

DISABILITY ADVISORY AND ACCESS FORUM

DATE: 5th FEBRUARY 2009

**SUBJECT: ADULT SOCIAL CARE
COMMISSIONING STRATEGIES**

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IMPLICATIONS:

LEGAL STAFFING

EQUALITIES ✓ COMMUNITY SAFETY

FINANCIAL RISKS

OTHER

RECOMMENDATION(S)

- 1 The Disability Advisory and Access Forum is recommended to note the Adult Social Care Commissioning Strategies attached as an Appendix to this report, following formal approval of them by the Executive in December 2008

REPORT

- 2 The Council's Executive approved the draft adult social care strategies in respect of older peoples' services,

learning disability services, physical disability and sensory impairment services and services for carers at its meeting on the 23rd June, 2008. This was prior to them going out to public consultation between July and September 2008.

- 3 The strategies have been duly amended in the light of feedback received, a summary of which is at Appendix 1. As members of the Forum will see from this report, a wide range of stakeholders were able to express their views about the draft strategies and about current services. The changes made to the strategies as a result of this consultation are highlighted within each strategy and a summary of how this feedback has impacted on the strategies is included in the first appendix to each separate strategy to be published, but for ease of reference for the Forum, these feedback summaries are appended to Appendix 2 of this report.
- 4 Following approval of the revised strategies by the Council's Executive in December 2008, work is underway to publish each of the strategies, ensuring in particular that all who took part in the consultation receive an Executive Summary of the final version that includes a summary of the feedback received.
- 5 The Consultation Report attached at Appendix 1 provides a summary of the feedback received from the many individuals and organisations that responded to the consultation, either by completing and returning the consultation questionnaire, by attending one of the numerous consultation events summarised in the report, by using the free consultation phone line or by writing to the Council.
- 6 There was a good rate of return of the questionnaires – a total of 348 returned - and good attendance at the various

consultation events listed, particularly the workshop organised for service users and carers.

- 7 As Members will see from the summary of responses to the questionnaire, a high percentage of people who responded stated that they had received enough information to be able to understand the commissioning strategies
- 8 There was also an overwhelmingly positive response to the questions posed as to whether the strategies would fully or partly improve peoples' lives and ensure better outcomes for them if implemented.
- 9 This positive response to the draft strategies was also evident in many of the comments received at consultation events.
- 10 However, what is also evident from the comments is that some people were doubtful as to whether the strategies will be implemented in full, as they were dubious that the resources required to implement them will be forthcoming.
- 11 Other issues that stand out from the feedback are as follows:
 - A real fear that existing services will be withdrawn or changed before the alternative, modernised services are fully developed, leaving people worse off – reassurances have been added where relevant
 - A cautious welcome from most respondents to the idea of greater personalisation and choice, but some concern that many people will not in practice be able to exercise the choice and control that self directed care entails – extra emphasis has been placed in the strategies on the need for robust systems of support.

- The need for greater emphasis on improving the transport available to people to get out and about and take full advantage of the new day time opportunities promised – references to this need have been strengthened in the strategies
 - Support for the idea of helping more younger disabled and vulnerable adults into paid employment, but a strong desire to ensure that this option should not be forced on people who do not want it or feel able to work – again, statements to this effect have been added to the strategies.
 - A lack of sufficient attention within the older persons strategy to the plans for older peoples' mental health services – a new section has been added to the amended strategy to address this.
- 12 The final versions of each strategy have also been strengthened in respect of their emphasis on moving towards the personalisation of social care services and on the continued importance during this time of change on the safeguarding of vulnerable adults.
- 13 With regards to the Mental Health Commissioning Strategy (Social Care only), consultees indicated that they would prefer to feed back on the planned Joint Mental Health Strategy. NHS Luton have now added their proposed commissioning intentions to the Draft Social Care Mental Health Strategy that was originally presented to the Executive in June 2008, to create a draft Joint Mental Health Commissioning Strategy and public consultation is now taking place. The outcome of this consultation and an appropriately revised Joint Strategy will be presented to the Executive at the end of January 2009.

COUNCILLORS CONSULTATIONS

- 14 A separate consultation workshop was had for all Members on Friday, 26th September 2008.

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE CONSULTATIONS

- 15 The Social Inclusion Scrutiny Committee approved the draft Executive Summaries of the strategies and a summary of the outcome of public consultation was presented to the Committee on the 30th October 2008

STAKEHOLDERS CONSULTATIONS

- 16 A summary of the feedback received from stakeholder consultation is presented at Appendix 1 of this report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 17 There are no financial implications arising directly from this report: the commissioning proposals contained within the strategies are primarily concerned with the re-distribution of existing resources. Priorities for new investment will be considered as part of the annual budget setting process.

EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 18 The equalities implications of the commissioning strategies were summarised through the equalities, health and social inclusion impact assessments submitted to the Executive in December 2008. Copies of these assessments can be made available to DAFF Members on request.

APPENDICES

- Appendix 1 Consultation Report
- Appendix 2 Summary of Impact of Consultation on all of the
Strategies.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Copies of the full strategies (plus impact assessments carried out) can be made available on request from the report author.