

Meeting of the Cabinet – 17th March 2010

Report of the Director of the Directorate of Adult, Community and Housing Services

Physical Disability/Sensory Impairment Strategy: Revision 2010 - Draft

Purpose of Report

1. To seek Cabinet approval of the above strategy.

Background

2. The Government White Paper 'Our Health, Our Care, Our Say Department of Health 2006, sets out the framework for engaging users of services in designing and developing services which are person centred and enhance the lives of their recipients. It is a requirement within government directive that services for people with physical disabilities and/or sensory impairments acknowledge the shift in policy and subsequent focus on delivering positive outcomes for users of services and their carers.
3. Subsequent government agendas have also influenced the development of public policy, the most significant being 'Putting People First: A shared vision on Commitment to the Transformation of Adult social Care, Department of Health 2007. This policy aims to deliver choice and control to service users by involving them in planning services that meet their needs.
4. The strategy has been refreshed to reflect the principles of both 'Our Health, Our Care, Our Say' and 'Putting People First' in the way they have actively engaged and involved users of services and their carers in updating the existing strategy.
5. The broader context for Cabinet endorsement of this strategy relates to the recent Inspection of Services for Older People by the Care Quality Commission and the subsequent action plan drawn up by the directorate to address the issues referenced in the report.
6. Existing and projected efficiencies on public spending have also placed a responsibility on the council to develop and update of commissioning strategies to reflect future roles in preventing, reducing, or delaying, health and social care costs. (Under pressure- Tackling the financial challenge for councils of an ageing population, Audit Commission Feb 2010)
7. In line with the response to the CQC inspection the directorate, as part of the Comprehensive Area Assessment, is now required to consider the delivery of health and social care services against the outcomes outlined in Our Health, Our Care, Our Say. The strategy has been refreshed or rewritten to reflect this methodology.

8. The strategy has been developed with the active involvement of people with a physical disability/sensory impairment and their carers, commensurate with the council commitment to include and involve users of services and their carers in the design and delivery of services, The formal representative body, Action for Disabled People have overseen previous strategic developments and the strategies will be forwarded to them for their comment and approval as part of the formal consultation process. Copies of the all strategies referred to are in the Members Library and on CMIS and available from janet.read@dudley.gov.uk

9. Physical Disability/Sensory Impairment Strategy: Revision 2010

The refreshed strategy focuses on the following main policy drivers to improve services for disabled people within Dudley Borough. These are –

- Improving the Life Chances of Disabled People (2006) Office for Disability Issues
- Our Health, Our Care, Our Say DH (2007)
- Independence, Well Being and Choice
- National Service Framework on Long Term Conditions
- NHS programme for Chronic Disease Management
- Closing the Gap – Tackling Health Inequalities in Dudley (2005)
- The Disability Discrimination Act
- Transforming Social Care DH 2007

10. Consultation was facilitated by convening a conference for people with a physical disability and/or sensory impairment in July 2007 and again in July 2009. The conferences considered the main policy drivers listed above in order to focus and develop positive outcomes based on the following key determinants of independence and well being.

- Housing Advice and Support in the home
- Getting out and About
- Involvement and Influence
- Benefits, Employment and Learning
- Health and Well Being

11. The strategy was compiled and revised following consultation with a number of representatives from a cross section of Physical and Sensory Disability Groups – via the auspices of Action for Disabled and Carers, Dudley Council for Voluntary Services and various independent voluntary organisations.

12. The intended outcome of refreshing the strategy is to deliver services that focus on the delivery of positive outcomes for users of services and their carers in line with the principles of choice and control and the Transforming Social Care Agenda.

13. **Finance**

Whilst there are no immediate financial consequences to this report for the Council, the principles and underlying philosophy of the strategy is aimed at ensuring positive outcomes for the citizens of Dudley. The overarching principle and policy for delivering these strategies is outlined in the Transforming Social Care Agenda, which will have financial implications in the provision of self

directed support across all service user groups. The implications of this agenda are considered by the Transforming Social Care Board and reported separately to Directorate Management Team and Cabinet. The outcomes for users of services and their carers, identified in the strategy, will be considered in the directorate's medium and long term financial plan to deliver services within limited resources.

14. **Law**

'Putting People First' –Transforming the Social Care Agenda (Department of Health) 2007 and the inspection of councils under the Health & Social Care Act (Department of Health) 2008 are the primary policy drivers influencing the development of strategies that focus on outcomes that deliver personalised services that offer choice and control to users of services and their carers. The forthcoming Equalities Bill, April 2010, will have a likely impact on delivering these strategies in supporting services which do not discriminate with regard to age, disability, race, gender or sexuality.

15. **Equality Impact**

The strategy listed above is fundamentally aimed at addressing issues of choice and control and the provision of personalised services as identified in 'Putting People First'. Also inherent in the delivery of such services are the principles outlined in the Equality Bill 2010.

16 The strategy will be subject to consultation in line with the council and voluntary compact protocols. An Equality Impact Assessments will be undertaken within the consultation period. The outcome of the consultation and the Equality Impact Assessment will be considered to ensure that the strategy meets the requirements of the Equality Bill in ensuring that that people who receive a service are free from discrimination.

17. **Recommendation**

That Cabinet comment on the strategies covered in this Report and endorse the implantation in Dudley



Linda Sanders
Director
Adult, Community & Housing Services

Contact Officers:

Brendan Clifford
Assistant Director, DACHS
Telephone: 01384 815889
Email: brendan.clifford@dudley.gov.uk

Maggie Venables
Assistant Director DACHS
Telephone 01384-815802
Email: maggie.venables@dudley.gov.uk

List of Background Papers – (In draft format and available in Members Library and CMIS)

Physical Disability/Sensory Impairment Strategy: Revision 2010 Draft