

The Vision for Social Care- Capable Communities and Active Citizens

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

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,
- better community based provision to improve access to respite care.

7 principles:

- prevention,
- personalisation,
- partnership,
- plurality,
- protection,
- productivity
- people

Prevention

- 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.

Personalisation

- People should get personal choice and control over their services – from supported housing through to residential care.
- 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.
- Councils should provide personal budgets for everyone eligible for ongoing care by April 2013.

Plurality

- variety of peoples needs is matched by diverse service provision
- a broad market of high quality service providers.
- encourage micro and small enterprises, user led organisations and voluntary organisations to compete to deliver personalised services.

Partnership

- Emphasises benefit of partnership working,
- providing better outcomes for people as well as efficiencies
- encourages the use of pooled funding at a local level.

Protection

- Although there should be sensitive safeguards against risk of abuse or neglect, risk should not be an excuse to limit peoples freedom.

Productivity

- Councils to develop a local plan for reform to make the best use of resources.
- Spend on the frontline services should be maximised
- Separating responsibility for commissioning and providing services should become the norm.
- greater local accountability will drive improvements and deliver higher productivity.

People

- The principles of partnership and plurality will mean a workforce being employed in different types of organisations
- Some 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.

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- reinforces personalisation as the core direction of travel for social care development.
- puts more stress on more efficient, effective and integrated service delivery
- a greater role for service providers and the importance of community.