

ADULT SOCIAL CARE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY PANEL
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**THE VISION FOR ADULT SOCIAL CARE: CAPABLE COMMUNITIES AND ACTIVE
CITIZENS AND THINK LOCAL, ACT PERSONAL - NEXT STEPS FOR TRANSFORMING
ADULT SOCIAL CARE**

(Director of Adult Social Care and Health)

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to brief members of the Panel on two major publications launched by the Department of Health. Both papers set out the Government priorities for Adult Social Care.

2 SUGGESTED ACTION

- 2.1 **Adult Social Care and Health will be working to ensure local strategies and plans are aligned to the new agenda. The Panel are asked to consider how they would want to contribute to this work.**

3 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 The Vision for Social Care - Capable Communities and Active Citizens

- 3.1.1 The government has published the vision paper as the first step towards a White paper on the reform of the system of adult social care to be published next year. This can be found at:-
http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/@dh/@en/@ps/documents/digitalasset/dh_121971.pdf
- 3.1.2 The vision focuses on three main themes from the Coalition programme: integration of health and social care funding to deliver preventative action; extending the roll out of personal budgets to give people more control and the use of direct payments to carers, and better community based provision to improve access to respite care.
- 3.1.3 The vision is underpinned by seven principles: prevention, personalisation, partnership, plurality, protection, productivity and people.
- 3.1.4 **Prevention:** the paper states that care can be transformed, not by looking upwards to the state, but outwards to open communities. Empowered people and strong communities can work together to maintain independence. Where the state is needed it should support communities and help people retain and regain independence. Councils are asked to lead change and stimulate action within their communities. Councils should improve preventative services by developing community capacity and promoting active citizenship. Councils should commission a full range of preventative and early intervention services working in partnership with the NHS, housing authorities and others.
- 3.1.5 **Personalisation:** People should get personal choice and control over their services – from supported housing through to residential care. This means a wholesale change in the way social care is managed from financial management systems to

block contracts. Personal budgets, preferably in the form of direct payments should be available to all, including those with the most complex needs and those in residential care.

- 3.1.6 The vision states that councils should provide personal budgets for everyone eligible for ongoing care by April 2013.
- 3.1.7 Councils should ensure that everyone, whether using a personal budget or funding their own care, can get the information and advice they need. To have real autonomy and choice the paper stresses, people need good accessible information.
- 3.1.8 **Plurality and Partnership:** The vision put forward is that the variety of peoples needs is matched by diverse service provision with a broad market of high quality service providers. The government is particularly keen to encourage micro and small enterprises, user led organisations and voluntary organisations to compete to deliver personalised services.
- 3.1.9 The benefit of partnership working are emphasised, providing better outcomes for people as well as efficiencies and encourages the use of pooled funding at a local level.
- 3.1.10 **Protection:** Although there should be sensitive safeguards against risk of abuse or neglect the vision paper stresses that risk should not be an excuse to limit people's freedom. Councils are urged to champion safeguarding within local communities. Citizens and communities should have a part to play in preventing, detecting and reporting abuse and neglect.
- 3.1.11 **Productivity:** Councils are urged to develop a local plan for reform to make the best use of resources. Spend on the frontline services should be maximised and while the paper concedes there may be circumstances for a council to retain services it is expected that separating responsibility for commissioning and providing services should become the norm. The government is expecting that greater local accountability will drive improvements and deliver higher productivity.
- 3.1.12 **People:** The principles of partnership and plurality will mean a workforce being employed in different types of organisations, some of which will work across traditional health and social care boundaries to deliver more integrated services. In 2011 councils will be invited to consider the formation of social work practices, an example of the different types of organisations to be encouraged.

3.2 **The Partnership Agreement: Think Local, Act Personal**

- 3.2.1 The Vision for Social Care forms part of the agenda for the future of adult social care. The Partnership agreement: Think Local, Act Personal (http://www.puttingpeoplefirst.org.uk/library/PPF/NCAS/Partnership_Agreement_final_29_October_2010.pdf) sets out immediate actions for councils, focusing on personalisation, a community based approach to developing services with local communities and other providers and an emphasis on productivity.
- 3.2.2 This paper follows on from the Putting People First concordat and it has been signed up to by organisations across the adult social care, local government, health, private and independent, and community sectors.
- 3.2.3 Think Local, Act Personal reinforces personalisation as the core direction of travel for social care development. It does put more stress on more efficient, effective and

integrated service delivery across health and social care, a greater role for service providers and the importance of community.

- 3.2.4 The partnership agreement sets out specific actions councils need to take with their partners to deliver a community based approach. A number of tools and materials are published alongside this paper to support best practice. All these supplementary papers plus the full partnership agreement can be found at www.puttingpeoplefirst.org.uk

Background Papers

A Vision for Social Care: Capable Communities and Active Citizens Department of Health
http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/@dh/@en/@ps/documents/digitalasset/dh_121971.pdf

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