

Community Wellbeing Board – report from Cllr Katie Hall (Chair)

Health and Social Care Integration

1. Following the announcement of the **Autumn Statement** in December, I [responded](#) on behalf of the LGA. My statement recognised the potential for pooled health and social care budgets to bring closer integration. However, I also stressed that such benefits risked being undermined by the current lack of surety in social care funding and pressed Government to make the future of funding more secure.
2. Cllr Gillian Ford, along with Carolyn Downs and Sally Burlington, joined a number of council Chief Executives and Adult Services Directors for an LGA-organised **roundtable discussion on integrated care** with Sir John Oldham on 2 December. Sir John is chairing Labour's Independent Commission on Whole Person Care, which will make policy recommendations to the Shadow Cabinet this year. The roundtable was therefore an important opportunity to influence the Commission's thinking. The discussion covered the role of Health and Wellbeing Boards, the Better Care Fund, the importance of integration across government departments, and reconfiguration and the wider wellbeing agenda.

Dignity in care and personalisation

3. Think Local Act Personal is a national partnership to support and promote the **personalisation of care**, due to be launched in April 2014. As part of a debate on what is next for personalisation I have written a [blog](#) post setting out what the LGA would like to see from the new partnership agreement.
4. On 19 November, I attended the Learning Disability Programme Board, a policy advisory group chaired by Norman Lamb MP which works to improve health and wellbeing outcomes for people with learning disabilities and their families. Among the items for discussion on the agenda was an update on the **Winterbourne View Joint Improvement Programme**. At the meeting, I stressed the LGA's support for this important and ambitious programme.
5. Cllr Ford attended a **British Institute of Human Rights Roundtable on Putting Human Rights at the Heart of Health and Social Care** on behalf of the LGA on 5 December. Cllr Ford's contribution made reference to improvement programmes such as Winterbourne View and Towards Excellence in Adult Social Care, stressing that core to each of these programmes is the need to take a person centred approach in supporting people to live their lives in the way they wish.
6. Cllr Linda Thomas was a panel member at a filmed **Carers Trust roundtable on carers and the Care Bill** on 30 January. The roundtable covered the positive measures in the Bill, and the practicalities of implementation given constraints on local authority budgets. Cllr Thomas set out the sector's commitment to supporting carers, and the work local areas are already doing to support people in their caring role. However, she also set out the pressure facing local government budgets and the consequent need to ensure that the Care Bill reforms are properly costed and funded. Without additional finance for local government on this issue, she emphasised that the

Government risked raising aspirations amongst Carers that local government cannot fulfil.

Public Health

7. I addressed the **Association of Directors of Public Health Annual Conference** on 18 November, providing an LGA perspective in relation to the conference's theme of Reducing Health Inequalities and avoidable deaths.
8. On 2 December, Cllr Ford took part in a meeting of the **Mental Health Members Champions Network**. The network has been created by a consortium of mental health organisations, including the Centre for Mental Health, Mental Health Foundation, Mind, Rethink Mental Illness, the Royal College of Psychiatrists and Young Minds. These organisations have come together to ask all upper tier local authorities to take up 'the Mental Health Challenge' which sets out [ten actions for councils](#) to promote mental health across all of their services.
9. I chaired the **LGA Annual Public Health Conference** on 4 February in partnership with Dr Janet Atherton, President of the Association Directors of Public Health. The day provided an early chance to hear from the newly appointed Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Public Health, Jane Ellison MP as well as Duncan Selbie, Chief Executive of Public Health England and Ben Page, Chief Executive of Ipsos MORI. Initial feedback from the day has been very positive, with delegates valuing the opportunity to look at the implications for local government and public health since transition of these responsibilities took place.
10. I took part in a workshop in London hosted by the Medical Foundation for HIV and Mental Health (MEDFASH) on 10 February to support the development of a **National Framework for Commissioning HIV, Sexual and Reproductive Health Services**. At the event, I underlined the commitment of local government to embed public health into all of our work and highlight the joint positive work being undertaken by LGA, ADPH and PHE to make the new system work and to develop a new commissioning framework for HIV, Sexual and Reproductive Health.
11. The Community Wellbeing Board has appointed Councillor Jonathan McShane as the new chair of the Public Health System Group and Stakeholder Forum. The **Public Health System Group (PHSG)** acts as a conduit for advice to the Department of Health and it provides a valuable forum for the whole of public health system to help them protect and improve the public's health. At a meeting on 16 January the Group discussed how to build and maintain a multidisciplinary workforce for the future, including the need to ensure consistent terms and conditions for staff within the public health system together with a short discussion on the review of ONS data and a review of the ADPH survey results.
12. The new **Public Health System Group Stakeholder Forum** will provide a setting for leaders and partners from the wider public health system to discuss public health policy. Meeting twice per year the role of the Stakeholder Forum shall be to consider public health policy in the context of the cohesion of the public health system and it will provide a forum to highlight policy development issues and initiatives where they may benefit the whole system.

13. On 4 February, Sir Merrick Cockell launched a new publication "[Public Health Transformation 9 months on: Bedding in and reaching out](#)" in collaboration with DoH and PHE colleagues. This consists of a set of case studies illustrating how public health in a number of councils has started to use the opportunities of a local government setting to improve health and wellbeing.

Other meetings

14. Cllr Colin Noble participated in an event on 14 November hosted by the Business Services Association, '**Health and Social Care Commissioning: the New Landscape**'. The meeting sought to gauge to what extent Health and Wellbeing Boards have been able to bring local democratic input and wider public health considerations to the commissioning agenda and what private sector providers of local services can do to adapt to the new priorities.
15. Also on 14 November, Cllrs Jonathan McShane and Steve Bedser sat on separate panels addressing the question of local and national leadership regarding tobacco control at the **Smokefree Action Coalition (SFAC) Conference**.
16. Cllr Gillian Ford took part in a **roundtable discussion on "Moving from 15-minute care to person-centred commissioning"** on 18 November hosted by Leonard Cheshire Disability. The aim of the meeting was to develop new policy approaches to bring about more person-centred care and end the inappropriate use of 15 minute visits.
17. Cllr Andrew Gravells attended the **Armed Forces Community Covenant Conference** on 22 November 2013 at BIS. The aim of the event was to share the challenges that have been encountered and the successes achieved in delivering the Armed Forces Community Covenant. The event was well attended by local authority members and staff, and senior Ministry of Defence officials.
18. On 28 November, Cllr Doreen Huddart represented the LGA at a meeting of the **NHS Health Check Learning network**. The network is run by Public Health England in conjunction with NHS Improving Quality to ensure that key stakeholders are able to learn from, build upon and share existing and emerging practice in this area to assist with implementation and delivery.
19. Cllr Gravells represented the LGA at a meeting of the **Armed Forces Community Covenant reference group** in London on 2 December, a national cabinet reference group for this issue.
20. On 5 December, Cllr McShane spoke on "Putting public health and wellbeing at the heart of local government" at the **Annual General Meeting of the UK Health Forum**, an alliance of national organisations concerned with the prevention of non-communicable diseases. In his presentation, he stressed the need for strong political and professional leadership and honest dialogue with local residents in making the case to shift resources from treatment to early intervention and prevention.

21. Cllr Bedser attended a Department of Health and World Health Organization **Workshop on Interaction with the Tobacco Industry** on 11 December on behalf of the LGA.
22. Cllr McShane took part in a roundtable event on 17 December organised by Reform, entitled "**From idea to action: Practical steps to release the potential of pharmacies in health reform**". The event included contributions from Stephen Dorrell MP, Chair of the House of Commons Health Select Committee and Alan Milburn MP, former Secretary of State for Health. The event sought to identify practical steps to release the potential of pharmacies in improving access to healthcare, encouraging patient-centred care, promoting prevention and wellbeing and tackling unnecessary hospital admissions.
23. Also in December, Cllr Elaine Atkinson attended a meeting of the **Skills for Care Board** in London as the LGA's newly appointed representative on this body. During the meeting, Cllr Atkinson emphasised the importance of a collective approach from health and social care providers in response to the recommendations arising from Winterbourne View.
24. Cllr Ford was present at a high-level **conference on mental health** hosted by Nick Clegg MP on 20 January. The conference brought together mental health practitioners, academics, service users and policymakers to share ideas on better working with communities to improve the wellbeing of individuals and those around them.

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