

MEETING:	CABINET
DATE:	20 JANUARY 2011
TITLE OF REPORT:	EXECUTIVE RESPONSE TO THE SCRUTINY REVIEW OF HOME CARE IN HEREFORDSHIRE
PORTFOLIO AREA:	ADULT SOCIAL CARE, HEALTH & WELLBEING

CLASSIFICATION: Open

Wards Affected

County-wide

Purpose

To respond to the review of home care.

Key Decision

This is not a Key Decision.

Recommendation

That the response be agreed.

Introduction and Background

- 1 At the meeting of the Adult Social Care and Strategic Housing Scrutiny Committee on 24 September 2010 the Committee agreed the findings and recommendations to the Executive arising from the review of home care services (Appendix A).
- 2 In developing its response the Executive has taken into consideration the emerging national vision for Adult Social Care.

Key Considerations

- 3 The Government's plans for Adult Social Care were published on 17th November: 'A Vision for Adult Social Care: Capable Communities and Active Citizen's'. The vision sets the context for the future development of social care services. It is the first step which will be followed by the Law Commission's work on reforming the legal framework next spring and the Commission on Funding of Care and Support next summer culminating in a White Paper on Care and Support at the end of 2011. This will set out plans to establish a modern and financially sustainable framework for care and support, and the requirements for new legislation. It is intended that this will culminate in the publication of the Social Care Reform Bill in the spring of 2012.

Further information on the subject of this report is available from
Jana Burton: Acting Director of Adult Social Care on (01432) 344344 ext 3877

- 4 The Government has identified three values that underpin the vision: Freedom, Fairness and Responsibility. The values signal a major policy shift from state to people and communities, so that services can be purchased from different providers and that there is clarity about how we pay for social care. This envisages a shift away from provision by the state to include greater support from local schemes and networks of support.
- 5 Frontline workers and carers will be given the freedom and responsibility to do this. There will also be clear expectations for councils to redesign service to realise greater gains in productivity.
- 6 The vision for social care and its values have been built around seven principles all beginning with the letter p: prevention, personalisation, partnership, protection, productivity, plurality and people. Most of these are familiar concepts which have had currency since the last White Paper: 'Our Health, Our Care, Our Say'. Two however, need to be understood as they are not immediately obvious. 'Plurality' is described as matching the variety of peoples' needs with diverse service provision. 'People' includes the whole workforce providing care from professionals to carers and people who use services.
- 7 The current financial climate and national policy proposals signal the need for a transformation in approach. Given what we already know about funding for local authorities over the next four years, it is important that preparation for this happens now so that the authority has anticipated, and is working towards, changes in a planned and measured way. The focus will be on prevention, early intervention and reablement, moving from the old-style service entitlements to creating and embedding a system on needs and outcomes. The significant increase in the take-up of Personal Budgets will inform the future shape of the market as many people may use their personal health and social care budgets to employ personal assistants; reablement should result in a decrease in numbers of people requiring traditional long term home care, day care and meals on wheels. We will define and describe what good care looks like, understand the outcomes it delivers and the associated cost-benefits, working closely with providers over the coming year to change and diversify. The partnership between health and social care will be further developed to ensure a single, streamlined, more efficient approach to service delivery across Herefordshire.
- 8 The proposed response to the 15 recommendations of the Scrutiny review takes account of the changing agenda. Some of the recommendations will only remain valid whilst the transition to new forms of care and support are being developed. It is anticipated that by September 2011 work will have been completed to produce clear and cost effective and sustainable proposal for care and support.

Financial Implications

- 9 All actions proposed will be met from within existing agreed budgets.

Legal Implications

- 10 There are no legal implications

Risk Management

- 11 The proposed actions must be considered alongside progress within other relevant service areas to ensure a strategic and co-hesive approach to future market development.

Consultees

12 None identified

Appendices

- (A) Report: Scrutiny Review of Home Care in Herefordshire
- (B) Executive response and action plan

Background Papers

- None identified.