

# **WHITE PAPER – OUR HEALTH, OUR CARE, OUR SAY; A NEW DIRECTION FOR COMMUNITY SERVICES**

**Report By: Director of Adult and Community Services.**

## **Wards Affected**

County-wide

## **Purpose**

1. To advise Members of key messages emerging from the new White Paper “Our Health, Our Care, Our Say: A new direction for Community Services”.

## **Financial Implications**

2. There are no direct financial implications.

## **Background**

3. At the end of January 2006 the Department of Health published the White Paper “Our Health, Our Care, Our Say: A new direction for Community Services”. The White Paper sets out the Government’s framework to develop a Health and Care system that will meet the needs of people in the 21st Century.
4. A full copy of the White Paper is available in the Member’s Room. It confirms the direction set out in the Green Paper “Independence, Well-being and Choice” and presents a shift towards:
  - Personal and responsive Health and Social Care services that reflect peoples needs and wishes;
  - Prevention, Public Health and Well-being;
  - Tackling inequalities;
  - More focused support for people with long term conditions;
  - More services provided out of hospitals, closer to people.
5. The White Paper sets out a new direction for the Health and Social Care system. The proposal is for a radical and sustained shift in the way in which services are delivered – to ensure that they are more personalised and that they fit into people’s busy lives. The White Paper identifies the following clear areas for change:
  - Personalised care will be driven by better access and more funding following the patient. NHS walk in centres will also be expanded;
  - Services will be brought closer to peoples homes through investment in Community Hospitals and facilities and shifting care safely away from hospitals;

- It is proposed that there will be better coordination with local Council's, improving the way information is shared between Social Services and Health Care providers;
  - It is proposed that there will be a shared outcome based performance framework with aligned performance inspection regimes. Local Area agreements should be a key mechanism for joint planning and delivery. There will also be a strengthened role for the Head of Adult Social Care.
  - Increased choice will be underpinned by a direct payment or care budget for people to pay for their own home help or residential care, and PCT's will be required to act on the findings of regular patient surveys;
  - Prevention and illness will be targeted with several measures, including the establishment of more health care teams to deliver better care across institutional boundaries. A new NHS "Life Check" service will be introduced and a fitter Britain scheme will be launched as part of the build up to the 2012 Olympics.
  - Improvements will be achieved through a number of measures including: practice based commissioning which will give GPs more responsibility for local health budgets;
  - Shifting resources into prevention, recognising the need to meet future demographic challenges which we face;
  - More care taken outside hospitals and into the home;
  - Better joining up of services at a local level, encouraging joint commissioning between PCTs and Local authorities;
  - Encouraging innovation, to provide greater patient and user choice, to ensure that services are provided to suit people's lifestyles.
  - Allowing different providers to compete for services, in particular there are a range of voluntary sector providers who could increasingly provide.
6. The White Paper sets out a clear timetable for implementing these changes the majority of which it sees as being place by 2009.

#### **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- White Paper: "Our Health, Our Care, Our Say: a new direction for Community Services"
- Green Paper: "Independence, Well-being and Choice"