

Communities Scrutiny Sub-Committee

6 September 2004



National Service Framework – Older People

Report of Peter Appleton, Head of Quality & Performance

Purpose of the Report

- 1 At the Communities Sub Committee on 7 June 2004, Members received a report from Cllr Christine Smith, Cabinet Member and Portfolio Holder for Strong, Healthy & Safe Communities. Cllr Smith is the Older Person's Champion for the National Service Framework (NSF) in Co Durham.

Background

- 2 Members requested further information in respect of two items
 - a) A progress report on compliance with the respective standards in the NSF.
 - b) The current position with regard to rooting out discrimination.

Current Position

- 3 The NSF for Older People is a very comprehensive approach to improving the quality of life for older people. Implementation of the NSF is a multi-agency responsibility and requires rather complex linkages with the individual business planning processes of each agency. For example, with the Operational Plan for Social Care & Health and the Local Delivery Plans for NHS Trusts.
- 4 The Local Implementation Team (LIT) for the NSF has recently been reorganised and a 'Modernisation Group' has now taken responsibility for the implementation of the NSF and performance management. Each member organisation of the Modernisation Group is currently carrying out a self-assessment in respect of each of the standards in the NSF. These are to be co-ordinated and assimilated by the Modernisation Group, and a service development officer is to be appointed to facilitate this work and the development of an improvement agenda.
- 5 So far as the County Council is concerned, the attached position statement has been produced using formal sources of evidence such as the Performance Assessment Framework, Delivery and Improvement Statement and various planning and policy documents.

- 6 With regard to rooting out discrimination, a significant amount of work has been carried out with regard to the impact assessment of policy documents in co-operation with equalities and diversity training, and a systemic approach to embedding the principles of the NSF in the everyday work of the County Council.

Conclusion

- 7 The NSF is currently subject to review and needs to be updated to incorporate new policy initiatives and government direction with regard to the provision of social care & health to older people. In addition, the protection of older people will become a new important element of the NSF and this will require additional performance management arrangements co-ordinated by the Modernisation Group.
- 8 The Modernisation Group will be in a position to report on a multi-agency countywide basis later in 2004, and I would suggest to Elected Members that they need to receive this position statement at a later date.

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Appendix 1: Implications

Finance

Staffing

Equal opportunities

Accommodation

Crime and disorder

Sustainability

Human rights

Localities

Young people

Consultation