

## MPs' EXPENSES: The Price of Fudge



### "WORD OF THE DAY:

**FUDGE** (meaning - i. soft, creamy candy; ii. To avoid, hedge, evade, fake, falsify, manipulate, misrepresent, wangle, sidestep, dodge, circumvent, duck, put off").

Just picking up on the 'editorial' in an earlier copy of our fortnightly e-letter, and reflecting how the story has continued to have a long shelf life in the headlines, the issue of MPs pay highlights a truth that parliament is frantically, and belatedly, trying to assimilate: transparency and openness as defining characteristics of modern governance. This relates both to the whole system and to its constituent (sic) parts. The issue over MPs and their expenses shows (whatever else it shows about human nature) one simple fundamental point about open processes in modern organisations: fudging costs leads to a mess.

Hiding information about costs means it is harder to distinguish between legitimate and illegitimate costs and it limits the technical discussion over what the ultimate cost is of particular activity; whether the activity in question is providing care for people or providing political representation. LCA has been at the forefront nationally of using an independent costings model (since 2004) to help inform the setting of fees for care homes and we are pleased to see ECCA running with the Fairer Fees Forum at a national level, calling for the use of just such an independent costings model with local authorities around the country. LCA has worked with the three Lancashire authorities to establish a 'Fair Price' in Lancashire using the Laing and Buisson model, following a local survey, and updated those figures in 2006. Every so often the baseline figures need reviewing and we are doing that at present, working on a Fair Price 'tracker' figure with Lancs County Council and Blackpool BC. Laing and Buisson, themselves, updated their figures (September 2008) with data for London and the provinces.

The model has helped a fairer distribution of funds to those who are investing more (in fact, the case is made that it helps turn 'funding' into the more dynamic notion of 'investment' for outcomes). The use of the model in Lancashire has shown an inverse relationship between the Fair Price and use of 'top-ups'. It has encouraged investment and homes are moving up the scale in the Fair Price bands, thus helping improve quality. It has facilitated a better dialogue between providers and commissioners. The issue of a 'fair price', whichever model is used, is as relevant to domiciliary care and to service users with personalised budgets as to care homes. There is a cost to care and a budget to be managed to best effect.

The Fair Price model shows a gap local authorities can't, of themselves, bridge but perhaps the current scandals will help show that in the information age we have to be open about what models of care we want, what they each cost, and what decisions we then make about the most efficient and fair use of funds, public and private, to make it work. Transparency is one of the key features of modern organisations and it is not rocket science to cost care (you don't need differential calculus, you just need to be able to add up!). The bigger challenge is getting an adult, ideology-free, and open discussion going about cost and quality. LCA will be working with the Lancashire councils to review and report on the L&B Fair Price work and to follow up on other costings models (e.g., the 'Fair Price Calculator' developed nationally for Learning Disability services, or the local authority RAS). We hope to be able to begin a constructive dialogue with health commissioners on Continuing Care funding, too. What care costs - and, indeed, what representation costs - needs a healthier debate based on good information and adult and open discussion around aspirations and constraints, not the fudge we have.

**Paul Simic, CEO**

## CORNMILL NURSING AND RESIDENTIAL CARE HOME, GARSTANG RECEIVES AWARD FOR 'GOLD STANDARD' END OF LIFE CARE

Cornmill Nursing and Residential Care Home has recently received an award at a special ceremony in London for achieving the NHS 'Gold Standard' in end of life care. Social campaigner and Liberal Democrat peer Baroness Julia Neuberger presented the awards, sponsored by Help the Aged and a new charity Omega.

Cornmill is one of 60 homes nationally to have completed the Gold Standards Framework for Care Homes (GSFCH) training programme and has been awarded 'commend' status.

The programme, recommended in the Government's End of Life Care Strategy, aims to improve the quality of care for those in the latter years of their life, provide a better coordination with primary care teams and specialists and reduce avoidable hospital admissions. To qualify for accreditation, Cornmill has undertaken the full GSFCH training programmes over a 9 month period, embedded this into the home for a further 6 months and then undertaken a rigorous accreditation process 'Going for Gold'.



Cornmill director George Hill said: "We believe we are the first "excellent" rated nursing home inspected by CSCI to achieve the 'Gold Standards Framework Award commend status' in Lancashire. The award demonstrates Cornmill's forward thinking and commitment to providing high quality personalized nursing care.

This is a fantastic achievement and I would like to thank everyone for the excellent work undertaken – our own dedicated staff, our multi-disciplinary health colleagues as well as the GSF support team".



**Safe & Sure CRB**  
Registered Body for the Criminal Records Bureau

## SAFE & SURE CRB UPDATES

### Vetting and Barring Scheme (VBS) Update

#### Launch timetable

The Home Office has announced new measures that will provide further protection for children and the vulnerable when the new Vetting and Barring Scheme (VBS) launches on 12 October 2009.

Below is a summarised version of the changes that will come into place in October and beyond to November 2010. Further information can be found in the special VBS edition of the CRB newsletter 'Disclosure News' by following this link;

[http://www.lancashirecare.org.uk/safe\\_&\\_sure\\_crb.asp](http://www.lancashirecare.org.uk/safe_&_sure_crb.asp)

#### 12 OCTOBER 2009

\* The creation of two new barred lists administered by the Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA). These lists will replace the existing List 99, Protection of Children Act (PoCA) and Protection of Vulnerable Adults (PoVA) lists.

\* **Standard CRB checks will no longer be available for those who work with the vulnerable; all individuals applying to work with children or the vulnerable will be entitled to an Enhanced check.**

#### JULY 2010

\* Individuals will be able to apply to the CRB for ISA registration (via Safe & Sure CRB) if they are applying to work with children or vulnerable adults. However for those who currently work with children and/or vulnerable adults, organisations will be given up to five years to ensure that all current employees and volunteers are registered with the ISA.

\* The CRB will introduce a new application form to allow customers to apply for ISA registration and a CRB check on the same form.

#### NOVEMBER 2010

It will be a legal requirement for anyone who is applying to work with children and/or vulnerable adults to register with the ISA. Employers will be legally bound to check and confirm that the individual they want to employ in a 'regulated' activity is registered with the ISA. Safe & Sure CRB will continue to keep you informed of any changes and developments, particularly those that will affect the current application process.

If you have any further queries or would like more information then please contact me by email or telephone alternatively click on the link:  
[http://www.lancashirecare.org.uk/safe\\_&\\_sure\\_crb.asp](http://www.lancashirecare.org.uk/safe_&_sure_crb.asp)

**Deborah Baldwin.**

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## SWINE FLU

KEEP UP TO DATE



[http://www.lancashirecare.org.uk/swine\\_flu\\_update.asp](http://www.lancashirecare.org.uk/swine_flu_update.asp)

[www.hpa.org.uk](http://www.hpa.org.uk)

## LCC/LCA JOINT 'LEARNING TOGETHER' WORKSHOPS

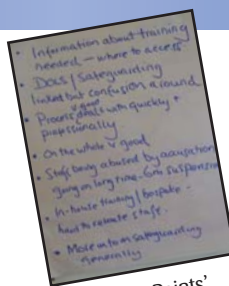
Look out for the next Learning Together Workshop on Thursday 16th July 2009 which will feature Continuity/Emergency Planning. Keep an eye on the e-newsletter for any additional topics.

### SPRING SEMINAR 2009

Lancashire Learning Together Workshops (3)  
Lancashire Care Association's 3rd joint seminar with  
Lancashire County Council

**Monday 23rd March 2009**

Featured presentations and discussions on issues around  
Safeguarding and DOLS



'Some Key Points'



'LCA (& Partners)'



'Workshop Discussion'



'A Packed Seminar'



'Exercise'



'Getting Views'



'...and more'



'Questions to Panel'



'Summing Up'

## LANCASHIRE CARE ASSOCIATION - LCA'S FORTNIGHTLY E-NEWSLETTER

LCA's e-letter is increasingly popular. It is now distributed to 1279 people. It is the easiest way for LCA to communicate with the provider sector across Lancashire. Up to date news, supplier deals and a host of useful links makes it required reading. To subscribe email: [sarah.luton@lancashirecare.org.uk](mailto:sarah.luton@lancashirecare.org.uk)

## NEW FACES AT LCA

Welcome to Angus Leeson who is taking over most of Andrew Pearson's work marketing LCA in Lancashire.

Welcome to Gill Tidmarsh our new administrator, helping Sarah manage the LCA workload and providing back up for Safe and Sure CRB services.

## WHO'S WHO

### LCA BOARD

Sue Lace **Chair**  
Ken Nolan **Director**  
Paul Callander **Director**  
George Hill **Director**  
Raj Singh **Director**  
Tracey Bush **Director**  
Ian Bradley **Director**  
Steve Newton **Director**  
Martin McHugh **Director**  
Tim Wood **Director**

### LCA STAFF

Paul Simic **Chief Executive**  
Sarah Luton **LCA Administrator**  
Debbie Baldwin **CRB Administrator**  
Gill Tidmarsh **Admin Assistant**  
Katy Mercer **Outreach Worker**  
Angus Leeson **Marketing Consultant**



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## FORWARD DATES

**LCA AGM** – Wednesday 24th June 2009, 4:15 pm at  
Farington Lodge

**Summer Seminar** – Thursday 16th July 2009, 9:00 am  
at Farington Lodge  
'LCC/LCA Joint Learning Together Workshop 4' features  
Continuity/Emergency Planning.

**LCA Annual Conference & Exhibition 2009**  
**Personalisation, Partnership & Quality.**  
**The Quality Independent Sector - Taking a Lead**  
Thursday 19th November 2009,  
Dunkenhalgh Hotel & Spa, Accrington

## COMPLETE CARE NETWORK (CCN) - YOUR LOCAL NATIONAL.

LCA would like to feature a company which has been set up from LCA's own marketing in Lancashire but which is now getting a national profile.

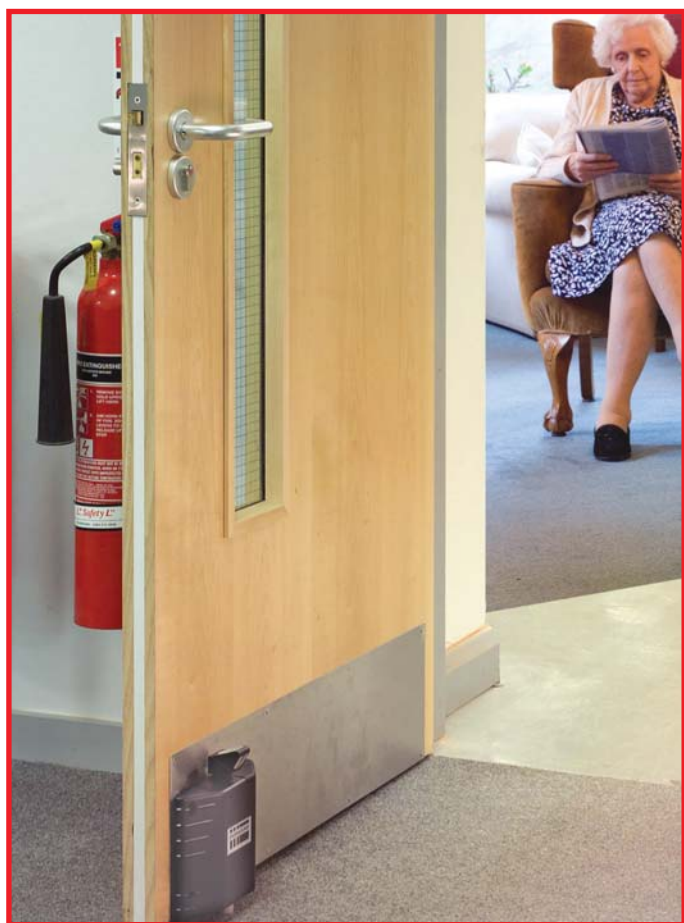
Complete Care Network (CCN) is going from strength to strength. This started off as with LCA's own marketing in Lancashire, as a means to help improve LCA's membership and offer benefits to members. CCN was then set up as a separate company and there are now 12 associations around the country signed up to CCN. Its focus is to help support local associations and networks by helping increase membership through improving local links with the association, through internet marketing, and by developing supplier deals that make a genuine difference. These benefits are not marginal - they aim to save each member at least 10 x their annual membership fee through the increasing buying power of CCN. CCN is your local national. As with LCA, the dialogue with local authorities is central to the effectiveness of local associations and CCN can help here, too.



# 'IT COULD BE YOU!' Ignore fire risk and you could pay the penalty.

**A massive £100,000 penalty handed out only last month to a care home operator brings into sharp focus the potentially huge cost of failure to comply with new fire regulations. And, thankfully, this latest case did not involve any loss of life or injury to either residents or staff.**

A care home group was sentenced by a crown court and ordered to pay fines and penalties of £100,000 for seven breaches of the Regulatory Reform Fire Safety Order (RRFSO) in one of its care homes. The court heard that staff were not instructed in the findings of the fire risk assessment, and the home did not have an adequate system for implementing and reviewing the fire safety arrangements on the premises, so placing the people who were in their care and their staff at increased risk.



The Fire and Rescue Service, commenting on the case, warned that although the service works closely with businesses to help them with their compliance duties under the RRFSO, 'the service will absolutely consider prosecution – particularly in cases such as this when vulnerable people may be affected by a company's shortfalls.'

#### **So how can I realistically minimise the cost of compliance?**

The Fire Safety Order states that fire precautions must be reasonable in the circumstances of the case. A suitably qualified, experienced

consultant should be able to reduce the risks associated with a specific case, making any precautions less onerous without costly alterations.

Tom Welland, Fire Services Manager at leading fire safety specialists Fireco has numerous examples of working with the enforcement authorities on behalf of companies to develop an alternative solution that is both affordable and acceptable to the Fire & Rescue Service.

*"Our experience is that fire safety law enforcers will take a common sense approach to the economic impact of tighter regulation, and are prepared to consider issues like affordability, non-disruptive installation, and business continuity - so a fire safety solution can be amended to take account of economies of scale without compromising safety."*

Fireco are fire consultants to the UK care sector's leading organisations, including NCA, ECCA and RNHA advising their members on all aspects of Fire Safety. Lancashire Care Association members can benefit from advice on all aspects of fire safety, including **FREE** access to Fireco's fire safety expertise. **PLUS** discounts on a range of fire safety solutions such as DORGARD, DEAFGARD, SYSTEM-X and a range of Fire Risk Assessment and Training Services.

**For more information contact Fireco on 0845 241 7474  
email [sales@firecoltd.com](mailto:sales@firecoltd.com) or visit [www.firecoltd.com](http://www.firecoltd.com)**



**USEFUL  
LINKS**



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