

**HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE
SCRUTINY AND PERFORMANCE PANEL**

**Agenda Item
No.
8d**

DATE: 20 JUNE 2006

**WHITE PAPER: "OUR HEALTH, OUR CARE, OUR SAY": A NEW DIRECTION
FOR COMMUNITY SERVICES**

Ward(s) All

Portfolios: Cllr A Paul – Social Care & Inclusion

Summary of report:

The White Paper 'Our health, our care, our say' was published in January 2006. Members will recall that the council responded to the Green Paper 'Independence, Well-being and Choice' on the future of social care service in July 2005.

The White Paper sets out how the vision in the Green Paper will be turned into reality. The White Paper aims to achieve 4 main goals:

- Better prevention services with earlier intervention
- Giving people more choice and a louder voice
- To tackle inequalities and improve access to community services
- To provide more support to people with long-term needs.

This will be achieved by:-

- Making it the responsibility of directors of adult social services and directors of public health to assess strategic needs in order to plan services for the next 10-15 years, concentrating especially on addressing health inequalities.
- Investing in prevention measures to improve well-being and prevent acute hospital admissions alongside a continued concentration in social care to increase the numbers of people supported intensively to live at home.
- Extending direct payments and piloting individual budgets to give people greater freedom to choose the support they want.
- Establishing a national information/helpline for carers, home-based respite support and allocating funding to train carers.
- Ensuring all people with long-term or complex needs have access to a case manager who can co-ordinate the services they need.
- Expecting all local authorities and primary care trusts to establish joint health and social care teams or networks, and providing people with long term conditions with an integrated care plan by 2008.
- Strengthening PCT commissioning and ensuring coverage of practice-based commissioning by 2006 and develop guidelines on joint commissioning.
- Integrating NHS and local authority workforce planning by 2008 and taking action to address recruitment and retention problems.
- Ensuring primary care is commissioned taking account of the social care commissioned by the local authority and addressing health inequalities by

increasing the provision of primary care in deprived areas by allowing different providers to compete for services, thus ensuring universal access to high quality primary care services.

- Aligning performance assessment and inspection regimes for Primary Care Trusts and local authorities and developing more joint health and social care appointments including those of directors of adult care and directors of public health.
- Primary Care Trusts reviewing service provision and seeking to continuously improve care by seeking new models of this provision (including the independent sector, the third sector and social enterprise) where appropriate.
- Delivering health care closer to home with practice-based commissioning driving the redesign of care pathways and with specialist practitioners participating in care delivery outside hospitals.

Locally, we have ensured that the White Paper requirements have been built in to service plans for 2006/07.

The adult services modernisation programme incorporates a range of actions which will ensure delivery of more choice and a wider range of community based service, including:-

- Reprovision of older people's homes
- Re-tendering of community meals services
- Reprovision of learning disability homes
- Review and modernisation of day services for older people, learning disabilities and mental health
- Increased respite care services for carers of people with learning disabilities
- Improved access and contact arrangements for all adult service users
- Improved care pathways and process re-engineering across assessment and care management

Having significantly increased take up of direct payments, we have set more challenging targets for 2006/07 and will be part of the national 'In Control' pilot offering individual payments for adults with learning disabilities.

Partnership Working between the local authority the PCT and WHT to develop more integrated services is continuing. This includes:-

- Strengthening and further developing the joint commissioning arrangements
- Developing the integrated disability service, initially focussing on integrated rehabilitation and OT services
- Developing single management of integrated services for older people where this adds value
- Developing a joint vision and action plan for an integrated approach to emergency and unscheduled care, including better integrated out of hours services
- Ensuring a whole systems, multi-agency approach to access, referrals, assessments and care co-ordination, including reduction in waiting times for services
- Working together to enhance voluntary sector capacity
- Continuing to develop partnership working in provision of information for service planning and delivery
- Ensuring the delivery of the Choosing Health agenda is co-ordinated through the Healthy Communities and Vulnerable Adults Partnership Executive Group

These workstreams are being co-ordinated by the Partnership Executive Group and/or the multi-agency Modernisation Board. It is intended to hold a borough-wide conference, later in the year, to raise awareness of the White Paper and our local response.

Background papers:

- White Paper: Our health, our care, our say. January 2006
- Department of Health – Our health, our care, our say: a new direction for community services – A brief guide
- Social Care Bulletin – Department of Health January 2006
- Local Government Association – Briefing – 30 January 2006
- Care Services Improvement Partnership (CSIP) – Department of Health's White Paper - Housing Lin Briefing February 2006

Reason for scrutiny:

The White Paper will impact on future developments of social care services. These have been reflected in 2006/07 service plans. Scrutiny members are asked to note this report for information



Signed:

Executive Director: **David Martin**

Date: 12 June 2006

Resource and legal considerations:

There are no resource implications arising from this report.

Citizen impact:

The White Paper requires service users to be given greater choice and control over the care they receive.

Environmental impact:

There are no environment implications from this report.

Performance management:

There is no specific effect on performance.

Equality Implications:

The White Paper focuses on tackling inequalities.

Consultation:

A comprehensive consultation process was undertaken on the Green Paper.
A borough-wide conference will be held to raise local awareness of the White Paper and our local response.

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