

<b>MEETING:</b>	<b>ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND STRATEGIC HOUSING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>
<b>DATE:</b>	<b>26 JULY 2010</b>
<b>TITLE OF REPORT:</b>	<b>ADULT SOCIAL CARE PERFORMANCE AGAINST PUTTING PEOPLE FIRST</b>
<b>PORTFOLIO AREA:</b>	<b>ADULT SOCIAL CARE, HEALTH AND WELLBEING</b>

**CLASSIFICATION:** Open

## **Wards Affected**

County-wide

## **Purpose**

- 1 To receive a report on progress against Putting People First, the Governments agenda for transforming Adult Social Care Services.

## **Recommendation(s)**

**THAT: progress in managing performance towards achieving targets be noted**

## **Reasons for Recommendations**

- 2 To enable the Committee to carry out its function in relation to Putting People First – A Vision to transform Adult Social Care.

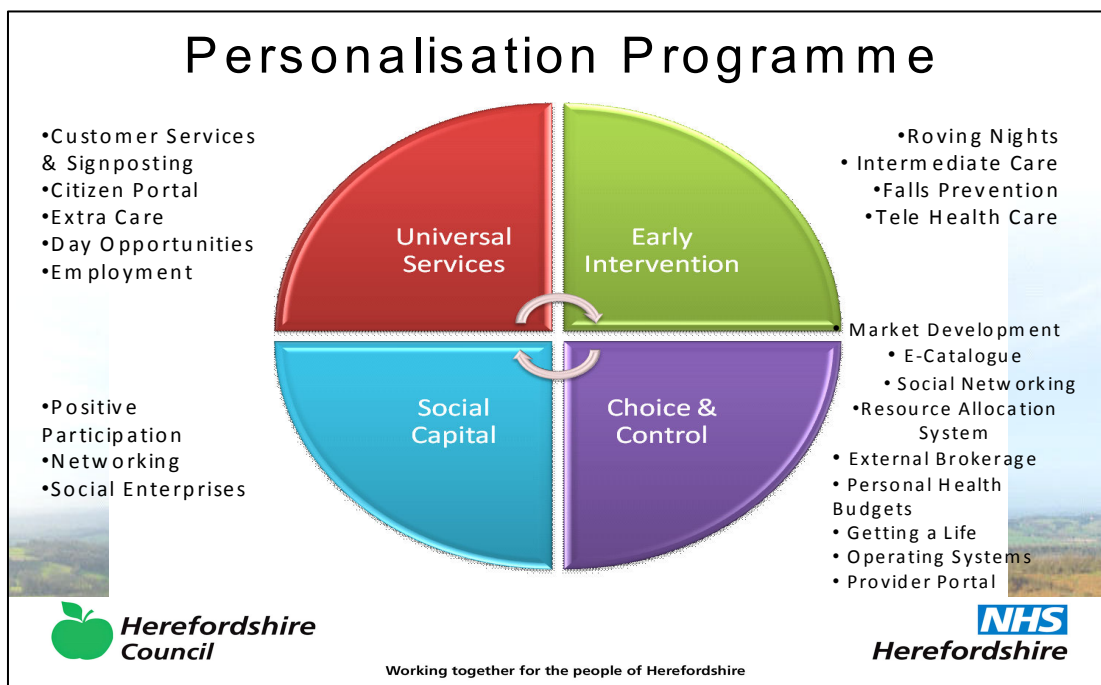
## **Background**

- 3 The Governments intention and vision to transform Adult Social Care was set out in the Department of Health's Green Paper, "Independence, Wellbeing and Choice". This document argues for change recognising that sometimes the design and delivery of services can lead to users of services having less control, creating dependence rather than independence. 'Putting People First: a shared vision and commitment to the transformation of Adult Social Care' (2007) sets the direction for adult social care over the next 10 years and more. Putting People First confirms that reform can only be delivered through partnerships across central and local government. It signals a sector-wide agreement on the direction of travel and the commitment to deliver significant change by April 2011. At its heart is a pledge to ensure that all public bodies work together towards a society that enables individuals to have maximum choice and control over their lives and values the contribution that all citizens can make, whether they need support from others now or in the future. Government expectation is that by October 2010 all new service users and carers with assessed need for ongoing support are offered a personal budget. Additionally that by April 2011 that at least 30% of eligible service users and carers have a personal budget.

4 The Government in recognition of this major change programme has provided ring fenced funding specifically to help councils to make these changes; through the 3 year Transforming Adult Social Care Reform Grant. The outcomes of this transformation are not limited only to public services targeted at those eligible for state funding but also stating that future social care should also encompass self-funders, those who might need services in the future and those with lower level and preventative social care needs as well as families and carers. In addition, support should be shaped around individuals, enabling them to help themselves and each other. Putting People First makes it clear that personalisation will only flourish where investment is made in all aspects of support for individuals and their carers expecting that Transformation will focus on:

- Universal services – the general support available to everyone within their community including transport, leisure, education, employment, health, housing, community safety and information and advice.
- Early intervention and prevention – helping people live at home independently, preventing them from needing social care support for as long as possible and potentially creating future cost efficiencies.
- Choice and control – giving people a clear understanding of how much is to be spent on their care and support and allowing them to choose how they would like this funding to be used to suit their needs and preferences.
- Social capital – fostering strong and supportive communities that value the contribution that each of their citizens can make.

5 In Herefordshire our approach is being delivered through the Herefordshire Personalisation Programme.



6 In September 2009 the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services and the Local Government Association with the Department of Health agreed a set of milestones focusing on five areas of priority to help councils be clear about what good progress implementing "Putting People First" looks like and to prioritise their use of the final year of the reform grant. These priorities are:

Milestone 1 - effective partnerships with people using services, carers and other local citizens;

Milestone 2 - ensuring everyone has self-directed support and a personal budget;

Milestone 3 – Prevention and cost effective services with a whole systems approach to prevention, intervention & cost effective services

Milestone 4 - ensuring universal access to information and advice

Milestone 5 - commissioning a range of services to ensure people have choice; and delivering services in a cost-effective and efficient manner to use the available resources well.

- 7 At present we are reporting achievement at amber/green, largely because we have not been able to deliver the changes in IT and operating systems to support industrial scale adoption of personal budgets. A robust project is managing progress and we anticipate achieving target by April 2011. Significant achievements include piloting external agencies delivering care brokerage for the region, working with young people with complex needs reaching adulthood to assist them into employment, an 'e' catalogue of services for all including self funders to have easy access to information , and developments in telecare and telehealthcare.
- 8 The most recent self assessment report for the period Quarter 1 (April – June 10) is attached for information, progress against the milestones is reviewed by the Herefordshire Personalisation Programme.
- 9 The Department of Health (DoH) had set a stretch target of 30% of services users receiving individualised budgets by 2011 for NI130 (Social Care clients receiving Self Directed Support).

Concern has however been expressed by a number of authorities around this target and that to achieve 30% of service users and carers on IBs may not be possible unless we review the interpretation of this indicator. The previous government had shifted its focus towards personal indicative budgets and away from, what was previously our strategy, of offering individualised budgets. The new coalition government has stated its commitment to extending the greater roll-out of personal budgets to give people and their carers more control and purchasing power and a revised target of 35% has been muted.

Our current performance has remained around 5%, largely because growth in NI 136 as the 'denominator' has masked significant growth. This compares favourably with other West Midlands authorities, but is still a way short of the 30% target and to some extent reflects the low base from which we started, compared to many other authorities. We now have robust plans now in place to improve this indicator and the implementation of our new RAS system in autumn 2010, will see a further significant improvement in performance. We are confident our Personalisation Programme will be delivering our programme objectives by November 2010 and NI130 has also been made a key corporate priority ensuring engagement at all levels in achieving this target.

- 10 Achieving the targets for personal budgets requires more than simply reaching the required numbers. The goal is a significant increase in real choice and control. In January 2010, the Local Government Consortium published an advice note on personal budgets for council commissioned services. This note stated: "Councils are encouraged to provide personal budgets within the spirit of personalisation by enabling people to take the greatest possible degree of choice and control over their care and support. Councils are therefore exhorted to avoid 'schemes' to bolster personal budget numbers at the expense of the wider Putting People First agenda. This includes simply converting existing users' services to a monetary figure and sending correspondence to say that this amount is now their personal budget. Without changing processes and culture, establishing support services, developing markets and altering commissioning arrangements, it is highly unlikely that real choice and control and better outcomes will result."

## **Financial Implications**

- 11 The directorate continues to experience considerable difficulty in reconciling activity and finance data, so the financial implications are still as yet not clear. The implementation of the FACE RAS which generates an indicative budget once an assessment of eligible needs has been carried out is being piloted during July and outcomes will be compared with outcomes using the current mechanisms to deliver an indicative budget.

## **Legal Implications**

- 12 None

## **Consultees**

- 13 Not applicable

## **Background Papers**

- 14 None identified