

By: Oliver Mills, Managing Director, Kent Adult Social Services
To: Adult Services Policy Overview Committee – 1 April 2008
Subject: **PUTTING PEOPLE FIRST**
Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: Informs Members of this shared vision and commitment to the transformation of adult social care.

1. Introduction

1. (1) 'Putting People First' is a landmark concordat between six Government departments, the Local Government Association, the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services, the NHS, representatives of provider organisations, the Commission for Social Care Inspection, and other partners. It was published in December 2007 and is attached at Annex 1.

(2) It sets out a shared vision for the transformation of social care, which is needed to cope with the demographic and other changes facing the nation, which ASSPOC has considered in the past.

2. Context

2. (1) 'Putting People First' builds upon the transformation of social care which was first signalled in the Green Paper 'Independence, Wellbeing and Choice (2005)', then strengthened in the White Paper 'Our Health Our Care Our Say (2006)'. It thus confirms the direction of travel, rather than breaking new ground. However, it is unique in having such breadth of sign-up, and this level of consensus over the vision for social care in the future is to be welcomed.

3. Key Points

- Development of a new personalised adult care system
- Reinforces the commitment to independent living for all people
- Collaborative approach
- Empowering people
- Need to win hearts and minds of all stakeholders
- Social Care Reform Grant to support system wide transformation
- Adult Social Care to take a leadership role
- Transformation will be delivered through the new performance framework (this is a separate item on the agenda)
- Universal information, advice and advocacy service
- Common assessment process with emphasis on self assessment
- Person centred planning and self-directed support mainstreamed

- Family and carers seen as experts and should be supported to develop their skills and confidence
- Workforce – new skills academy to support world class commissioning
- SCIE to promote, identify and disseminate best practice and innovation

4. Next Steps

4. (1) The government has also recently (January 2008) published a Local Authority Circular 'Transforming Social Care' which provides more details about how the transformation is to be achieved, including the provision of the Social Care Reform Grant. Parts 1 and 2 are attached as Annex 2. In Kent, the vision is already well understood – Active Lives is consistent with 'Putting People First'. We are already well advanced in planning how to deliver this transformation through the Active Lives for Adults (ALfA) change programme, the modernisation of in-house services, the Valuing People partnership groups, and so on.

5. Recommendations

5. (1) Members are asked to NOTE the content of "Putting People First".

Debra Exall
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