

# Adult Social Care Strategy

## Foreword

This strategy sets out the Council's proposals for the future of adult social care in Nottinghamshire. The proposals are in line with the Council's Strategic Plan 2014 – 2018 and are in anticipation of the new Care Bill. The proposals are being made at a time of an unprecedented reduction in the Council's income, accompanied by rising demand for our services from older people and people with complex needs.

The provision of good social care support has always been a priority for the Council. In responding to the changes ahead of us, we will always try to consider the needs and preferences of the individual, but we will have to balance this against the effective and efficient use of resources. We must ensure that we have sufficient resources to meet the needs of all people who are assessed as eligible for social care support and we must focus resources on support that prevents, delays and reduces the need for care and support.

## 1. Context

Priority Four of the Council's Strategic Plan deals with providing care and promoting health. It sets out the Council's intentions to develop individual and community resources to prevent, delay and reduce the need for care and support. In addition the Care Bill will change the way in which social care support is arranged and provided. It will, for example:

- provide a national eligibility threshold, which will apply to all councils. This will be implemented in April 2015.
- focus care and support on promoting wellbeing and preventing or delaying the need for social care support.
- require the Council to provide people with information and advice relating to care and support for adults and support for carers

Our guiding principles for the future are as follows:

Good quality information and advice will be available to all to help people plan for the future, reduce the need for care services and where possible maintain independence.

We will expect to share responsibility with individuals, families and communities to maintain their health and independence

We will enable people to live with the risks inherent in living independently whilst ensuring they are safeguarded from significant harm.

We will reduce the demand for institutional care and the need for long term care in the community by commissioning or providing services that support independence.

Where people have critical or substantial risks to their independence and they meet the national funding criteria, we will fund care and support only for as long as it is necessary.

We will promote individual health and independence through joint and collaborative working across the public sector.

We will encourage and stimulate an efficient, diverse, affordable and high quality social care market.

We will commission support from external organisations that is focused on helping people to remain independent for as long as possible and is efficient and affordable

We will always consider the eligible needs and preferences of the individual but the Council has a responsibility to balance this against the effective and efficient use of its resources, which take account of the needs of all adults eligible for social care and support.

## **2. Our strategy for achieving these aims**

### **INFORMATION, ADVICE AND EARLY INTERVENTION**

- We will provide good quality information and advice to ensure that people know what support is available to them and to help them to plan for the future.
- We will aim to meet people's needs quickly when they first contact us. This might be through the Customer Service Centre, at a clinic or at a health centre.

### **PREVENTION**

- We will target all prevention and early intervention services at people who are at risk of losing or reducing their independence.
- We will maximise independence by loaning equipment and assistive technology to people, where appropriate
- We will ensure that social care support is available to carers, if they are assessed as eligible to receive it.
- We will intervene to keep people safe when we have reasonable cause to believe there is a significant risk of harm or neglect by others, or an individual is unable to protect him or herself.

### **SHORT TERM SUPPORT (re-ablement)**

- We will target short term support (re-ablement) where initial indications show a critical or substantial risk to an individual's independence
- We will provide people with short term support (re-ablement) before a decision is made about whether they might be eligible for long term support. The aim of the short term support will be to reduce or delay their need for long term support, where possible.

## **ASSESSMENT AND CARE MANAGEMENT**

- We will provide a proportionate assessment to people following short term support (re-ablement) where it appears that they have eligible social care needs.
- We will make more use of phone, online and clinic appointments to undertake assessments. Assessment visits to a person's home will be made in situations where it is clear that a person could not cope with a phone or online assessment, is unable to travel to a clinic, or requests a face to face assessment.
- We will arrange services at the time they are required for as long as they are required to meet the specific outcomes identified in the assessment
- We will ensure that an assessment, under the Mental Capacity Act 2005, is carried out where people lack the capacity to make a decision about how their care needs should be met.
- We will provide care closer to home where this meets a person's needs and is cost effective. For those people currently placed outside of the county, we will aim to commission services in Nottinghamshire, where this is more cost effective.
- We will ensure that people have access to independent advocacy support so that they can understand the choices available to them, where necessary.

## **PERSONAL BUDGETS**

- We will ensure that other sources of funding and support are always explored before the allocation of a personal budget.
- We will decide how much a person's support would reasonably cost, based on their eligible needs.
- We will provide Personal Budgets that meet the essential outcomes identified through assessment in the most cost effective way
- We will expect people assessed as eligible for social care support to contribute towards their personal budget in line with the national charging arrangements for adult social care.
- We will offer a choice to individuals of taking their personal budget through a direct payment, a managed budget (arranged by the Council) or a mixture of the two.

## **REVIEW**

- We will ensure that a person's entitlement to a personal budget is reviewed regularly to ensure that he/she is still eligible and that his/her outcomes are being met in the most cost effective way.

## **COMMISSIONING SERVICES**

- When commissioning services for people, we will place greater emphasis on the achievement of outcomes and value for money over the level of choice available. We will always aim to maximise people's independence and take their preferences into account, but the funding made available to support an individual will be determined by the most cost effective care package, based on the local care market, the availability of local care providers and the cost of community based and residential care. All situations will have to be assessed and considered on an individual basis.
- We will reduce the demand for institutional care and the need for long term care in the community by commissioning or providing services that support independence, for example extra care housing and/or housing with support. This will involve working with Health, housing providers and other agencies.

- We will expect organisations that provide services on our behalf to deliver good quality support that keeps people safe. Where they fail to do so in a timely manner, we will commission alternative support for people
- We will expect organisations that provide services on our behalf to pay for our support in situations where they are not meeting their contractual requirements and require support for improvement.
- We will fund non-statutory/discretionary services where there is evidence that they prevent, delay or reduce the need for care and support

### **FINANCE AND CHARGING**

- We will charge a fee which reflects the cost of the service to people and organisations, where we are able to do so.
- We will ask people to pay the difference where they choose care and support which is more expensive than care that can be procured by the Council.
- We will provide advice and guidance to people on other funding that might be available if their preferred service is more expensive than similar care and support that can be procured by the Council
- We will make sure that people understand the different ways in which they can get independent financial advice in relation to their social care support.

### **STRUCTURES AND PROCESSES**

- We will continue to adapt to changes to adult social care outlined in the Care Bill
- We will make our systems and processes as efficient as possible to save money.
- We will ask the most appropriate agencies and care providers to undertake support planning and arrange services on our behalf
- We will integrate our structures with Health and other agencies where it will provide better outcomes and more cost effective services