

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

CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

1. Are the strategic aims of the Partnership Agreement correct? Should any of them be removed? Should any be added?
2. Are the aims realistic? What are the issues and challenges to their achievement?
3. Have we got the context right? Are there any other wider aims and objectives, to which effective partnership working between NHS and VCS can contribute to, which you feel we have missed?
4. What specific action could the Department of Health and VCS take nationally to ensure the Strategic Partnership Agreement is a success?
5. Do you agree with the proposal to establish a national Strategic Partnership Forum? If so, how should it be comprised to ensure effective representation of all key stakeholders? Do you have any views on *how* such a Forum should operate and how its agenda is set? Would you add anything to the list of practical issues that the Strategic Partnership Forum could explore? If so, what?
6. What specific action can NHS organisations, particularly PCTs, and VCS organisations take locally to ensure the aims articulated in the Agreement are put into practice? What are the challenges and practical barriers to effective partnership working at local level?
7. Are there any specific challenges and difficulties posed by the suggestions listed under "Strategic planning, joint working and effective commissioning of health services - How can this happen in practice?" (Section 5) If so, what are they?
8. What, if any, limits are there to VCS organisations contributing to the development and/or delivery of NHS services?
9. Do you know of any good examples - which demonstrate how partnership working can work well in practice - or from which we can learn what the pitfalls can be? If so, we'd like to know about them so that we can build a comprehensive and detailed picture of how partnership is working in practice, to inform future discussions.

Written responses should be sent to:

Making Partnership Work Consultation
Area 609
Department of Health
Wellington House
133-155 Waterloo Road
London SE1 8UG

Or you can e-mail your responses to: Makingpartnershipwork@doh.gsi.gov.uk

The consultation period will close on **20 November 2003**.