

Local Authority Circular

LAC (DH) (2010) 7

To: The Chief Executive
County Councils
Metropolitan District Councils
Shire Unitary Councils
London Borough Councils
Common Council of the City of London
Council of the Isles of Scilly
The Director of Adult Social Services
Councils with Social Service Responsibilities in England

Copied to: Chief Executive – Strategic Health Authorities
Chief Executive – Primary Care Trusts
Director of Children's Services in England
Regional Directors of Public Health
Government Office Directors
Deputy Regional Directors for Social Care and Partnerships

Date: 18 November 2010

Gateway Reference: 14847

The Vision for Adult Social Care and supporting documents

1. On Tuesday 16 November 2010, the Government launched its *Vision for Adult Social Care: Capable Communities and Active Citizens*¹ and the consultation, *Transparency in outcomes: a framework for adult social care*². This follows on from the partnership agreement of the Consortium (made up of the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services, the Local Government Association and the Department of Health) - *Think Local, Act Personal*³ - launched at the National Children and Adult Services conference on 4 November. The partnership agreement focuses on the delivery of personalisation, developed together with the adult social care sector, service users and carers. In addition to this, the Consortium has also produced a number of best practice guides.

Vision for Adult Social Care: Capable Communities and Active Citizens

2. On Tuesday 16th November, the Care Services Minister Paul Burstow launched the Government's *Vision for Adult Social Care: Capable Communities and Active Citizens*. The vision sets out how the Government wishes to see services delivered for people. It is a new direction for adult social care, putting personalised services and outcomes centre stage. The vision is the first step towards the White Paper that we intend to publish next year, setting out a long-term solution to the funding and delivery of care and support.

¹ Available at www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/@dh/@en/@ps/documents/digitalasset/dh_121667.pdf

² Available at www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Liveconsultations/DH_121509

³ Available at www.puttingpeoplefirst.org.uk/library/PPF/NCAS/Partnership_Agreement_final_29_October_2010.pdf

Transparency in outcomes: a framework for adult social care – A consultation

3. Alongside the Social Care Vision, the Department of Health has launched a consultation on *Transparency in outcomes: a framework for adult social care* - a new strategic approach to quality and outcomes in adult social care. This is an enabling framework which seeks to place outcomes at the heart of social care, improve quality in services, and empower citizens to hold their Councils to account for the services they provide.
4. The consultation closes on 9 February 2011. You can contribute to the consultation by providing written comments using the response template⁴ either by email to qualityandoutcomes@dh.gsi.gov.uk or by post to:

Department of Health
Room 114
Wellington House
133-155 Waterloo Road
London SE1 8UG

The Partnership Agreement – Think Local, Act Personal

5. Local government and the provider sector have produced the partnership agreement, *Think Local, Act Personal*, which consolidates lessons learned over the past three years within a new financial context that requires efficient, effective and integrated service delivery across health and social care. The partnership agreement explains how councils, service providers, voluntary and community organisations can respond to the Government’s vision for adult social care, and make progress happen on the ground. It stresses the need for personal budgets to be “authentic” – offering real choice and flexibility, and making a real difference to the lives of both personal budget holders and family carers. It reinforces the centrality of personalisation for social care improvement.

Best practice guidance

6. The Consortium has produced a number of best practice papers. Four of these are available on the Department of Health website, as detailed below. Each of these documents support the partnership agreement *Think Local, Act Personal*.
 - ***Practical approaches to improving the lives of disabled and older people by building stronger communities***⁵ - social care transformation is not limited to personal budgets or even to public services targeted at people eligible for state support. It is also about how people help themselves and each other as individuals, in groups and communities and how they make best use of the resources available for all citizens in their area. This briefing sets out the arguments for building strong and resilient communities, including new evidence that it can save money, and outlines practical approaches to building social capital that are currently being developed by councils in the Building Community Capacity learning network.
 - ***Practical approaches to market and provider development***⁶ - this briefing explores what is meant by market shaping and proposes a simple framework for understanding and planning

⁴ Available at www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/@dh/@en/documents/digitalasset/dh_121663.doc

⁵ Available at www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/@dh/@en/@ps/documents/digitalasset/dh_121668.pdf

⁶ Available at www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/@dh/@en/@ps/documents/digitalasset/dh_121670.pdf

market shaping activity. It sets out a range of practical approaches that councils and their partners can take to shaping local markets of care and support. This paper is intended to support the wider application of best practice models and approaches by local commissioners and providers of social care in both the voluntary and independent sectors and should be read alongside a series of papers developed by the National Market Development Forum that address some of these issues in greater detail.

- ***Practical approaches to co-production***⁷ - this document explores what is meant by co-production and summarises different legal frameworks and gives examples of where co-production has worked well at different levels of the social care system.
- ***Practical approaches to safeguarding and personalisation***⁸ - this briefing paper sets out how personalisation of support and more effective safeguarding can be mutually supportive. It shows how self-directed support can help to prevent or reduce the risk of harm and abuse. Strengthening citizenship and communities in line with the personalisation agenda can contribute to keeping people safer. Self-directed support provides a framework for managing risk. By incorporating critical checks and balances into person-centred approaches, the management of risks and the maximisation of benefits arising from taking considered risk can be improved. A key message of the report is that balancing choice and risk is an integral part of personalisation both within self-directed support processes and in strengthening communities and citizenship for all.

7. There are a further two documents produced by other members of the Consortium.

- ***Personal Budgets – Checking the Results***⁹ - this paper considers emerging approaches to developing outcome-based performance measures within social care. It is intended to highlight and promote sector-led developments in building an evidence base for the effectiveness of personal budgets that can be harnessed and used to drive the future direction of local social care systems.
- ***Enabling risk, ensuring safety - self-directed support and personal budgets***¹⁰ - this report contains an outline of some of the most recent research and emerging documented practice on risk enablement and frontline practice in the context of self-directed support and personal budgets.

Enquiries

8. If you wish to comment on the Vision for Adult Social Care: *Capable Communities and Active Citizens*, please email socialcarevision@dh.gsi.gov.uk. Any queries about this Circular should be addressed to Abigail Merrett, Department of Health, Social Care Policy and Innovation Team, Room 114, Wellington House, 133-155 Waterloo Road, London SE1 8UG. You can email: SCP-Personalisation@dh.gsi.gov.uk
9. This Circular may be freely reproduced and, in addition to other information on social care policy, can be found at <http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/SocialCare/index.htm>
10. Current circulars are now listed on the Department of Health website on the internet at: <http://www.dh.gov.uk/lac> © Crown copyright 2010.

⁷ Available at www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/@dh/@en/@ps/documents/digitalasset/dh_121669.pdf

⁸ Available at www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/@dh/@en/@ps/documents/digitalasset/dh_121671.pdf

⁹ Available at www.puttingpeoplefirst.org.uk/library/PPF/NCAS/personal_budgets_checking_the_results_final_29_October_2010.pdf

¹⁰ Available at www.scie.org.uk/publications/reports/report36/files/report36.pdf