

AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET

Name of Committee **Adults and Community Overview And Scrutiny Committee**

Date of Committee **21 June 2005**

Report Title **Implications of the Adult Social Care Green Paper – “Independence, Well-Being and Choice”**

Summary

For further information please contact: John Bull
 Head of Adult Services
 Tel: 01926 412438
 johnbull@warwickshire.gov.uk

Would the recommendation decision be contrary to the Budget and Policy Framework? [please identify relevant plan/budget provision] No.

Background papers Adult Social Care Green Paper – “Independence, Well-being and Choice” (DH, Mar 05) A full copy of the report is available in each of the group rooms or directly from www.doh.gov.uk

Strategic Review of Older Persons Services

CONSULTATION ALREADY UNDERTAKEN:- Details to be specified

- Other Committees
- Local Member(s)
- Other Elected Members
- Cabinet Member Cllr Hayfield
- Chief Executive Ian Caulfield
- Legal Victoria Gould
- Finance Dave Clarke
- Other Chief Officers David Carter
- District Councils



Health Authority

Police

Other Bodies/Individuals

FINAL DECISION NO

SUGGESTED NEXT STEPS:

Details to be specified

Further consideration by this Committee

To Council

To Cabinet 21 July 2005

To an O & S Committee

To an Area Committee

Further Consultation

**Adults and Community Overview and Scrutiny
Committee - 21 June 2005**

**Implications of the Adult Services Green Paper –
Independence, Well-Being and Choice**

Report of the Director of Social Care and Health

Recommendations

Members are requested to:

1. Note the Government's proposals for the future of Adult social care, following the publication of the Green Paper "Independence, Well-being and Choice."
2. Comment on the proposals made in the Green Paper, with a view to the County Council responding formally to the Department of Health, in accordance with the agreed consultation process, by 28 July 2005.
3. Note the establishment of an Adult Services project team to plan the changes arising from the Green Paper and to ensure that the recommendations of the Strategic Review of Older People are implemented.
4. Note that a seminar has been arranged for all Members on Thursday 14 July 2005 at 2.00pm to consider the implications arising from the Green Paper (the consultation response will be available for Members at this seminar). In addition, an event is currently being arranged to ensure consultation with all key stakeholders including, the wider Health community and voluntary sector agencies.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Published on 21 March 2005, Independence, Well-being and Choice, the Government's Green Paper on Adult Social Care is a consultation document on proposals for the future direction of social care for adults in England.
- 1.2 A national direction for adult social care was required in light of the development of integrated children's services and, in the wider context, as a response to changes in society. These changes include population mobility, an increase in family breakdowns, people living longer and increased expectations about standards of service provision.

- 1.3 The government is inviting views on the Green Paper, with the consultation period closing on 28 July 2005. Views are also requested on separate *Guidance on the Role of the Director of Adult Social Services*.

2. Key Measures in the Green Paper

The key measures in the Green Paper can be summarised as follows:

2.1 Vision

The future of social care will reflect:

- Greater choice and control for service users to enable them to maintain independence.
- A shift in focus to preventative, low level services with an emphasis on links to communities and social inclusion.
- Clear outcomes – improved health, improved quality of life, making a positive contribution, exercising choice and control, freedom from discrimination or harassment, economic well-being, personal dignity.

2.2 Changes to Assessment and Service Delivery Mechanisms

Proposals include:

- Improved assessment – increased use of self assessment; streamlined assessments between agencies, particularly local authorities and the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP); aligning the Single Assessment Process, Care Programme Approach and Person Centred Planning to provide a common assessment tool for all people with complex needs.
- A role of care navigator or broker to advise people on the care system, with social workers involved in complex cases.
- Wider use of direct payments including extending these to people currently excluded because of lack of capacity. Direct payments to be renamed to stop confusion with DWP direct payments into bank accounts.
- Individual budgets for people with assessed social care needs, possibly extended to other budgets eg minor equipment and adaptations, and the independent living fund.
- The right to request not to live in residential care requiring service providers to state their reasons if they recommend this option.

2.3 Preventative services

Early, well-targeted interventions should be developed to reduce the need for intensive, more costly services. The local authority well-being agenda can be used to improve health, social inclusion and quality of life. The wider resources of the community, including universal services, should be deployed to support individuals.

2.4 Service Redesign

Innovative flexible services that have been shown to work should be developed. These include new technology, extra care housing, homeshare, adult placement, connected care centres. The Care Service Improvement Partnership will assist authorities to implement good practice.

2.5 Leadership Role

Local authorities and Directors of Adult Social Services (DASS) have strategic leadership roles in planning services alongside partners. Local authorities should undertake 10–15 year strategic needs assessments of social care and housing needs.

2.6 Strategic Commissioning

A local 'community-wide' strategic commissioning framework should be developed by all partner agencies to provide the right balance of investment between:

- Services for the general population aimed at promoting health and social inclusion:
- Preventative services that meet low level needs: and
- Intensive support for high level and complex needs.

2.7 Partnerships

The government will explore mechanisms for improving collaboration between local authorities and the NHS. It does not want to impose solutions to improve joint working, however **'doing nothing will not be an option.'** Local Area Agreements are an opportunity to improve public services. A 'strong and vibrant' voluntary and community sector is an essential part of the vision, and the government wants to encourage capacity building in the sector to help them engage with local public sector commissioning authorities. Local Strategic Partnerships can establish local agreements on cross-cutting issues

2.8 Regulation and Performance Management

Regulation, inspection and performance management frameworks will be modernised to support the vision for social care. The merger of the Commission for Social Care Inspection and the Healthcare Commission will reflect shared objectives. Headline targets will be aligned across services.

2.9 Workforce

The workforce is critical to delivering improved services. The government is working to improve leadership, capacity and skills. Local workforce initiatives should include training and employment for carers.

2.10 Funding

The framework for social care should be met from existing budgets identified through the 2004 Spending Review. This will involve making better use of planned funding for social care spending. Savings identified through the Gershon review should be reinvested in front line services. The paper indicates that there are questions about how the proposals for preventative services fit with eligibility criteria established through Fair Access to Care Services. It is asserted that implementing the Green Paper should be cost neutral to local authorities.

2.11 Protection and Managing Risk

The government acknowledges that the desire of individuals to remain independent may conflict with the view in wider society and the media about

the need for protection. The paper invites an open debate on risk management and seeks to develop a more supportive framework for social care staff.

2.12 Role of the Director of Adult Social Services (DASS)

The DASS has a number of key roles: accountability for spending and delivery; professional leadership and championing the rights of adults with social care needs in the wider community; leading on standards and cultural change; promoting partnership working; working with the Director of Children's Services; and promoting social inclusion and well-being.

3. Overview

3.1 The value base of the Green Paper is likely to find extensive endorsement. A vision which redresses the overemphasis on assessment and gate-keeping brought about through community care legislation is to be welcomed, as is the focus on preventative services and engaging with the wider community. Furthermore, there is no prescriptive 'big change' and measures previously signalled or speculated about, such as independent assessments or compulsory Care Trust arrangements with the NHS, are not included. The Green Paper provides opportunities to develop social care services in line with good practice and user priorities.

3.2 The main concerns about the paper are likely to focus on questions of implementation.

3.3 Funding is inevitably the first issue, given an environment in which, despite additional funding, social services authorities and Primary Care Trusts are experiencing severe budget pressures. The NHS and Community Care Act was itself meant to bring a new era of choice and quality but was affected by resource constraints as well as some institutional inflexibility. It must therefore be questioned how far the measures in the Green Paper can be effective without at least transitional funding.

3.4 Other fundamental issues remain unresolved. There are many organisational differences that can lead to barriers in partnership working with the NHS. These include lack of coterminosity charging policies, NHS continuing care policies, planning cycles, priorities, budgetary control, performance indicators, the national/local dimension and the nature of user choice. While the Green Paper signals some harmonisation of performance management frameworks it remains to be seen as to whether there is sufficient incentive for the NHS to fully engage in the preventative agenda.

4. The Development of a Project Team

4.1 On 4 May 2005, members of the Chief Officers Management Team (COMT) received a report from Dame Yve Buckland in relation to the Strategic Review of Older People Services. Following detailed discussion, COMT agreed to:

- Establish a Strategic Partnership Board for Older People, chaired by the Chief Executive

- The establishment, with partners, of a Project Team (to parallel the Children Act Project Team) to plan the necessary changes arising from the Green Paper “Independence, Well-being and Choice” and to ensure the recommendations of the strategic review of Older People are implemented
- 4.2 Initial discussions with colleagues working within the wider health community have confirmed that they are willing to commit resources to the project team, with immediate effect. Additional resources will also be committed to the Project Team, via existing Adult Services budgets and the County Council’s Modernisation fund.
- 4.3 The team needs to be established swiftly to ensure that developments in Adult Social Care dovetail with the Council’s Children Act planning. The Project Team will be required to establish good links with the Children Act Project Team and the new Head of Modernisation to ensure the focus of this work forms a coherent link with the Council’s overall modernisation programme

5. Conclusion

5.1 Members are requested to:

- Note the Government’s proposals for the future of Adult social care, following the publication of the Green Paper “Independence, Well-being and Choice.”
- Comment on the proposals made in the Green Paper, with a view to the County Council responding formally to the Department of Health, in accordance with the agreed consultation process, by 28 July 2005.
- Note the establishment of an Adult Services project team to plan the changes arising from the Green Paper and to ensure that the recommendations of the Strategic Review of Older People are implemented.
- Note that a seminar has been arranged for all Members on Thursday 14 July 2005 at 2.00pm to consider the implications arising from the Green Paper (the consultation response will be available for Members at this seminar). In addition, an event is currently being arranged to ensure consultation with all key stakeholders including, the wider Health community and voluntary sector agencies.

MARION DAVIS
Director of Social Care and
Health

Shire Hall
Warwick

May 2005