

For information - to all Elected Members of KCC:

**KCC's response to *Shaping the Future of Care Together*
Views of Cabinet & COG**

(1) The first draft of Kent County Council's response to the national consultation on *Shaping the Future of Care Together* has been prepared and submitted to Chief Officer Group [COG], Cabinet and County Council for consideration and comment. It is intended that the views of KCC's Members and Chief Officers should be taken into account when the final version of the response is being prepared. That final version will be submitted to the Government by 13th November 2009.

(2) COG considered KCC's draft response to the Green Paper *Shaping the Future of Care Together* on 7th October. Similarly, Cabinet considered the draft response at its meeting of 12th October. This briefing note summarises the views they expressed, so as to inform the full Council debate on the response on 15th October.

(3) The draft response had already taken a broader approach to the debate on care and support than that offered by the three consultation questions in the Green Paper. Nevertheless, both COG and Cabinet considered that the scope of the draft response should be broadened further. Above all, it was felt that the response should move away from focusing on processes towards the development of a workable strategic proposition about public spending and public access. This proposition could allow KCC to significantly influence the national debate on care and support by demonstrating the "art of the possible".

(4) Cabinet urged the development of a "brave and bold" proposition to make the best use of public spending in Kent, along the lines of the *Total Place* pilot (see <http://www.localleadership.gov.uk/totalplace/> for more information). Such a proposal should involve health and social care services in Kent sharing information about spending and working together to re-shape health and care provision in the most effective way, to deliver better services at less cost. It should also consider holistic access to health and social care services and ways to make the system easier for people to navigate.

(5) Cabinet noted that recent announcements by national political parties have shown that the future of care and support is likely to be a key issue in the next General

Election. By demonstrating workable proposals to improve individual outcomes while spending public money effectively, it is hoped that Kent can take the debate a stage further and influence the future Government, whatever its political make-up.

(6) Other points which have been made by COG and Cabinet include:

- Beyond the strategic proposition outlined above, the response should look at ways of joint working with other support services such as housing
- The response should consider the whole spectrum of the benefit system, and not just the two benefits mentioned in the Green Paper (Attendance Allowance and Disability Living Allowance)
- The response should also refer to issues around pensions and retirement policies
- The response should make more detailed reference to families and carers
- The response should address potential workforce implications of some of the Green Paper's proposals in more detail.

It will be noted that several of these points tie into the wider issue of total public expenditure and the need to find the best way to make use of limited care and support funding across public services, against a background of demographic change, increasing demand and rising expectations.

(7) Kent Adult Social Services policy officers have already started to work with colleagues in Corporate Policy and in the Strategic Development Unit to develop the draft response further in response to these comments. Further work will be done following the debate at County Council and taking into account Members' comments made as part of that debate.

For further information, contact:

Michael Thomas-Sam - Head of Policy & Service Standards

Kent Adult Social Services [KASS]

7000 x4843 / michael.thomas-sam@kent.gov.uk