

Health and Wellbeing Board

4 September 2018

Local Government Association – Green Paper for Adult Social Care and Wellbeing



Report of Jane Robinson, Corporate Director of Adult and Health Services, Transformation and Partnerships, Durham County Council

Purpose of the Report

- 1 This report provides the Health and Wellbeing Board with information on a national consultation launched by the Local Government Association (LGA) on 2 August 2018 with regard to a green paper on adult social care and wellbeing, entitled 'The lives we want to lead'.
- 2 The report also informs the Health and Wellbeing Board of plans in place to provide a consultation response to the LGA.

Background

- 3 The government has delayed its publication of a Green Paper on social care until the autumn, following Parliament's summer recess. In a bid to influence the delayed green paper, as well as the government's autumn budget and next year's spending review, the LGA has decided to issue its own green paper as a means to launching a nationwide consultation on how to pay for adult social care and what it may look like in the future.
- 4 The [LGA green paper](#) deliberately steers clear of pushing particular solutions at this stage. Instead, it articulates why this debate is so important, the scale of the challenge and the sorts of questions to be tackled in order to drive the conversation forward. Alongside funding issues, the document seeks to start a much-needed debate about how to shift the overall emphasis of our care and health system so that it focuses far more on preventative, community-based personalised care, which helps maximise people's health, wellbeing and independence and alleviates pressure on the NHS.
- 5 LGA Chief Executive, Mark Lloyd, said: "We need an honest, open debate about how we pay for care, and we need it now... It is an ambitious and wide-ranging public consultation which sets out how we can make the system better and more sustainable. It also highlights the sometimes radical options that need to be considered to tackle the funding crisis facing adult social care head-on."

Consultation

- 6 The consultation – the biggest launched by the LGA – is seeking the views of people and organisations from across society on how best to pay for care and support for adults of all ages and their unpaid carers.
- 7 The LGA aims to make the public a central part of the debate and has provided a [comms pack](#) and a facilitators’ pack to help local authorities communicate the green paper with their local media, partners and staff and engage with their local communities on the issue.
- 8 The ‘comms pack’ provides documents designed to promote an understanding of the issues surrounding adult social care and encourage as many people as possible to respond. This includes a template press release, suggestions and assets for social media, case studies and frequently asked questions.
- 9 The green paper outlines the case for social care to be planned and delivered locally, rather than nationally, and describes the view as “flawed” that national systems would address variations in the quality of care across the country and “could exacerbate inequalities which only a highly localised response can address”.
- 10 The consultation will last for 8 weeks: **from 31 July to 26 September 2018.**
- 11 A total of 30 questions are included in the green paper for stakeholders to consider – these are attached at Appendix 2.
- 12 The LGA will respond to the findings in the autumn, to inform and influence the government’s Green Paper and spending plans.

Funding proposals

- 13 The LGA green paper has cross-party political support and is backed by organisations including the Care Quality Commission, NHS Providers, NHS Confederation, Public Health England and the Institute for Fiscal Studies.
- 14 It has estimated the current and future costs of meeting both existing requirements and reforms to extend entitlements, as follows:

Current and future costs of existing requirements:

- Paying providers a “fair price” for care to stabilise the market will cost £1.44bn this year. Ensuring that there is enough funding to pay for rising demand on services and inflation is estimated to cost £2.12bn by 2024-25.
- The cost of meeting the unmet needs of people who require help with three or more essential daily activities would cost £2.4bn this year, based on the estimated 164,217 people who currently fit in to this category. This rises to £3.6bn in 2024-25.
- To provide care for working age people, £1.2bn would be needed this year and £1.4bn in 2024-25.

In terms of reforms to the system:

- The estimated cost of introducing a £75,000 cap and a £100,000 floor on care costs, as proposed in the 2017 Conservative Party manifesto, is £4.7bn by 2024-25.
- Providing free social care would cost £6bn by 2024-25.

Options for how these changes could be funded:

- Increasing income tax for all taxpayers, with a 1p increase on the basic rate, generating £4.4bn in 2024-25.
- A 1p increase on national insurance could raise £10bn - and applying the rise to over-40s and working pensioners as a 'social care premium' could generate £1bn, equating to a cost of £33.40 per person affected.
- Means testing universal benefits such as winter fuel allowance could raise £1.9bn in 2024-25, while allowing a further 1% council tax rise would generate £285m.

Next steps

- 15 Durham County Council will issue communications about the consultation, to raise awareness with the public and wider stakeholders.
- 16 A briefing note will be provided to the county's Area Action Partnerships for dissemination through their communication channels. As some of the AAPs have a formal meeting scheduled to take place in September, an offer will be made by the Head of Partnerships and Community Engagement to provide further information at these events.
- 17 Durham County Council will provide a corporate response to the consultation, informed by the knowledge and views of senior officers.
- 18 Health and Wellbeing Board members may want to consider the option of their organisation submitting a response to the consultation, by the deadline of 26 September 2018.
- 19 The Health and Wellbeing Board may also want to submit its own consultation response. For that purpose, the consultation questions are attached at Appendix 2.
- 20 If the Health and Wellbeing Board agrees to respond, feedback to the consultation questions should be provided to Angela Harrington, Strategy Team Leader at Durham County Council (angela.harrington@durham.gov.uk) **by 21 September 2018**.
- 21 A summary response will then be collated and provided to the Health and Wellbeing Board for approval at its Development Session on 26 September 2018, prior to submission to the LGA on that date.

Recommendations

22 The Health and Wellbeing Board is recommended to:

- a) Consider the content of this report and agree to raise awareness of the LGA's green paper with wider stakeholders.
- b) Decide whether or not to submit a consultation response to the LGA on behalf of the County Durham Health and Wellbeing Board.
- c) Provide feedback (if applicable) to the consultation questions **by 21 September 2018** to angela.harrington@durham.gov.uk, so that a summary consultation response on behalf of the Health and Wellbeing Board can be compiled by 26 September 2018.

Contact: Angela Harrington, Strategy Team Leader, Transformation and Partnerships
Tel: 03000 267313

Appendix 1: Implications

Finance – The LGA, through its green paper, wants to raise awareness of the challenges faced by adult social care and why it is important to ensure it is adequately funded by central government. Capped funding allocations and broader budgetary pressures, linked to rising demographic demand, mean that the health and social care system will not be able to provide the same breadth or high quality services, unless we can find new ways to fund and deliver care for the older population.

Staffing – Not applicable

Risk – Not applicable

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty – Not applicable

Accommodation – Not applicable

Crime and Disorder - Not applicable

Human Rights - Not applicable

Consultation – The council will provide a corporate response to the LGA’s green paper, informed by the knowledge and views of senior officers. A briefing note will be circulated to the county’s Area Action Partnerships, to help third party organisations and members of the public take part in the LGA’s nationwide consultation exercise, should they wish to do so.

Procurement - Not applicable

Disability Issues - Not applicable

Legal Implications - Not applicable

Appendix 2: Consultation questions

1. What role, if any, do you think local government should have in helping to improve health and wellbeing in local areas?
2. In what ways, if any, is adult social care and support important?
3. How important or not do you think it is that decisions about adult social care and support are made at a local level?
4. What evidence or examples can you provide, if any, that demonstrate improvement and innovation in adult social care and support in recent years in local areas?
5. What evidence or examples can you provide, if any, that demonstrate the funding challenges in adult social care and support in recent years in local areas?
6. What, if anything, has been the impact of funding challenges on local government's efforts to improve adult social care?
7. What, if anything, are you most concerned about if adult social care and support continues to be underfunded?
8. Do you agree or disagree that the Care Act 2014 remains fit for purpose?
9. What, if any, do you believe are the main barriers to fully implementing the Care Act 2014?
10. Beyond the issue of funding what, if any, are the other key issues which must be resolved to improve the adult social care and support system?
11. Of the above options for changing the system for the better, which do you think are the most urgent to implement now?
12. Of the above options for changing the system for the better, which do you think are the most important to implement now?
13. Thinking longer-term, and about the type of changes to the system that the above options would help deliver, which options do you think are most important for the future?
14. Aside from the options given for improving the adult social care and support system in local areas, do you have any other suggestions to add?
15. What is the role of individuals, families and communities in supporting people's wellbeing, in your opinion?

16. Which, if any, of the options given for raising additional funding would you favour to pay for the proposed changes to the adult social care and support system?

17. Aside from the options given for raising additional funding for the adult social care and support system in local areas, do you have any other suggestions to add?

18. What, if any, are your views on bringing wider welfare benefits (such as Attendance Allowance) together with other funding to help meet lower levels of need for adult social care and support?

19. What are your views on the suggested tests for judging the merits of any solution/s the Government puts forward in its green paper?

20. In your opinion, to achieve a long-term funding solution for adult social care and support, to what extent is cross-party co-operation and/or cross-party consensus needed?

21. What role, if any, do you think public health services should have in helping to improve health and wellbeing in local areas?

22. What evidence or examples, if any, can you provide that demonstrate the impact of other local services (both council services outside of adult social care and support, and those provided by other organisations) on improving health and wellbeing?

23. To what extent, if any, are you seeing a reduction in these other local services?

24. What principles, if any, do you believe should underpin the way the adult social care and support service and the NHS work together?

25. In your opinion, how important or unimportant is it that decisions made by local health services are understood by local people, and the decision-makers are answerable to them?

26. Do you think the role of health and wellbeing boards should be strengthened or not?

27. Which, if any, of the options for strengthening the role of health and wellbeing boards do you support?

28. Do you have any suggestions as to how the accountability of the health service locally could be strengthened?

29. Which, if any, of the options for spending new NHS funding on the adult social care and support system would you favour?

30. Do you have any other comments or stories from your own experience to add?