

# Home Truths – is health and care joint working being undermined by poor relationships and trust?

At the CIPFA retreat on 16<sup>th</sup> March, with a fascinating blend of Health and Local Government Finance Directors, we took the opportunity to probe delegates' views of joint working between health and care. Although only had a relatively small sample (30 respondents), the results started so much interesting discussion that we are going to widen the survey and continue the debate.

Even from the sample we already have, we gained some insight into the relationships and we want to share some **Home Truths**:

- **Joint working is essential** - 100% of people believed that sustainability requires service collaboration over the next 3 years
- **STPS so far have done little to improve relationships between NHS and Local Government** – in fact 25% believe this process has made them worse
- **Local Authorities are not engaged effectively in STPs** – in fact 69% of Local Authority respondents have limited or no involvement in decisions made by the STP
- **STPs aren't set up for joint working** – almost half said there had been very little progress on joint projects between health and social care
- **Confidence in prospects of integration are limited** – 33% of the sample believed it is likely or very likely there would be tangible examples of service integration over the next year

CIPFA and iMPower are concerned at this position. To create a sustainable system focused around the citizen we need to work at system leadership level, but also look at how that flows through to front line behaviours. iMPower's analysis has similarly found that dysfunctional relationships between GPs and social care were having a significant impact on demand and cost, but there was an opportunity to improve relationships and save money (56% of GPs said their relationship with social care was poor or very poor, 41% of GPs thought they made better assessment of the need for social care than social workers, but 92% would value closer links)<sup>1</sup>.

Relationships and trust are essential to deliver sustainable, joined up public services. It is our responsibility to expose this gap and work together to close it.

So help us understand the issues and thus promote the issues. We intend to extend the survey to a wider group. Please tell us what questions these findings raise for you and what else you would like to know around relationships and trust across health and care.

*We would be delighted to meet to discuss the national implications and/or what this means for you locally.*