

## **Briefing Note for Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee 10 September 2012**

### **“Caring for Our Future,” the Care and Support White Paper, Draft Care and Support Bill and Progress Report on Funding Reform**

#### **1. Purpose.**

To inform Committee of the proposals for the future of adult social care as set out in the White Paper, *Caring for our Future: reforming care and support*, and to highlight any policy issues for the Council.

#### **2. Background.**

On 11 July 2012 the Government published a series of documents on the future of adult social care. Most prominent are:

- The White Paper, *Caring for our Future: reforming care and support* - outlining its overarching vision for adult social care.
- A draft *Care and Support Bill* which legislates for measures in the vision, particularly responding to the Law Commission’s call for streamlining social care
- *Caring for our Future: progress report on funding reform* – how the government intends to respond to the Dilnot Commission’s recommendations

It is intended to implement a number of the White Paper proposals including a consultation on safeguarding intervention powers and expressions of interest for residential direct payments during 2012. The legislative changes proposed in the draft Bill, however, will not be introduced to Parliament until April 2013 and will not be implemented till 2015.

#### **3. Caring for Our Future: reforming care and support.**

The White Paper sets out Government’s vision for adult social care as follows:

- To promote people’s independence and wellbeing by enabling them to prevent and postpone the need for care and support.
- To transform people’s experience of care and support, putting them in control and ensuring that services respond to what they want.

The measures in the White Paper are categorised in five outcome statements from people who use services and carers.

##### **i. “I am supported to maintain my independence as long as possible”**

Measures under this outcome are focussed on supporting communities to be active and inclusive and housing and include:

- Government support for the role of communities by encouraging approaches such as asset-based community development, and supporting voluntary and community sectors
- The publication of the Public Health and Adult Social Care Outcomes Framework for 2013-14, which will have shared measures for wellbeing
- Prevention and early intervention will be a core local authority role. The Draft Care and Support Bill will give local authorities a duty to incorporate early intervention into commissioning and planning

- JSNA's will be expected to identify the skills and capacities of communities and for these to be considered in Health and Wellbeing Strategies
- 5000 community organisers to be trained to promote the growth of user-led organisations. Councils will be expected to use spaces and buildings for community activity
- Trailblazer areas will develop new ways of investing in care and support such as Social Impact Bonds (a type of payment by results tool in which taxpayer funding is only used if services are successful)
- The draft Care and Support Bill will give new duties to local authorities to ensure adult social care and housing departments join adaptations services with care and support
- A care and support housing fund will provide £200m over five years to develop specialist housing
- Government will help accelerate the roll out of assistive technology through a range of incentives and support

**ii. "I understand how care and support works, and what my entitlements are"**

Measures under this outcome are focussed on information and advice, assessment, eligibility and portability and carers support and include:

- A new national information portal for health and care advice. Local authorities will have information on local services options linked to the national directory
- Legislation to ensure that people get information on their local care and support system with £32.5m available over two years to radically improve online information
- A minimum national threshold for access to care from 2015. It will review the position nearer the time, but it is likely to be at substantial
- Options for a new assessment and eligibility framework which will take into account the skills and goals of people will be developed
- To enable people to move more easily around the country government will legislate for portability of assessment
- A new framework to enable the independent sector and social enterprises to offer assessment and care management services will be tested
- The draft Care and Support Bill extends carers' rights to an assessment and entitles them to have assessed eligible needs met to maintain health and wellbeing

**iii. "I am happy with the quality of my care and support"**

Measures under this outcome are focussed on high quality care, improving quality, and a better local care and include:

- The development of provider quality profiles online by 2013
- Providing training for local Health watch to take on their responsibilities
- Safeguarding to be put on a statutory basis. Local Authorities will have a duty to convene statutory Safeguarding Adults Partnership Boards
- Local Authorities will have a duty to promote diversity and quality in the provision of care
- Government will encourage commissioning on the basis of quality, outcomes, value for money and payment by results

**iv. "I know the person giving me care and support will treat me with dignity and respect"**

Measures under this outcome are focussed on workforce development and include:

- A new code of conduct and national minimum training standards for care workers by September 2012
- Personal assistants and their employers to be offered greater support and training through the Workforce Development Fund

- Government intends that the role of social workers will be more focussed on interpersonal support and promoting choice and control
- A Chief Social Worker will be appointed by the end of 2012 to provide a leadership role for the profession and advise government
- Care apprenticeships will be doubled by 2017 to 100,000.

**v. “I am in control of my care and support”**

Measures under this outcome are focussed on personalised care and support and integration and joined –up and include:

- Legislation to give people an entitlement to a personal budget
- Local Authorities will have a duty to inform people about any rights to direct payments
- Government will test the costs and benefits of direct payments for residential care in some areas
- The draft Care and Support Bill sets out an overarching principle for care and support, which must be to promote the wellbeing of the individual
- The draft Care and Support Bill sets out a duty for local authorities to promote the integration of services and will provide further duties of co-operation for local partners
- A further £100m in 2013-14 and £200m in 2014-15 will be invested in joint funding between the NHS and social care for integrated provision. Investment will be determined by Health and Wellbeing Boards
- Subject to evaluation, government intends to make it straightforward for people to combine personal health budgets and personal social care budgets
- Government will publish a framework to support removing barriers to integrated care including new models of care for older people
- A new funding system for palliative care will be introduced from 2015

**4. Caring for our Future: progress report on funding reform.**

This document outlines government’s agreement with the principles of the Dilnot Commission’s model of financial protection through capped costs and an extended means test, but funding reform needs to be considered alongside other priorities and decisions will take place at the time of the next spending review.

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