In this edition of my Chair’s Report, I talk about our recent Health and Wellbeing board development session and provide updates on the Independent Living Fund and the Care Act. I would welcome Board Members to comment on any item covered should they wish to do so.

Best wishes,
Cllr Maureen Worby, Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board

Health and Wellbeing Board Development Session

The Health and Wellbeing Board held a development afternoon on Thursday 16 April with the theme ‘Making Integration Real’. The session was well attended by Board members, partners, sub-group members and colleagues and lots of positive feedback was received.

Attendees welcomed two very special guest speakers. Anna Carlbom, Medical Officer Nurse/Esther Coordinator from Sweden talked about an innovative integration model called the ‘Esther Project’. Cathy Williams, Interim Chief Operating Officer from Torbay and Southern Devon Health and Care Trust also attended and talked about integration between the PCT and Adult Social Care Services. More information about the two models can be found by visiting:

http://www.ihi.org/resources/Pages/ImprovementStories/ImprovingPatientFlowTheEstherProjectinSweden.aspx
http://www.torbaycaretrust.nhs.uk/aboutus/Pages/TheTorbayModel-MrsSmith.aspx

A question and answer session took place with Cathy and Anna, giving attendees the chance to ask more specific questions. After a short break, the second half of the Development Session focused on the Better Care Fund and taking forward integration in Barking and Dagenham. This part of the agenda was introduced by a presentation from Glynis Rogers and Sharon Morrow on the Better Care Fund. Two community matrons, a social worker and a GP gave presentations focusing on their experiences of integrated care.

The afternoon concluded with attendees taking part in workshops on tables. Each table was asked to consider the following:

- What would be the local integrated care experience for Esther and Mrs Smith?
- What are the top 5 principles that we must apply to all new service delivery.
- Outline one proposal capable of being implemented during the next 12 – 18 months that would make a real difference.

The workshops encouraged some good discussions and lively debate which were fed back to the wider group at the end of the day. The Integrated Care Sub-Group will now consider how the proposals from the workshops will now be taken forward.

Abbey Leisure Centre’s set to #makeachange!

There’s something for everyone at the new Abbey Leisure Centre, for fitness, fun and relaxation. The Abbey luxury spa, pool, gym and The Idol soft play installation have all been receiving plaudits.

You can find out more at www.lb bd.gov.uk/leisure and http://www.theabbeyspa.co.uk/. There are prizes every month for the best #makeachange pledges on twitter and facebook. Don’t forget the hashtag!
Independent Living Fund (ILF)

The Independent Living Fund was set up in 1988 to fund support for disabled people with high support needs, enabling them to live in the community rather than move into residential care. It provides support to 19,000 disabled people with the highest levels of need at a cost of about £320 million. The money is generally used to enable people to live in their own homes and to pay for care, and to employ personal assistants. Many of the beneficiaries would otherwise have to move to residential care homes.

In December 2010 the Government announced the closure of the Fund to new applicants. This will come into effect on 30 July 2015. Local Authorities will receive the funding for the remainder of the financial year 2015/16. This will be paid shortly after the closure of the ILF in one payment. Barking and Dagenham is expecting to receive a total amount of about £400,000. The funding for the following financial year 2016/17 isn’t secure and will be decided by central government at a later stage.

In total there are 38 recipients of ILF funding in Barking and Dagenham. On average an ILF recipient in Barking and Dagenham receives a weekly budget of £263 per week. Payments are in addition to the services ILF users are receiving from the Local Authority. A review of all 38 cases is currently in progress. During this process service users will continue to receive the same level of funding. Arrangements are in hand to make payments to the 38 ex-ILF registrants utilising the current direct payment system.
**Local Authority Self-Assessment: Transfer of 0-5 Public Health Commissioning responsibilities**

To support the transfer of 0-5 commissioning responsibilities, the Local Government Association (LGA) has set up nine Regional Oversight Groups (ROG) to maintain local oversight of the transfer, broker sector led support, and raise issues nationally. They are led by local government representatives and include members from the Public Health England Centre, NHS England and LGA. The local government leads will play a key role in working with the rest of the group to agree a joint and fair assessment of councils’ progress, key issues remaining and matching support needs with areas who have already found a solution. The ROGs will provide a progress report to the LGA who will summarise this in to a regional and national progress report which will help national partners to resolve outstanding issues and identify what further support and information is needed at local level.

We have completed and returned the self-assessment exercise, which provided rich information on our progress as well as national oversight. The Borough still has concerns that the funding at the proposed levels will not be adequate to commission the service at the level required without putting additional pressures on the Council’s Public Health Grant. Other concerns include:

- Clarity is needed on what the arrangements for staff will be with regard to supervision and management. There is no funding to support this so current terms and conditions will not be able to be sustained.
- In addition not all boroughs have had their MASH staff taken from their health visitor allocations; we would like further information before we agree to this.

**North East London Strategic Alliance (NELSA)**

The North East London Strategic Alliance (NELSA) is made up of eight North East London Boroughs, including Barking and Dagenham. NELSA have set out their demands for devolution to support improvements for residents and recognise the region’s role at the heart of the Capital’s economic growth. This is set out in Local London - Driving growth through devolution (PDF) which details how devolution could work.

Leaders and Mayors from Barking and Dagenham, Enfield, Greenwich, Havering, Newham, Redbridge, Tower Hamlets and Waltham Forest have taken the first step towards presenting a case for greater devolution of powers from central government and London regional government.

The vision sets out a new approach to decision-making and service delivery to unlock the potential of the boroughs. It follows a successful conference held last month, which saw the boroughs coming to a broad agreement about the need for a new settlement. Some of these new powers set out on a sub-regional level could include:

- A pooled budget for adult skills to give borough partnerships a formal role in information sharing, planning and decision making for this area.
- Budget holding and commissioning for employment services. This would enable councils to tie into existing activity to tackle barriers and causes of unemployment.
- Removing restrictions on borrowing related to housing to enable councils to build more homes.
- A stronger role in transport planning and control over local bus routes.

On a borough level:

- A strengthened role in town centre planning and regulation
- Power to intervene in any schools which are coasting or failing
- Greater powers over incentives and penalties for local businesses. This would help tackle the proliferation of hot food takeaways and cheap, easily accessible alcohol.
- Local authority licensing regimes such as Newham and Waltham Forest Councils’ respective private sector licensing schemes.

Further updates will be provided to the Health and Wellbeing Board as the devolution plans progress.
News from NHS England

New plans for Mental Health Care
NHS England has welcomed plans for a radical shake up of youth mental health care. Care and Support Minister Mr Lamb has stated that children and young people’s mental health services need a complete overhaul to stop vulnerable young people missing out on vital support.

Following an in-depth look at mental health and wellbeing support for children and young people, the Government has set out a blueprint for improving care over the next five years. Tailored support to match the needs of individual children and young people; easier access to care; and better support for families are some of the proposals outlined in a wide ranging report, commissioned by the Government last year.

The Government has also announced a £1.25 billion funding boost for young people’s mental health care, including new access and waiting time standards for children’s services and plans to make specialist talking therapies available in every area of the country – plans which align with key proposals in the report.

National Review of Maternity Care
NHS England announced details of a major review of the commissioning of NHS maternity services, as promised in the NHS Five Year Forward View. The review will assess current maternity care provision and consider how services should be developed to meet the changing needs of women and babies.

Recent advances in maternity care, changes in the demographics of women having babies, and preferences of where they want to give birth will form a key focus. Terms of reference for the review, state that it will:

- review the UK and international evidence and make recommendations on safe and efficient models of maternity services, including midwife-led units;
- ensure that the NHS supports and enables women to make safe and appropriate choices of maternity care for them and their babies; and
- support NHS staff including midwives to provide responsive care.

Child Sexual Exploitation Awareness Day
The first National Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) Awareness Day was held in March and was dedicated to raising awareness of this difficult and emotive agenda across all agencies.

Everyone who works in health and care has a significant contribution to make in identifying children and young people at risk of sexual exploitation and supporting the treatment and recovery of those harmed. It is often nurses and other health and care professionals who are in a position to identify those children and young people most at risk.

It is vital as nurses, midwives and health staff that we continue to listen to the voice of children and young people in order to learn from their experiences and improve the services we provide. Their voice is crucial in identifying those at risk of sexual exploitation and stopping this form of abuse.