



**£156 billion national debt
– what implications for
the IMCA service?**

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International context



- • Tensions between North and South Korea spook markets (South Korean ship sunk and North Korean military on alert. Possible new Vietnam?)
- • Worries continue over European debt crisis: Greece – Spain – Portugal - Italy – Ireland ? What are the implications for the EU? Will there still be a EU?
- • US and Asian markets down; BP shares worth a third less (= our pensions)
- -> general international uncertainty; austerity measures; focus on productivity not welfare;

British Context



- **The UK has a national debt of £156 billion**
- **Cuts have been announced of £6.2 billion**
- **The cuts have serious implications NOW for LA staff and LA services; for numbers of staff, for direct payments, for resources for care homes**
- **These cuts are the first of a series of cuts. They amount to 4% of what the government needs to make**

Welfare cuts



- As Iain Duncan Smith sees it, welfare this year costs Britain £87bn. In the age of austerity IDS knows that he will have to cut budgets. What will guide the welfare secretary is the question:
- **“Does this investment decision mean a real life change that will improve outcomes and allow an individual's life to become more positive and productive?”**

Implications for IMCAs?



- **1. Working with LAs that are being cut back.**
- **2. Working with commissioners who want evidence of value.**
- **3. Working with clients to make a difference.**

1. Working with LAs that are being cut back.



- **What can you expect?**
 - **Re-organisations; fewer staff; higher case loads; more stressed staff; more of a cost focus**
 - **fewer resources for direct payments; less money for care homes;**
- > How do you work in partnership in this context? How do you maintain good relationships while advocating for your clients?**

2. Commissioners who want evidence of value



- **Commissioners will have to identify savings in all budgets**
- **You can be part of that discussion or commissioners can make decisions on their own**
- **You can start by reviewing your own work – how can the IMCA services be better and cheaper?**
- **The bottom line is that IMCA services are statutory services and cannot be abolished. But can they be provided cheaper and better?**

3. Working with clients to make a difference



- **Probably the most important part of this talk:**

HOW DO YOU AS IMCAs MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

- Making a difference to the staff you work with
- Making a difference to the clients you work with

Improving outcomes



- **The Welfare Minister's decision:** “Does this investment decision mean a real life change that will improve outcomes and allow an individual's life to become more positive and productive?”
- **The IMCA's decision:** How does IMCA involvement mean a real life change that will improve outcomes and allow an individual's life to become more positive and productive?

Making a difference



- Focus on the outcome
- **With an accommodation decisions – what is the outcome? Is it where someone will live? Or is it as much how they will live? Is it how personalised is the care given? Is it how much is the person recognised, acknowledged, addressed with a good understanding of the person’s past life and past wishes?**
- **What would help to enable a person’s life to be more positive?**

Life Story work



- **Its origin is in adoption work...**
- **It focuses on the history of the child**
- **Its aim is to document the identity of the child**
- **Its aim is to produce a record, a story, a message**
- **Its aim is to help new people (adoptive parents or staff) to understand the child's history**

- **It is about linking the past and the future**

IMCAs and Life Story work



- **Some of the best IMCA reports involve life story work.**
- **Some of the greatest benefits of IMCA involvement, is where IMCAs provide a bridge between someone's past and their future.**
- **IMCAs are often the only people with access to historical records once a person moves to a care home. After the move no one in the new care environment can go back and look at files and learn the history of the individual.**
- **IMCAs are often in a brilliant position to document the past as it may relate the future care of the person**

CARE PLANS



- **If the focus is not on ‘the decision’ but on the ‘outcome’, then IMCA time is well spent on the care plan that goes with the decision.**
- **What can an IMCA contribute – from the time spent on identifying a person’s needs and wishes - to the care plan?**

Focus on the end not the start



- **Current emphasis: Eligibility – Decision**

Comment on assessing eligibility: IMCAs have no power to require LAs/NHS to produce a capacity assessment prior to commencing work. Referral forms which require capacity assessments have no basis in law. They create delays and are bad practice.

- **New emphasis: Decision – Outcome**

Better for clients; better demonstration of the value of IMCAs; better investment of resources and better expression of the empowerment role of advocacy.

Making a difference to the clients you work with



- **Being SMART:**
- **S- Specific, significant**
- **M- Measurable, meaningful**
- **A- Achievable, action-oriented**
- **R- Relevant, realistic, results oriented**
- **T- Timely, tangible**



THANK YOU

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