

# Independence, Wellbeing and Choice... Your Health, Your Care, Your Say

*Further changes in the shape and direction of services for adults have been announced over the past few months. On 21st July, a joint white paper, designed to deliver integrated health and social care systems, was announced by Care Services Minister Liam Byrne. What follows is a summary of recent developments..*

## **Green Paper, White Paper - Care Received Outside Hospital**

Consultation on the Green Paper "Independence, Wellbeing and Choice: Our vision for the future of Social Care for Adults in England: Social Care Green Paper" ended on 28th July.

However, a parallel and related initiative was announced by Secretary of State for Health Patricia Hewitt a month earlier (23rd June): plans for a major 'public engagement exercise' to help shape the future of care outside hospitals.

Responses to the exercise will feed into a White Paper on 'Health outside Hospitals', due to be published in December 2005 or January 2006.

The aim of the 'engagement exercise' is to seek views from the public about the future of all NHS services provided outside hospitals, including GP surgeries, walk-in centres and social and community care.

On 28th July, Patricia Hewitt announced that this consultation process is to be called *Your Health, Your Care, Your Say: Improving Community Health and Care Services*. It will cover all aspects of the care people need in the community and

in their own homes. It will ask how we can:

- design services that fit the way people live their lives, for example services that are provided closer to people's home or workplaces
- bring together health and social care services more effectively to address individual needs
- meet people's needs at different stages in their lives
- help people to help themselves
- use new technologies to provide community and health services
- involve individuals and communities in shaping local services.

The engagement exercise is being overseen by consultants Opinion Leader Research [www.opinionleader.co.uk/](http://www.opinionleader.co.uk/) (OLR) who will facilitate a series of interactive regional events.

Between 50 and 100 people have been invited to each event and a 'toolkit' to allow feedback from more local engagement events will be developed. Regional events were held during September in Gateshead, Leicester, and London, and in Plymouth on 10th October. The outcomes

of the regional events will feed into a national event to be held in Birmingham on 29th October

In addition to the events facilitated by OLR, the public will have the opportunity to take part in local sessions to be run by the NHS, local government and voluntary organisations. The results will contribute to the White Paper on improving community health and care services

## **Green Paper Conference**

A national conference on the social care Green Paper was held in London on 21 July. It was attended by Chief Executives of NHS trusts and local authorities, Directors of Social Services, heads of voluntary organisations and service users.

Liam Byrne MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Care Services made a speech "Dignity for Life - Next steps for Social Care Reform" in which he announced new arrangements for delivering integrated health and social care systems.

Many respondents to the Green Paper consultation felt that it made no sense to have a White Paper to follow this Green Paper and a second White Paper on out of hospital care.

## Independence, Wellbeing and Choice... Your Health, Your Care, Your Say cont.

At the conference, Liam Byrne announced that there would be a joint White Paper, designed to deliver integrated health and social care systems. It will bring together proposals for both adult social care and all care received outside of hospitals.

Other proposals in his speech were:

- The Care Services Improvement Partnership (CSIP) and the Local Government Improvement and Development Agency (IDeA) will develop a joined-up national improvement strategy for adult social care. This strategy will offer practical support through a range of regionally tailored methods and approaches. It will be developed in collaboration with SCIE, LGA and ADSS, and ensure that future work programmes are based on local need.
- A new taskforce, linked to the existing National Strategic Partnership Forum (NSPF) will identify the obstacles the sector experiences in delivering services in partnership with health. (The NSPF aims to help the voluntary, community and public sectors work effectively together to deliver health and adult social care services for patients, service users and carers. It is a

Departmental Working Group of the Department of Health and reports to Ministers. Its membership comprises representatives from the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS), NHS and social care, local government and Department of Health)

- A joint review with the DfES will identify further workforce development options, which will be known as Options for Excellence. This will include recruitment and retention, education and development, leadership and expanding professional regulation.
- accelerating work on introducing a National Service Framework of eligibility criteria for NHS continuing care
- a programme of measures entitled 'Caring in Confidence' to accelerate the spread of best practice across the NHS
- pilots on individual budgets and how they work with older people and people with learning or physical difficulties will be up and running from January 2006. The Department of Health called for expressions of interest in becoming a pilot on 18th August. Deadline for responses was 31st August

- increasing the choice for patients with cancer and increasing investment in palliative care services,
- setting up a 'virtual' social care information initiative to look at information sources and ensure that it can be readily available to support policy development, practice improvement and performance management.

The full text of the speech and other material can be found at:

[www.dh.gov.uk/PolicyAndGuidance/HealthAndSocialCareTopics/SocialCare/AboutSocialCare/AboutSocialCareArticle/fs/en?CONTENT\\_ID=4117259&chk=27n17T](http://www.dh.gov.uk/PolicyAndGuidance/HealthAndSocialCareTopics/SocialCare/AboutSocialCare/AboutSocialCareArticle/fs/en?CONTENT_ID=4117259&chk=27n17T)