

By: Graham Gibbens, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Services
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To: Cabinet – 12 October 2009

Subject: **GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION ON ‘SHAPING THE FUTURE OF CARE TOGETHER’ - THE GREEN PAPER ON CARE AND SUPPORT**

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: The Government published a Green Paper on 14 July 2009 outlining a number of radical proposals for the reform of the care and support system in England. The outcome of the debate around what the care and support system will look like in the future, and how it will be funded, will potentially have profound implications for Kent County Council. This paper sets out the main proposals and their context. It also includes as Appendix 1 a copy of KCC’s draft response to the consultation.

FOR DECISION

Introduction

1. (1) This paper is to inform Cabinet regarding Kent County Council’s draft response to the recent Government Green Paper, *Shaping the Future of Care Together*, and regarding the context and significance of the Green Paper for Kent County Council.

(2) The Government is consulting on the proposals until 13 November 2009, and stakeholders including the general public have been invited to comment. Kent County Council will be submitting a response to the consultation, having analysed the implications of the various proposals and engaged with stakeholders within Kent.

(3) This paper contains details of the engagement carried out with our key partners in Kent and the steps undertaken in developing the KCC response, including key dates. It also provides (as an appendix) a copy of KCC’s draft response to the consultation, which has been formed after engagement with Members, Corporate Policy and Legal colleagues, and based on analysis produced by the KASS policy team.

Background

2. (1) In May 2008, the Government issued *The Case for Change – Why England needs a new care and support system*, launching a six-month engagement and consultation process. The responses received fed into the Green Paper *Shaping the Future of Care Together*, which was published on 14 July 2009.

(2) The Green Paper should be seen in the context of the *Transformation* agenda, a drive by Government over recent years to modernise Adult Social Care, particularly through an increased emphasis on *Personalisation*. The key policy documents which set forth these reforms are the White Paper *Our Health, Our Care, Our Say* (2006) and *Putting People First* (2007).

Proposals

3. (1) The Green Paper proposes the creation of a National Care Service, and sets out six things people should be able to expect from it:

- prevention services
- national assessment
- a joined-up service
- information and advice
- personalised care and support
- fair funding

(2) It then goes on to detail the changes that would be required to deliver such a system:

- more joined-up working
- a wider range of care and support services
- better quality and innovation

(3) After which it discusses ways of making better use of existing funding, most notably through bringing together social care and disability benefits for older people, and ways of bringing additional funding into the system. The Green Paper discusses five options for raising this additional money:

- pay for yourself (ruled out)
- partnership
- insurance
- comprehensive
- tax-funded (ruled out)

Developing a Kent response

Kent Adult Social Services

4. (1) A Green Paper Response Team within KASS has been working on analysing the implications for Kent County Council, with input from colleagues in Chief Executive's Department (Legal, Policy and Finance) and across KASS itself. The implications have been set out and discussed at KASS Policy Development and Review Board (3 September 2009) and Strategic Management Team (4 September 2009), and was taken to Chief Officer Group on 7 October 2009 in order to inform the draft response.

Liaison with Members

(2) The Green Paper Response Team has been in contact with key Members from across all three Groups, as well as with the Independent Member. The Team has taken a flexible approach (including meetings, email conversations and telephone conversations) to ensure that Members were offered an opportunity to be briefed about the Green Paper and to make early comments about the proposals it contains. Members have also had the chance to formally comment on the Paper and feed into the Council's response to it at Adult Social Services Policy Overview Committee (22 September 2009). The draft response is not only being presented to the Cabinet meeting on 12 October 2009, but will also be the subject of full County Council debate on 15 October 2009.

Liaison with outside agencies, organisations and stakeholders

(3) As part of its community leadership role, the Council (through the Green Paper response team) has contacted Local Strategic Partnerships and key partners in Health (including the LINKs), housing, the private and voluntary care provision sectors and interested voluntary groups, to raise their awareness of the Green Paper and encourage them to consider submitting their own responses to the national consultation. The Team has also extended an offer through the Community Liaison Managers to speak at Local Boards and other fora.

Kent's response

5. (1) A copy of Kent County Council's draft response to the Green Paper consultation is attached as **Appendix 1** to this report. Cabinet is asked to comment on the draft response, in advance of it being taken to County Council.

(2) It will be recommended to County Council that the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Services, together with the Managing Director for Kent Adult Social Services, be granted authority to approve any final points of detail and editing before the response is submitted to Government, which must be done by 13 November 2009.

Conclusion

6. (1) The Green Paper seeks to address the future demographic pressures facing England and their ramifications for care and support. It is critical that the solution that is eventually decided on meets the needs and the growing expectations of the people of Kent. It is therefore vital that Kent County Council delivers a robust response to the consultation, to help ensure that the people of Kent have a care and support system that will enable them to lead healthy and fulfilling lives.

Recommendations

7. (1) Cabinet is asked to:

(a) ENDORSE the contents of this report and the key points raised in the draft response to the consultation

(b) NOTE that a report together with the views of Cabinet will be submitted to the meeting of the County Council on 15 October 2009. As part of that report the Council will be asked to agree that the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Services together with the Managing Director for Kent Adult Social Services be granted authority to approve any final points of detail and editing before the response is submitted to Government which must be done by 13 November 2009.

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