

meeting COUNTY COUNCIL

date 28 January 2010

agenda item number **7a iii**

## **REPORT OF THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND HEALTH**

### **KEY ISSUES AND ACTIVITIES IN ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND HEALTH**

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

- 1.1 I am pleased to present the key issues and activities as Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care and Health, since my last report to Council.

#### **2. Key Issues and activities**

##### **2.1 Personal Care at Home Bill**

The Department of Health is currently running a consultation on the proposals for regulations and guidance made under the Personal Care at Home Bill.

Subject to the passage through Parliament of the Bill, the intention is that councils will have to provide free personal care to those who meet the specified criteria. The impact of this is that they will have to provide care to some people who currently fund their own care and they will no longer be able to raise charges on the personal care element of care received at home for people who meet the criteria.

The consultation, which runs until 23 February 2010, is inviting views from stakeholders on the proposals. The Adult Social Care and Health department is currently working on a response to the consultation document.

A consultation document containing the proposals for regulations and guidance, with associated documents, is available at:

[http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Liveconsultations/DH\\_109139](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Liveconsultations/DH_109139)

##### **2.2 Westminster Advisers**

Paul McKay, Programme Director for Transforming Social Care has been asked to speak by Westminster Advisers at a meeting on the 21 January in London. Westminster Advisers are a specialist team of government relations

and public affairs professionals based in the heart of Westminster and Whitehall. The event is about the challenges that face local authorities in adult social care funding. Paul will specifically speak about what led Nottinghamshire County Council to quantify the cost ex-self funders place on the local authority, how these figures are calculated and what solutions Nottinghamshire County Council have proposed.

### 2.3 **Briefing on Autism**

Staff from Nottinghamshire's Adult Social Care and Health department have been chosen to brief a government minister at a House of Commons all party parliamentary group on Autism.

Service director Jon Wilson and manager of the Department's adults with Asperger's team, Chris Mitchell have been invited because of the Department's pro-active planning for people on the Autism spectrum and because the department has already set up a specialist team for adults with Asperger's Syndrome.

There are few such teams nationally and the department's team is particularly unusual as it has been set up by social care rather than health. The team has been running for the past year and has had in excess of 170 referrals and is currently working with 140 people with high functioning and Asperger's Syndrome.

The all party group on autism is made up of cross party back bench MPs with an interest in the promotion and improvement of services to people with Autism and will be held on 27 January 2010. Care services minister Phil Hope will be present.

### 2.4 **The matrix Standard**

Nottinghamshire County Council's Ready4Work Team has been accredited with the **matrix** Standard, a nationally recognised quality mark for organisations delivering information, advice and guidance services.

The Ready4Work Team, which is part of the Supported Employment and Catering Services department within Adult Social Care and Health, offers help, advice and support in finding employment for disabled people or people with health conditions who live in Nottinghamshire.

As part of our ongoing business planning processes the Team wanted to ensure that all their customers were receiving the best information, advice and guidance possible and decided that the **matrix** Standard would help to strive to be the best in the sector.

The Ready4Work Team gained accreditation to the **matrix** Standard in October following a three day external assessment process in which a number of supported employees, employers and partner organisations took part.

## 2.5 **Working Together for change – Provider Development Programme**

In November 2009, Nottinghamshire Adult Services were successful in becoming part of the Department of Health's 'Working Together for Change: Provider Development Programme'. This is a programme to stimulate service developments within the provider market in response to personalisation. It involves working closely with three delivery partners. In the case of Nottinghamshire these will be providers of community-based learning disability services (Mencap, Choice Support and Eden Supported Housing).

Service users and their carers will be key in determining their priorities for the future and the approach will involve using a newly developed outcome focussed review process. This will build on a strong foundation of person centred approaches within Nottinghamshire's learning disability services.

The programme will commence in January 2010 for a six month period and will involve expert input from the Department of Health in a range of workshops and planning days. The department will also be part of a series of national learning events.

## 2.6 **Food Standard Agency Project**

In Autumn 2009, the Team Manager - Food & Nutrition Services received funding from the Food Standards Agency to carry out a project with older people around promoting 'One pot cookery', reducing the risk of listeria, reducing the intake of saturated fatty acids and salt as well as improving the consumption of healthy foods and water.

To achieve this, the Team Manager has set up a series of practical cookery demonstrations within day services for the elderly for those service users who are bordering on the care thresholds. The main aim is to encourage simple but nutritious, cookery for people who have had cookery skills but may no longer use them. Home cooked food is always going to be more nutritious than manufactured ready to eat foods.

Practical cooking sessions are as follows:

- 12 January at 13.30 - Three Spires, Moorfield Court, Southwell Notts
- 14 January at 10.30 – Patchills, Eakring Close Mansfield
- 25 January at 10.30 – Moorlands, Moor Lane Bingham
- 02 February at 10.30 - Moorlands
- 09 February at 13.30 - Three Spires, Moorfield Court, Southwell
- 18 February at 10.30 - Patchills

At the end of the project a recipe book will be produced and information about the key themes for all those who have participated in the training.

2.7 **Visits to an Independent Sector Care Home**

I have taken the opportunity of visiting, recently, In-house services and independent sector residential and nursing homes with whom we contract.

On the 12 February 2010 I will be visiting, along with Linda Bayliss, Service Director (Strategic Services) Belvior Vale Care Home in Widmerpool.

**COUNCILLOR MEL SHEPHERD**  
**Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health**

CC56