as it is the only product that kills two thirds of its users.
- Members expressed a view that Councils should do what they can to ensure vape shops are not set up near schools.
- Members raised concerns that vaping cafes were being opened across the Country and asked officers to explore the legislation that impacts these to return to the Community Wellbeing Board for discussion.

Decision

The Community Wellbeing Board noted the contents of this report by way of background to the Board's discussion with Richard Boden.

7 Adult social care assurance

Simon Williams, Director of Adult Social Care Improvement, Partners in Care and Health, introduced the report on adult social care assurance. He emphasised that the Community Wellbeing Board position had throughout been that local government welcomes transparency but opposed to the concept of single ratings. Simon did raise that these ratings continue to be met regularly and the support the LGA offers is well set out.

Cllr David Fothergill, Chairman of the Community Wellbeing Board, raised that 150 Local Authorities are waiting to participate in the pilot and it would be helpful to declare which 20 Local Authorities will be the next pilots. He explained that until this was set out the 150 Local Authorities waiting would have unnecessary additional pressure.

Cllr Beccy Hopfensperger, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Suffolk County Council shared her experiences of her home authority being one the five Councils to pilot assurance. She stated Suffolk County Council received an indicative rating of 'Good.' Cllr Hopfensperger explained that the pilot was overall a positive experience.

She shared that there was a short timescale between being informed the Council was going to be visited by the CQC inspection team and when the visit was due. She also expressed a view that LGA support sessions ahead of these inspections were very useful, explaining that Suffolk County Council had a peer review in January for which the self-assessments proved invaluable as the basis for the inspections. Cllr Hopfensperger emphasised the value of having a core team that acted as contacts for the CQC inspection team.

In the discussion that followed Members also raised the following points:

- Regarding point 9 of the report adult social care assurance is a new burden on Council resources if Officers need to be taken from their day job to undertake it.
- Asking questions of people with lived experience is critical to get this right.

Recommendations

That the Community Wellbeing Board notes the contents of this report as background to the verbal update.

8 National Child Measurement Programme 2022-23

Emily Hackett, Adviser, updated members of the Community Wellbeing Board (CWB) with a brief overview of national policy and LGA current policy messages related to childhood obesity. Emily also set out the most recent data release from the child measurement programme showing an encouraging decline in obesity as detailed in the report.

Emily asked members to consider LGA policy lines related to this area and opened up discussion to a steer on what next steps should be taken. In the discussion that followed, the following points were made:

- The Chairman emphasised the blip in progress on obesity occurred due to the Covid-19 pandemic and expressed a view further to this that as a society very little has been achieved on reducing childhood obesity in a long time.
- Views were expressed that the link between childhood obesity and mental health in young people needs to be explored further.
- Members requested a joint working group be established to explore this further.

Recommendations

That the Community Wellbeing Board note the update provided in the report to inform the discussion about the LGA's policy lines on this area.

Actions

Officers to note the feedback from Members.

Officers to establish a joint working group with Lead Members of both the Community Wellbeing Board and the Children and Young People's Board.

9 Update on other Board business paper

Mark Norris, Principal Policy Adviser, introduced the paper providing other Board business to Members.

Cllr Joanne Harding provided an update on the work of the National Suicide Prevention Strategy Advisory Group. She explained the NSPSAG were now looking at those bereaved by suicide as well. NSPSAGs new strategy had recently been published which although impressive did not acknowledge all the work of local authorities on suicide prevention. Cllr Harding raised a concern that the impact of this strategy on Local Suicide Prevention plans remained unclear.

Cllr Harding agreed that notes from the meeting could be circulated to the Community Wellbeing Board.

Decision

The Community Wellbeing Board noted the updates contained in the report.

10 Minutes of the previous meeting

The Minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as a correct record.

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 Cllr Gillian Ford	East Sussex County Council Havering London Borough Council
Members	Cllr Teresa Murray Cllr Russ Bowden Cllr Anntoinette Bramble Cllr Joanne Harding Cllr Wayne Fitzgerald Cllr Beccy Hopfensperger Cllr Angela Macpherson Cllr Rebecca Poulsen Cllr Adrian Hardman Cllr Mike Bell Cllr Dr Wendy Taylor Cllr Patricia Patterson-Vanegas Cllr Lorna Fielker	Medway Council Warrington Council Hackney London Borough Council Trafford Metropolitan Borough Council Peterborough City Council Suffolk County Council Buckinghamshire Council Bradford City Council Worcestershire County Council North Somerset Council Newcastle City Council Wealden District Council Southampton City Council
Apologies	Cllr Timothy Swift MBE	Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council

In Attendance

Cllr Rowena Bass

Cllr Wendy Dalton
Cllr Sally Howell
Richard Boden

Kingston-upon-Thames Royal Borough
Council
Wolverhampton City Council
Huntingdon District Council
Head of Tobacco Control and Gambling,
Office for Health Improvement and
Disparities (OHID)

LGA Officers

Mark Norris
Simon Williams
John Jackson
Alyson Morley
Paul Ogden
Emily Hackett
Jonathan Bryant
Alexander Saul

Principal Policy Adviser
Director of Adult Social Care Improvement
Care and Health Improvement Adviser
Senior Policy Adviser
Senior Policy Adviser
Policy Adviser
Member Services Officer
Assistant Member Services Manager