

# Report



meeting

COUNTY COUNCIL

date

7<sup>th</sup> September 2006

agenda item number

## **REPORT OF THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ADULT SERVICES AND HEALTH**

### **KEY ISSUES AND ACTIVITIES IN SOCIAL SERVICES**

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

I am pleased to present the key issues and activities as Portfolio Holder for Social Services, since my last report to Council.

#### **2. Key issues and activities**

##### **2.1 Self Assessment Pilot**

Nottinghamshire County Council is one of 11 Councils chosen to run a pilot scheme which will explore the potential for people with long term health and social care needs to self-assess their requirements for occupational therapy support services.

These can include the need for equipment, home care, standard housing adaptations and low-level preventative services.

The pilots are part of the Government's aim to put people in control of their care and deliver services closer to home, as promised in the joint health and social care white paper.

Nottinghamshire's pilot will be funded by a government grant of around £100,000

The schemes will be run through local partnerships led by social services departments and will include joint working with a range of partners.

##### **2.2 Joint Review of Community Mental Health Services**

In May of this year the Health Care Commission for Social Care Inspection carried out a joint review of Community Mental Health Services. This was a

national review of all health and social care services for adults of working age with mental ill health.

It was the first joint review undertaken by the two inspection agencies and signals the way forward for a joining of the inspectorates as outlined in the White paper 'Our Health, Our Care, Our Say'.

I am pleased to report that Nottinghamshire County Council were judged to be providing 'good' services, the judgement categories being 'poor', 'fair', 'good' and 'excellent'.

Our partners in the local health community were also judged as providing 'good' services in the South of the County and 'fair' services in the North of the County.

### 2.3 Learning Disability Residential Care

As reported to Cabinet in June of this year the County Council, in partnership with Newark and Sherwood Primary Care Trust, tendered for the provision of residential care services for people with learning disabilities.

I am pleased to inform Members that the Council's own learning disability service was successful in being awarded a contract to provide four of the eight homes up for tender in the Newark and Mansfield areas.

Becoming a provider of residential care for people with learning disability will allow the Council to more effectively manage a very volatile independent sector market. In addition we shall be able to develop short term rehabilitation services, thus preventing people from longer term residential care when their own parents and carers feel unable to continue to care for their loved ones.

### 2.4 Link Age Plus

We are one of eight councils which have been selected by government to lead a "Link Age Plus" partnership to improve access to current services and provide a range of new services for older people in Nottinghamshire.

We hope to be awarded government funding for this two year project to improve services for older people in Nottinghamshire. The project should start on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2006 and we intend to hold a formal launch on 13<sup>th</sup> October 2006 at County Hall with the Minister of Pensions, James Parnell in attendance.

Our launch of Link Age plus will feature a market place and workshops to show the range of new services provided by our partners in the project.

The launch will also mark the UN International Day of Older people and will feature a celebration of the role of Older People through presentations from the local Older People's Advisory groups.

At the same time, we will launch “Nottinghamshire Opportunity Age” which is the strategy for ageing developed by the County Wide Older People’s Strategic Partnership.

All elected Members will be invited to attend this event which will include stalls from the Older People’s Advisory Group, The Pension Service, Supporting People, Age Concern, Older People’s Resource Centres, Primary Care Trusts and Nottinghamshire County Council services such as Welfare Rights, Trading Standards and Leisure.

The workshops will be lead by older people and will include demonstrations of Link Age plus activities including belly dancing, activity friends, First Contact Signposting, spotting rogue traders, salsa dancing and Tai Chi.

**COUNCILLOR DICK ANTHONY  
CABINET MEMBER FOR ADULT SERVICES AND HEALTH**