

# Report



meeting	ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND HEALTH: DEPARTMENTAL BRIEFING	agenda item number	<b>7</b>
date	28 <sup>th</sup> October 2008		

## REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, PHYSICAL DISABILITY AND INDEPENDENT LIVING

### NEW ADULT SOCIAL CARE GREEN PAPER – CARE, SUPPORT, INDEPENDENCE

#### **1. Purpose of the Report**

- 1.1 This report is to bring to the attention of Member's the consultation exercise that is currently being undertaken by the Department of Health, in advance of the publication next year of the Green Paper on the future of Social Care for Adults "Care, Support, Independence – meeting the needs of a changing society".
- 1.2 The report recommends to Members an appropriate way to respond to this important consultation exercise.

#### **2. Information and Advice**

- 2.1 Earlier this year, the Government announced that a radical re-think of the care and support system is needed to meet the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. In the forward to the report which initiated the consultation ("The Case for Change – Why England needs a new care and support system", published in May 2008) Gordon Brown says that it is a document which explains the challenges of the future and sets out the terms of a debate "that will affect every family and shape the kind of society in which we live".
- 2.2 The 'challenges of the future' and concern about the sustainability of the current system in the document focus on the *growing elderly population* and the *long-term affordability* of the current care and support system in this context. It also focuses on the *changing expectations* of society, in which people expect more choice and control over their services.
- 2.3 The vision which underpins the debate - and will underpin the proposals in the Green Paper next year - is one of a new system that will:
  - promote independence, choice and control;

- ensure that everyone can receive the care and support that they need but that funding is targeted at those most in need;
- be affordable for governments, individuals and families.

2.4 The main questions on which the Government wishes to consult in advance of publishing the Green Paper are these:

- (a) What more do we need to do to make our vision of independence, choice and control a reality?
- (b) What should the balance of responsibility be between the family, the individual and the Government?
- (c) Should the system be the same for everybody or should we consider varying the ways in which we allocate Government funding according to certain principles?
  - (i) Should there be one system for everyone or different systems depending on the type of need for care and support that somebody has?
  - (ii) Which is more important to us: local flexibility or national consistency?
  - (iii) What should the balance be between targeting Government resources at those who are least able to pay and having a system that supports those who plan and save?

2.5 The full report is available as a Background paper to this report. The executive summary of the document is attached as **Appendix 1**.

2.6 Many national organisations have already made submissions to the Department of Health and two of these submissions are included as background papers, one from the Local Government Information Unit and the other from the Royal National Institute for the Blind. There is also a dedicated website which can be accessed at:

[http://www.networks.csip.org.uk/library/Resources/Housing/Support\\_materials/Other\\_reports\\_and\\_guidance/CARE\\_SUPPORT\\_INDEPENDENCE.pdf](http://www.networks.csip.org.uk/library/Resources/Housing/Support_materials/Other_reports_and_guidance/CARE_SUPPORT_INDEPENDENCE.pdf) .

2.7 In response to the document, it is proposed that officers: (i) make a presentation to each Political Group meeting which will enable Groups to determine the most appropriate response in accordance with their respective policy positions and also (ii) explore the option of using the Council's Citizens Panel (Nottinghamshire Listens) as a vehicle for encouraging participation in the national debate.

**3. Background Papers Available for Inspection**

- 3.1 The case For Change – Why England Needs a new care and support system.
- 3.2 Paper from the Local Government Information Unit.
- 3.3 Paper from the Royal National Institute for the Blind.

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