

By: Oliver Mills, Managing Director, Kent Adult Social Services

To: Graham Gibbens, Cabinet Member, Adult Social Services

Subject: **KENT ADULT SOCIAL SERVICES POSITIVE RISK MANAGEMENT POLICY FOR STAFF CARRYING OUT COMMUNITY CARE ASSESSMENTS**

Classification: Unrestricted

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Summary: Following the endorsement by the Adult Social Services Policy Overview Committee on 22 September 2009, the Cabinet Member is asked to approve the adoption of the Positive Risk Management Policy and Good Practice Guidance for implementation within Adult Social Services.

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## Introduction

1. Consistent with the changes within Adult Social Services linked to the personalisation agenda, the policy and guidance is essential to enable practitioners to balance the need to support service users and carers whilst at the same time ensuring that any risks to meeting their outcomes are appropriately addressed.

## Policy Context

2. Both the Concordat "***Putting People First***" and the Department of Health's "***Independence Choice and Risk***" guidance emphasises the need for local authorities to support people to exercise choice and control over the services they receive and who provides them. Local Authority Circular (2009)1, "***Transforming Social Care***" sets out information that supports this change agenda

3. In line with the principles set out in the White Paper, "***Valuing People: A New Strategy for Learning Disability for the 21st Century***", there has been an increased focus on the management of risks to health and safety in social and health services.

4. It is important that such risks are appropriately managed, balancing the risks of challenging behaviour against the risks of reduced quality of life. It is not an appropriate or achievable goal that the risk of challenging behaviour be completely eliminated.

5. The overall vision therefore is of a Directorate moving towards a position of enabling service users and carers to shape their own lives through personally commissioned services.

## Recommendations

6. The Cabinet Member is asked to APPROVE adoption of the attached Policy and Good Practice Guidance by Kent Adult Social Services.

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### *Background documents:*

Local Authority Circular (2009), Transforming Adult Social Care, Department of Health  
Business Risk Management Toolkit, Kent County Council