

# Report



meeting COUNTY COUNCIL

date 28<sup>th</sup> June 2007

agenda item number

## **REPORT OF THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ADULT SERVICES 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 Services and Health, since my last report to Council.

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

##### **2.1 Mansfield Locality Visit**

2.1.1 Visits took place on the 31<sup>st</sup> May 2007 to a number of teams in the Mansfield District with the Strategic Director for Adult Social Care and Health.

2.1.2 Following teams were visited:

- Assessment and Care Management Teams
- Direct Services Home Care
- Occupational Therapy Team
- Service Organisers Team
- Adult Deaf Team
- Team for Visual Impairment
- Locality Management Team
- Adult Protection Unit
- Community Learning Disability Team
- Intensive Home Support Team
- The Mansfield Community Hospital Assessment and Care Management Team

2.1.3 We saw evidence of the increase in activity and of some close and effective working with the Health Service.

2.1.4 A common theme from teams was an increase in the number of referrals concerned with adult protection. There has been an increase of around 20% each year since 2001, with over a thousand reports last year.

2.1.5 Recent media coverage has highlighted that awareness of abuse against adults in vulnerable situations is increasing. This is because of awareness amongst the public, partner agencies and in Adult Social Care and Health. The work of Nottinghamshire's Adult Protection Committee and Adult Protection Unit has led to wider recognition.

2.1.6 There are a number of ways adults can experience abuse or neglect in many situations. Many of these incidents have been publicised. Moves are in place to shift the agenda from 'adult protection' to 'safeguarding adults' - Safeguarding aiming to protect the human rights of everyone.

## 2.2 The Disabled Person's Parking Badge Scheme

2.2.1 I chaired a cross party Member consultation group involving Councillors Sykes and Woodhead to respond to the Department of Transport's strategic review of the Disabled Person's Parking Badge Scheme ("the Blue Badge Scheme").

2.2.2 The proposed changes are designed to:

- introduce a new category of eligibility for children under the age of two who, because of their specific medical conditions, need to travel with bulky medical equipment and be able to access that equipment quickly, or need to be able to use the vehicle for treatment or to travel to a place for treatment;
- revoke the spent eligibility criteria relating to people supplied with a vehicle at public expense (known as the Invalid Vehicle Scheme (IVS) or "blue trike" scheme). The IVS was officially closed on 31 March 2003;
- allow for badges to be issued for a period of less than three years (currently badges can only be issued for three years) to people who are awarded the Higher Rate Mobility Component of the Disability Living Allowance (HRMCDLA) for less than three years. This removes the current anomaly where someone receiving HRMCDLA but whose disability lasts for less than three years could still be receiving Blue Badge concessions beyond the period of their benefit; (it should be noted however, that we are not suggesting that current badges on issue will be recalled)
- change the current criterion for the issue of badges to people with severe congenital disabilities in both arms who drive a vehicle regularly and are unable to operate, or have considerable difficulty operating, all or some types of parking meters or pay and display equipment. Currently, this criterion requires an inability to turn a steering wheel by hand even if the wheel is fitted with a steering knob but this excludes a number of people with severe congenital disabilities in both arms who are able to drive a vehicle without adaptations to the steering wheel;

- introduce a hologram to the front of both individual and organisational badges for security purposes. During the changeover from orange to blue badges the decision was taken that a hologram would provide little value to the overall security of the new blue badge as it would be laminated and subsequently placed behind a windscreen. However, with the introduction on 29 September 2006 of the power for police and parking enforcement officers to inspect blue badges, reinstatement of the hologram on the badge will now add value to security and help reduce forgeries;
- introduce additional wording (“Front – Display this side up”) to both individual and organisational badges to clearly identify the front of the badge. This is designed to help those badge holders who are failing to display their badges correctly and incurring parking fines as a result because of confusion over which is the front of the badge; and
- revise the out-dated form of wording shown on the front of the badges (“Parking Card for People with Disabilities”) to the clearer and more commonly used wording “Parking Card for Disabled People”.

2.2.3 The outcome of the review is expected in September 2007.

## 2.3 Annual Self Assessment Survey

2.3.1 On May the 31<sup>st</sup> the authority was required to submit an extensive report to the Commission for Social Care Inspection covering a wide range of information about strategy performance quality and budget. The survey covers 2006/2007 but is also forward looking in requiring evidence about future plans and the resources to achieve them. There are 306 lines of enquiry in the Self Assessment Survey. The survey provides the basis for the Commissions judgements and performance ratings for the Authority’s adult social care function.

2.3.2 The assessment covers a wider range of Council provided or funded services following the white papers, “Our Health, Our Care, Our Say” and “Strong and prosperous communities”. The judgement now includes services and approaches within the council and with partners towards the wider health and wellbeing of our community.

2.3.3 The Self Assessment Survey includes summaries of key challenges and how they were dealt with for 2006/2007 and anticipated challenges and how they would be overcome for 2007/2008. There is a requirement that the summaries are agreed by the Cabinet Member, the Chief Executive and the Chief Executive of the two Primary Care Trusts.

## 2.4 Adult Social Care and Health Staff Conferences 2007

2.4.1 This year’s conferences are based on the theme “Adult Social Care and Health – the way ahead” with the emphasis on self directed support and working with partner agencies.

- 2.4.2 The aim is for the conferences to be interactive and encourage debate as well as being an opportunity for the Strategic Director to inform staff about the national drivers for self directed support and how it is likely to affect Nottinghamshire.
- 2.4.3 There were stands at the events to inform staff about the available resources and facilities within the department and the Council. Representatives from a direct payment agency were also available to answer questions and offer further information to staff.
- 2.4.4 The events are predominantly aimed at frontline staff and a number of councillors and guests from partner agencies and other council departments were invited to attend.
- 2.4.5 There were three conferences held at Worksop, Mansfield and Nottingham. This year there were a mix of staff from across the different service areas at each conference to encourage wider discussion and to share experiences.

## 2.5 Brooke Farm Awards

- 2.5.1 On 24<sup>th</sup> May 2007 one of our trainees David Powner received an award for outstanding achievement from ACLS (Adult and Community Learning Service). This was presented at County Hall in the assembly hall; this award was for the work which he had achieved in our educational programme.
- 2.5.2 On 25<sup>th</sup> May 2007 one of our trainees Imogen Price received, (on behalf of the group) a group award from NIACE (National Institute of Adult Continuing Education). There were four groups nominated for the region and we were one of them. This award was presented at West Nottinghamshire Technical College. The person who presented the awards was Jennie Gardiner Chief Executive of EMFEC (East Midlands Further Education Council).

## 2.6 Involve Arts Project

- 2.6.1 The Involve Arts project works with older people and people with disabilities to provide a range of arts activities in social care settings using professional artists.
- 2.6.2 Over 6,000 service users have accessed in the programme. In recognition of the work the care Service Improvement Partnership highly commended the Project as part of the Positive Practise Awards. We have now been presented with a certificate in acknowledgement of our achievements.

## 2.7 Praise for 'Workstep' Employment Scheme

- 2.7.1 Nottinghamshire County Council's Workstep programme has achieved a Silver Award by the Adult Learning Inspectorate. The service is rated as being in the top 7 of services in the country for providing opportunities for people with disabilities to get meaningful long-term employment.

2.7.2 The Department is delighted that the Workstep programme has been praised by Inspectors. This pays tribute to the hard work the department's staff undertake to build up relationships with local employers, find the right kind of job for people with disabilities, and to ensure that they get ongoing support. By helping disabled people to get work placements, their skills, confidence and sense of worth can really be boosted.

2.7.3 The inspectors praised the County Council for the following:

- "The service has made good use of a wide range of external relationships and local partnerships. The team has established particularly good working relationships with staff and managers of the local Jobcentre Plus service."
- "NCC takes good action to promote the inclusion of disabled people in the local economy."
- "The Ready4Work team has developed a strong culture of support and care for participants and has a strong focus on their well-being."
- "NCC continues to provide a good range of relevant and appropriate employment opportunities. Participants are recruited to real jobs that develop from genuine vacancies."
- "Participants receive very good personal, practical and specialist support."

## 2.8 Carers Strategy

2.8.1 The department is currently consulting with carers, service users and partners to develop our carer's strategy for 2007-09. The department recognises the valuable contribution that carers make in supporting people to remain at home. The strategy builds upon our previous strategy and reflects key national and local drivers.

2.8.2 The strategy will sit alongside the departments commissioning strategies and sets out how we will commission service to support carers

2.8.3 The strategy is subject to approval by the Cabinet in July 2007 and has been developed as far as possible in partnership with colleague in the health sector and Children and Young Persons department with the intention to work together to deliver fully integrated strategies over the next two years.

2.8.4 I met recently with the Cabinet Member for Children and Young Peoples Services and senior officers from both departments to ensure a joint approach to respond to the needs of young carers.

## 2.9 Meetings and Events Attended

2.9.1 **Age Concern** - A meeting was held 24<sup>th</sup> May 2007 with Chief Executive of Age Concern Mick Tinkler, which included David Pearson to talk about closer working.

2.9.2 **Joint Carers Forum** - Attend the Joint Carers Forum on 4<sup>th</sup> June 2007 to discuss how to support cares and issues of concern

2.9.3 **Deaf Awareness Event** – attend this event on the 23<sup>rd</sup> May to raise awareness of deaf issues.

2.9.4 **Countywide Older People's Strategic Partnership** – on 19<sup>th</sup> June 2007 Malcolm Coe from the H.M. Government attended this meeting to offer the opportunity inform and influence the proposed Performance Indicators for the Later Life Public Service Agreement.

2.10 Malcolm Dillon's Retirement

2.10.1 Malcolm Dillon, Service Director, Older People and Strategic Partnerships is retiring from the authority. Malcolm has been with the authorities since the 1<sup>st</sup> September 1971. For the last ten years Assistant Service Director. I would like to thank Malcolm for his contribution and wish him well for the future.

**COUNCILLOR ALAN RHODES**  
**Cabinet Member for Adult Services and Health**