

## A Fair Price 2007

There is a head of steam building up again about a 'Fair Price for Care' at national level (see *Caring Business*, April 2007). LCA, and the Lancashire providers we represent, have been ahead of the game in using an independent model for establishing a Fair Price and using that in the dialogue with local authorities about the setting of LA fees, about

shaping the sector and helping drive up quality. Ivan Lewis, Parliamentary Undersecretary for Care Services and Bury South MP, is quoted as saying he is committed to an "honest and open dialogue" with providers. The work we have done through the Social Care Partnership in Lancashire, and the current work we are beginning with Laing and

Buisson on a 'Fair Price for Home Care', can contribute significantly to this dialogue.

William Laing's report, published (2<sup>nd</sup> May 2004) in association with Joseph Rowntree, has given us the opportunity to try to move the discussion around fees into more of a technical process and less of a political football. L&B conducted a Lancashire

survey for the Lancashire Fair Price report in 2004 and updated the LCC area figures at our conference last September.

LCA and its partners are leading the way in this critical dialogue between providers, commissioners and government.

Paul Simic, CEO  
Lancashire Care Association

## LCA Spring Seminar 2007:

### Safeguarding Adults and Mental Capacity Act

LCA's Spring Seminar was again very well attended. The main topics were the Vulnerable Adults procedures across the three local authorities and the Mental Capacity Act (coming into force in October 2007). The watchword for Safeguarding Adults is make sure you know your local coordinator and are aware of local procedures and sources of advice. For Mental Capacity it is, as Keith Lewin indicated, the need for good quality recording of decisions. I'm really pleased the seminar

was so well-attended, it shows the commitment of the quality providers who support LCA and the quality of the presentations. The sector is, as ever, facing continuous change and we need these network events to ensure we stay in touch and together.

Sue Lace, Vice Chair  
Lancashire Care Association



"Julia Denham, CSCI, addresses LCA's spring seminar"

Thanks: to Royal Bank of Scotland, Barons Ltd, Brunswicks LLP, Rotowash UK Ltd and LWDP for supporting the event, to Mike Bird for photos, and to Arthur Jones for hosting the session. LCA's events are organised by Arthur Jones, George Hill, and Raj Singh (LCA Directors) with Paul Simic and Sarah Luton. Thanks again to Farington Lodge.

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## LCA Spring Seminar 2007:

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Paul Simic, LCA's CEO outlines LCA's work programme 2007 with the Social Care Partnership and the other Lancashire authorities and the work of the new Lancashire Workforce Development Partnership (LWDP).



David Clear, Blackpool Borough Council, presents on the new legal requirements of the Mental Capacity Act2.



Arthur Jones, a Director of LCA and host for the session addresses a question to David Clear, Mike Webster, LCC, Keith Lewin, Brunswicks, LLP, and Julia Denham, CSCI.



Ron Holker, Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council, Dilys Macdonald (Lancashire County Council), and Jeanette Ashcroft (Blackpool Borough Council) complete a joint presentation on Vulnerable Adults across Lancashire.



Dilys MacDonald, Lancashire County Councils Safeguarding Adults Coordinator, answers a question on LCC's procedures.



Jeanette Ashcroft (Blackpool Borough Council) introduces the joint session on Safeguarding Adults.

## LCA People:

Thanks for their contributions to Jerrold Carr, Mark Cunningham and Peter Jarvis, each of whom stepped down as Directors of LCA during 2006. Welcome to Ian Bradley and Martin McHugh and welcome back to Tracy Bush and Steve Newton from April 2007.

Support LCA. Join and help us help you (contact us on 01772 455574 or email [sarah.luton@lancashirecare.org.uk](mailto:sarah.luton@lancashirecare.org.uk)).

## LCA's AGM 2007

LCA's AGM 2007 was held on 23<sup>rd</sup> April at Wrightington Hotel. Key points from the Annual Report (available from LCA also see [www.lancashirecare.org.uk](http://www.lancashirecare.org.uk)): we've continued to use an **independent costings model**. It is showing a movement by homes up the bands and an increasing number of placements in the higher bands. This is important evidence to take to government about the Fair Price impact. A report from the Social Care Partnership was submitted to Sir Derek Wanless earlier in the year. We are planning further briefings to Ministers and MPs currently. As ever, fees are an issue, but now we are having a dialogue, post-Wanless report, around the balance between state funding and other sources, including 'top-ups'. As well as agreeing to pay fees gross later in 2007 Lancashire County Council have agreed with us that there is a need for an open and honest review of 'top-ups'. A **unified voice** at national level is again becoming a central issue and LCA, as ever, strongly supports a unified voice to engage in a forceful but constructive dialogue with government. There is a parallel at the local and regional level. LCA is the unified voice for care in and across Lancashire. The more you support us, the more effective that voice. We welcome **new Directors from mental health and learning disability sectors** this year and will be putting together a strategy around how LCA can act as an effective voice for these sectors. We are continuing to develop our profile regarding **domiciliary care** and, as part of that aim, we are embarking, finally, on the **Fair Price for Home Care**, in Lancashire County Council area only, to report later in 2007.

Being **online** for information and business is now more important than ever. There are significant changes involving LWDP and Lancashire County Council, covering information, access and commissioning, that require providers to be up to speed with the internet and have the right facilities. We'll put out more info on this on our own website [www.lancashirecare.org.uk](http://www.lancashirecare.org.uk)

Paul Simic, CEO  
Lancashire Care Association

## LCA: Marketing

You'll know from earlier issues of Carefully that we have someone new working with us, Andrew Pearson, whose job it is to help us maintain and develop our membership and to build on member benefits. He is helping us develop our website which is ever more important in terms of communication: [www.lancashirecare.org.uk](http://www.lancashirecare.org.uk).

Andy is working closely with me and Paul Simic to help market LCA more effectively through 2007-08. We know we do good work but we need your support, too.

Sarah Luton  
LCA Administrator

# Research In Care

## Social Care Partnership

The Fair Price for Home Care project is now under way and a sample of providers will be receiving a letter and questionnaire very shortly. Philip Mickelborough is the lead researcher, as he was with the Fair Price for Care Homes in 2004. Get back to LCA with any queries arising if you receive a questionnaire to complete.

## National Survey

LCA is working with NCA on a national annual survey of confidence in the care sector. The survey will be done during June-Sep period. Please look out for letters and a questionnaire coming your way and get back to LCA with any queries.

## LCA - Staff Who's Who?

Paul Simic – Chief Executive  
Sarah Luton – LCA Administrator  
Shirley Bennett – CRB Administrator  
Katy Mercer – Outreach Worker  
Julie Bisset – Outreach Worker

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# Training & Workforce Issues

## Exciting and busy times at the Lancashire Workforce Development Partnership (LWDP)

Following the success of the past three years the LWDP has again been lucky enough to have funding from Lancashire County Council and Skills for Care to allow us to provide grants to assist with the costs of training care staff working in the Independent Care sector in Lancashire. The grants are being managed this year by a new team based with the rest of the LWDP staff at Marian House in Preston. **All courses for which funding is being requested MUST be booked online through Lancashireplan.** Details of all this can be found on our website [www.lwdp.org.uk](http://www.lwdp.org.uk).

If you need help with the system please contact Jack Moorehead our Networker manager who will arrange for a networker to visit your place of work to help out ring Jack on 01772 761855 or email [jackmoorehead@lwdp.org.uk](mailto:jackmoorehead@lwdp.org.uk)

To enable us to seek further opportunities the partnership took the decision to incorporate and became a not for profit company limited by guarantee in March 2007.

The second round of **Innovative Grants** have just been awarded; details of the third round will be available in May 2007 via the website.

We are holding a number of **Information days** this year at our Marian House base and would like as many people as possible to come along, those who have attended in the past have enjoyed the days and the feedback has all been positive the next day is 17<sup>th</sup> May if you would like more details please contact Sam Frankland either by phone on 01772 761855 or by email [samfrankland@lwdp.org.uk](mailto:samfrankland@lwdp.org.uk)

The **HR training programme for managers in the Independent Care Sector** was a great success last year and will be continuing in 2007/08, all these courses are heavily subsidised and are available to your staff - if you want details of this year's courses and dates please look on the website or contact Katie Burgess on 01772 761855 or email [katieburgess@lwdp.org.uk](mailto:katieburgess@lwdp.org.uk)

Dymph Knowles  
LWDP

## LCA's Outreach Workers

Note: Katy Mercer and Julie Bisset are still working across Lancashire and LCA hopes to recruit additional outreach staff shortly. Their purpose is to help you address your training issues and ensure you get the training you need for your workforce. The posts are funded by LWDP.

## Safeguarding Adults Awareness Training in Lancashire

The new schedule for Safeguarding Adults Awareness Training and is available from Dilys MacDonald, County Safeguarding Adults Coordinator, LCC or Sarah Luton at the LCA office. We have been informed that the course is currently free (dependent on funding availability) and available to all voluntary & independent sector providers. Dilys MacDonald, County Safeguarding Adults Coordinator.

Should you wish to become an LCA member, a Safe & Sure CRB member or both... please contact, Sarah Luton, LCA Administrator or Shirley Bennett, CRB Administrator.

# Safe & Sure CRB

Safe & Sure CRB  
Registered Body for the Criminal Records Bureau



## Membership 2007/2008

For those of you renewing your Safe & Sure CRB membership for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2007 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2008, you will be pleased to hear that we have frozen our prices for another year.

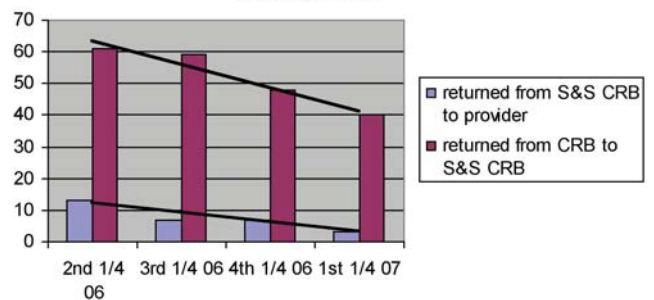
Membership renewal and invoicing has started so don't forget to renew!

If you are not currently a member of 'Safe & Sure CRB', or know someone who can benefit from the service, let them know our details as now is the perfect time to join.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our members for their continued support.

Shirley Bennett  
Safe and Sure CRB Administrator.

CRB returns



### Notes:

Series 1 (blue): CRB returns to 'S&S CRB'

Series 2 (purple): Returned to provider from 'S&S CRB'

Safe and Sure CRB: you can see from the bar chart and trends lines that both returns from CRB and returns to homes from Safe and Sure CRB are falling. We are substantially reducing transaction costs in the system associated with CRB applications. SB.

## Gentle Reminder:

When completing part B of your applicants CRB application form, it is essential that items B13 & B14 (position applied for & organisation name) are correct - Any errors here will not be picked up or altered by ourselves or the CRB and the information recorded in this section will appear on the final disclosure certificate as it is written on the form. Once the disclosure certificate has been issued it is extremely difficult to have it amended. Please bear this in mind.

## LCA Conference & Exhibition and Charity Gala Dinner 26th September 2007

LCA is organising its 2007 seminars, Conference and Exhibition, and Charity Gala Dinner. The spring seminar was very well subscribed; thanks to those of you who attended. I want to give you advance notice of the conference and gala dinner on 26th September. The

venue is the Dunkenhall Hotel and Spa for the second year. I'm really pleased to say that John McCarthy is confirmed as the guest speaker at the dinner. John is a very accomplished and entertaining public speaker. Can I make a plea and ask that you either e-mail

me (arthur.jones@lineone.net) or sarah.luton@lancashirecare.org.uk and book your gala dinner place now. The cost is estimated to be around £50 per head. Anyone wishing to help sponsor the event should also contact me or LCA.

Arthur Jones, Director LCA,  
Chairman, Lunesdale Association of  
Care Providers

# Domiciliary Care And Medicines

We urgently need an open and honest debate about medicines and other nursing interventions in the home care setting. LCA ran a seminar on it last year and the Social Care Partnership programme is coordinating a workgroup on medicines looking at awareness, training, commissioning, liability issues, consent issues, and protocols around good practice. CSCI have documents on their website that you should have copies of - see "Professional Advice: the administration of medicines in domiciliary care" (QPM 001/06) and "Professional Advice: Medicine administration records in care homes and domiciliary care" (QPM 127/06). The 'Big Issue' is that there is a hidden cost here as social care is expected, it seems, to assimilate interventions that have not traditionally been part of the social care brief. The infrastructure needed to deliver the right care safely (involving funding, training, CPD, liability cover, supervision and management, time management) is substantial. In the home care setting it is an especially challenging area

involving a level of risk and liability, in all but the most routine of prompting duties, with all sorts of attendant issues around liability cover for practice, available skills and capacity, and practical management of medicines in the home environment. Not least, there is the major, and very thorny, issue of consent. We already know there is a 'way to go' in raising awareness and skills in the care homes setting, where in contrast to the domiciliary environment proper procedures, training and skills, and support should make this a lower risk activity, and there is extra concern associated with more isolated care staff working in people's own homes. Our advice from our Chair, Mike Wood, is outlined in an earlier newsletter: it is, essentially, 'provider beware'. LCA will be engaging in further work across Lancashire on this issue and updates will be posted on the website.

If you have any queries, contact us.

Paul Simic, CEO  
Lancashire Care Association