

Meeting of the Cabinet – 8th December 2010

Report of the Interim Director of Adult Social Services

Preventing the need for Adult Social Care in Dudley

Purpose of Report

1. For Cabinet to consider a new Strategy, “Preventing the Need for Adult Social Care in Dudley.” A copy of the Strategy has been lodged in the Members Room and is available on CMIS.

Background

2. Since setting the policy direction and framework for the Transforming Social Care programme at its meeting of 10th September 2008, the Cabinet has approved a range of further actions including up-dating of the Physical Disability Strategy, Ageing Well – A Strategy for Older People, the Carers Strategy and the Dudley Health and Well-Being Partnership Workforce Strategy on 17th March 2010.
3. A further up-date on the Transforming Social Care Resource Allocation System on 28th October 2009 advised the Cabinet that the Department of Health is monitoring progress made by Councils in transforming their social care services against five key milestones:
 - Effective partnerships with people using services and carers
 - Self-directed support and personal budgets
 - Information and advice
 - Local Commissioning
 - Prevention and cost-effective services
4. “Preventing the Need for Adult Social Care in Dudley” up-dates the arrangements for investment that Adult Social Care has had in place for a number of years. The principles of prevention and early intervention have supported strategic direction in the adult social care strategies mentioned in para. 2. They have informed our investment programme over time because it has been recognised that prevention and early intervention is better for people’s lives as their needs change well as being cost-effective. The principles of prevention and early intervention are also informing our developing budget strategy so that people’s use of mainstream services that are available to everyone, such as information from library services, help people to remain independent and support carers. It is important to note that

this approach is being undertaken with partners in NHS Dudley whose contribution to prevention and early intervention is also vital so that the health care of Dudley people is also improved through this joint approach. It is also timely to up-date our arrangement for prevention and early intervention in the light of the current stage of development of the Transforming Social Care Programme.

5. The Strategy is informed by a range of evidence. Firstly, local evidence derived from the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) states that the populations aged 65+ and aged 85+ are projected to rise by 24% and 52% respectively by 2020. This will include a corresponding rise in older people within the Black and Minority Ethnic population.
6. The overall increase will result in a shift in the structure of intergenerational relationships, with younger retired people (aged 50-74) contributing to the long term care of very elderly people by providing informal care to their parents.
7. Secondly, people are broadly speaking living healthier and longer lives. It is recognised that the best kind of care can often be self-care i.e. people can maintain and improve their health through healthy eating, exercise and positive mental health.
8. Evidence also shows that where people are able to choose less-dependent options for their care when they need it, this is also typically more cost-effective. In Dudley we have invested in services which are available to people as part of their everyday lives e.g. day opportunity services run by the voluntary and community sector to assist people in avoiding higher-dependency services.
9. Under grant funded schemes, 10,361 people used prevention services in Dudley during 2009/10 through 246 different schemes including provision by Age Concern, the Langstone Society, MIND, and a number of smaller groups such as the African-Caribbean Befriending Society.
10. "Preventing the Need for Adult Social Care in Dudley" seeks to encourage the development of services which:
 - Actively promote individuals' independence, confidence and self-esteem;
 - Minimise risks to health and safety and peace of mind in people's lives;
 - Improve social contact and quality of life;
 - Promote availability of high intensity services that seek to reduce dependency levels through continual review, joint working and consultation.
 - Prevention is an approach which is relevant across the full spectrum of need - not just about "low level services".
 - Enable people working in all health and social care to identify vulnerability at an early stage.
 - Promote equality of access regardless of gender, race, culture, sexuality or religion.
11. Most people want to be able to remain independent within their own home and have access to opportunities that enable them to continue living as best they can

in the way they had used to do when they did not need to think about assistance. Such help then ranges from mobility or transport advice to assistance with telecare, personal assistance or extra-care housing.

12. The Strategy refers, finally, to the next steps that will be taken in respect of a range of initiatives that have been put in place such as:
 - Community Information Directory accessed via libraries and the Council website to ensure that the public have access to information about mainstream and social care services.
 - Ensuring that the Access Team at Brierley Hill Health and Social Care Centre makes it easier for people to access information and advice about services quickly.
 - Re-design pathway for people needing social care as part of their recovery through reablement services;
 - Continuation of grant funded services through the voluntary and community sector but with renewed emphasis on value-for-money;
 - Further development of specific strategies such as Telecare and Extra Care Housing.

Finance

13. Any financial implications arising from addressing the areas for improvement will be met from within existing budgets and budget planning.
14. Value for Money will be taken into account in the commissioning of Grant Funded Services.

Law

15. Adult Social Care Services including preventative services are provided to the public as a result of a range of legislation and guidance including the NHS and Community Care Act 1990 and other related legislation.

Equality Impact

16. Preventative services can be used positively to support communities where needs may be specifically attached to factors for which there is an equalities dimension including gender, ageing, disability, ethnicity or sexuality. Subject to approval by the Cabinet, an Equality Impact Assessment will be carried out on the Prevention Strategy.

Recommendation

17. That Cabinet comment on the draft Prevention Strategy and approve for further implementation including the completion of an Equality Impact Assessment.

Richard Carter.

Richard Carter
Interim Director of Adult Social Services

Contact Officers:

Brendan Clifford
Assistant Director – Policy, Performance and Resources

Tel: 01384 815805
Email: brendan.clifford@dudley.gov.uk

Mike Marshal
Head of Commissioning

Tel : 01384 813713
e-mail : mike.marshall@dudley.gov.uk

Background Papers

“Preventing the Need for Adult Social Care in Dudley – A Prevention and Early Intervention: A Joint Strategy for Dudley “