

MAKING PARTNERSHIP WORK FOR PATIENTS, CARERS AND SERVICE USERS - CONSULTATION

Report By: Director of Social Care and Strategic Housing

Wards Affected

County-wide

Purpose

1. To consider a consultation document issued by the Department of Health and to make an appropriate response by the deadline of 20 November 2003

Financial Implications

2. None arising

Background

3. On 11 February 2003 at the NHS Chief Executives' Conference, Alan Milburn, the then Secretary of State for Health, announced that the Department of Health would be developing a concordat with the voluntary and community sector (VCS), to enable the sector to play a full part in service delivery and remove the traditional barriers to joint working.
4. A Strategic Working Group, comprising representatives of the voluntary and community sector, NHS Confederation, Local Government Association and Department of Health has since been developing this work. The result of the Group's work is a consultation document which reflects its views on how partnership working at national and local level can support the twin aims of:
 - optimising the VCS' contribution to a genuinely patient-centred service delivery in a reformed NHS, where patient choice is the driving force for change, and
 - adopting and applying the principles of the *Compact on Relations between Government and the Voluntary and Community Sector in England* (the Compact) in all working arrangements between the NHS and VCS.
5. The questions around which the Group is seeking feedback are set out at Appendix 1 to this report and the consultation period closes on 20 November 2003

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Committee considers its response to the consultation document issued by the Department of Health.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

- *Making Partnership Work for Patients, Carers and Service Users - A Proposed Strategic Partnership Agreement Between the Department of Health, the NHS and the Voluntary and Community Sector*, Department of Health, 2003