

7th May, 2008

Adult Review Group Meeting

The last meeting of the Adult Review Group (ARG) took place on 7th May. Estelle Buscombe reports...

Future of Social Care Returns

(Robert Lake, IC)

Robert reported that there was to be a workshop on Friday (May 9th) regarding the review of the PSSEX1, facilitated by the IC and led by John Bolton. LAs will be notified of changes by September.

The report on this is now on the website, along with the five supporting papers:

<http://www.ic.nhs.uk/our-services/improving-social-care-information/social-care-collections/a-strategic-direction-for-adult-social-care-information>

The consultation was felt to have been effective, with a lot of comments received. The Dept. of Health will decide on their future, based on the IC's recommendations. They are hoping for a quick decision so that Authorities can be informed in time for next year. The IC are also looking at any gaps identified in the Returns.

The ONS needs to approve the deletion of some Returns – e.g. Blind/Deaf Registers – but can only do that after three months' consultation.

Only CSCI responded about the red/amber/green report, so further "branch & root" work needs to be done on the amber parts. A response is currently awaited from the DoH.

There is also an informatics review going on, but that is still in its early stages.

The future roles of SIGASC and

ARG need to be considered too. The requirements of the LAA and JSNA might have an impact there, but there are still a lot of unanswered questions at this stage.

National Indicator Set (NIS) Update

(Simon Medcalf, DoH)

The definitions have now been published. Dave Burnham, through the ADASS, has prepared a report on which PIs are useful/worthwhile, which fit into the outcomes, etc. This is proving useful for them in their discussions.

Several LAs reported that targets have been set for new PIs (e.g. NI 136). Simon confirmed that no national targets had been set (yet) but that they had probably come from the regional government offices.

NI 137 – This will not come from the Place survey now but instead will use the ONS General Mortality Standard and general health from the census – <http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=12964&Pos=1&ColRank=1&Rank=272> - More information will be made available on this in due course.

Revisions to Social Care Guidance

A number of issues were discussed – as listed in paper 18/02 – <http://www.ic.nhs.uk/our-services/improving-social-care-information/review-approval-and-development/adult-review-group/adult-review-group-arg-meeting-7-may-2008>

- (i) **GFS1 Return** – Referral source – to include those who self-refer as well as those referred via CASSRs.
- (ii) **MH Assessments** – There is still some confusion about which assessments should or shouldn't be included in RAP so the IC will seek to improve the guidance on this.
- (iii) **NI 135** – Carer Services - There was discussion around what constitutes information and advice. The IC will review the guidance and bring back their proposals to the group.
- (iv) **NI 133** – Timeliness of social care packages (formerly D56) – In RAP the day the assessment is completed will count as day 1 and will be included in the RAP guidance accordingly.
- (v) **NI 132** – Timeliness of social care assessment (formerly D55) – The definition of "first contact" needs to be clarified.
- (vi) **NI 132** - Self assessments - As it will be up to the service user's own discretion to go at their own pace when completing a self assessment, it has been agreed at SIGASC that the time from which the council should measure D55 where a self assessment is completed is the date that the council receive the self assessment back from the client, NOT the date of first contact with the council.
- (vii) **GFS1** – The issue of including or omitting various services was

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discussed here, e.g. Telecare; Drop-in services; Information & advice; Talking books; Transport and Emergency shelters for the homeless. It was agreed that the guidance needs reviewing we should send any comments to Janice Allen at the IC by June 6th.

(viii) **Professional Support** – There is apparently still some confusion amongst operational staff over what professional support is. The guidance on this will also be reviewed again.

Any changes to the RAP Guidance will be highlighted where they are based on changes due to the NIS. This will be highlighted in the September RAP newsletter.

Providing more frequent data/intelligence

(Tim Crosier, Cabinet Office)

For certain PIs, e.g. NI 145/6, the plan is to collect data more frequently than annually in order to show the direction of travel. Three options were presented (affecting all CASSRs, a sample or volunteers).

The benefits of this increased frequency were not clear. It was noted that, as it was decided last time that information about employment and accommodation would be collected at the point of review, it would probably only be updated annually anyway. It was suggested that maybe the overall numerator and denominator could be provided half-yearly but the full return (with breakdowns) just annually.

Decision: Half-yearly update from September 2009 subject to a review of the first year of collection for all LAs.

There was concern amongst group members that a precedent was being set with respect to frequency.

NI 136 – The IC then mentioned that they might want to also want to collect this indicator more frequently too! However, it relies on the GFS1 Return, which is carried out annually. It was accepted that not all CASSRs would be working this out monthly anyway.

The group raised issues about the benefits of this increased frequency and what the information would be used for. The IC will come back to the group on this.

NI 130 - Proposed definition for adults and older people receiving direct payments and/or individual budgets (Bev Maybury, Oldham, Simon Stockton, Richmond & Martin Cattermole, CSIP)

There was discussion around when the assessment is deemed to be complete and the service in place and a revised proposal following previous comments from ARG:

1. The person (or their representative) has been informed about a clear, upfront allocation of funding, enabling them to plan their support arrangements.
2. There is an agreed support plan making clear what outcomes are to be achieved with the money.
3. The person (or their representative) can use the money in ways and at times of their choosing.

Timeliness & Best Practice Survey

(John Mordue, Walsall)

Following our previous discussions around the IC's timeliness survey last year on LAs meeting the statutory return deadlines, and how we can learn from those performing well, John had put together his initial thoughts on questions to included.

The group gave feedback on these so John will make the necessary changes and then re-circulate it.

There was also discussion around:

- the format of the survey (e.g. should it be sent out and then follow-up phone calls made once people have had chance to read it, or would it be easier to complete it online?)
- timing
- audience (i.e. would one person be able to answer all the questions or would it require input from various officers/teams?)

It was broadly acknowledged that this is worth doing as we can all learn from the best Authorities, although further thoughts on how to make it appeal to LAs would be welcome.

The plan is for this to go to SIGASC and then for it to take place in late June or early July.

Abuse of Vulnerable Adults Collection

(Kate Anderson, IC)

The working group looking at this return want to have one return for the longer-term, but just an aggregate return for the shorter-term, as a starting point.