

## **Community Wellbeing Portfolio – from Cllr Izzi Seccombe (Chair)**

### **Prevention: A Shared Commitment**

1. On 14 October the LGA published [‘Prevention: A Shared Commitment’](#), a supporting document to the LGA’s Spending Review submission, which calls on the Government to use the Spending Review to urgently invest £2 billion to help transform the health and care system towards preventing ill health rather than waiting to fix problems only after they occur. The report highlights that Government urgently needs to recognise the importance of investing in prevention before people relying on care become victim to major consequences. Failure to tackle the crisis in the social care and health system will leave councils unable to manage future demand as it reaches unmanageable new levels, and ignoring the problem will push the system to breaking point and lead to people needing costlier and more acute treatment. Currently, just five per cent of the entire healthcare budget is spent on schemes that prevent people from falling ill. In order to reduce accident and emergency admissions and reduce longer-term conditions, both the Government and the NHS need to rethink their approach to prevention and recognise the value of investing more in adult social care and public health.

### **A new home for public health services for children aged 0-5: A resource for local authorities**

2. In October we published [A new home for public health services for children aged 0-5: A resource for local authorities](#). There is overwhelming evidence that tells us that the first few years in children's lives shape their future development, and influence how well children do at school, their ongoing health and wellbeing and their achievements later in life. This briefing for officers will help councils to deliver their new statutory responsibility for commissioning children's public health services for children aged 0-5. It contains information about the transfer and the opportunities it brings to join up public health functions for children aged 0-19.

### **Must knows for elected members: Children's public health transfer**

3. To coincide with the transfer of commissioning public health responsibilities for 0-5 year olds the LGA published [Must knows for elected members: Children's public health transfer](#). Councils now have a statutory responsibility for commissioning children's public health services for children aged 0-5 following the transfer of these responsibilities from the NHS on 1 October 2015. This joins up with the much larger transfer of public health functions to local government which included responsibility for 5-19 year olds, which took place on 1 April 2013.

### **Beyond fighting fires: The role of the fire and rescue service in improving the public's health**

4. Over the summer the LGA launched [Beyond fighting fires: The role of the fire and rescue service in improving the public's health](#). Fire and rescue authorities (FRAs) have a key role to play in ensuring that their communities are safe through responding to emergencies and also through their extensive preventative work. The case studies contained within this publication explore their activities to help the most vulnerable individuals and families in our communities.

### **Sexual health commissioning in local government**

5. In July the LGA published [Sexual health commissioning in local government](#). These nine case studies showcase local government experience of commissioning sexual health services since taking over this responsibility in April 2013. The studies demonstrate how commissioners have grasped the opportunities of having a local government base. They outline the steps taken to collaborate not only within and between local authorities but also with NHS England and Clinical Commissioning Groups.

### **Community Wellbeing Portfolio Awayday**

6. On Friday 2 October Community Wellbeing Portfolio members held an away day, with a number of guest speakers including Alistair Burt MP, Minister of State for Community and Social Care at the Department of Health, and representatives from the NHS Confederation, the Association of Directors of Public Health, and the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services. Members also heard from a representative of PeopleHub, who provided a personal perspective on health budgets.
7. Following the Awayday, members discussed how the new portfolio arrangements for Community Wellbeing would operate. The Portfolio's priorities for the forthcoming year were agreed, and the areas of work were split into four Policy Groups: the future vision for health and care systems; the funding and support for adult social care; the role of councils in promoting health and wellbeing; and vulnerable people and older people. Further details on the portfolio arrangements will be set out in due course.

### **NCAS Conference**

8. The National Children and Adult Services (NCAS) Conference took place between 14 and 16 October in Bournemouth. The conference is hosted by the Local Government Association (LGA), the Association of Directors of Social Services (ADASS) and the Association of Directors of Children's Services (ADCS), and is attended by more than 1,000 delegates. It is an important annual event for councillors, directors, senior officers, policymakers and service managers with responsibilities for children's services, adult care and health in the statutory, voluntary and private sectors. Sessions this year included discussions around a sustainable future for Adult Social Care, the impact of devolution on health and care, transforming children's health services and person-centred integration. Cllr Izzi Seccombe hosted a Community Wellbeing Forum session on 15 October.

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