

REPORT TO: Halton Health Policy and Performance Board

DATE: 15th September 2009

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director Health and Community

SUBJECT: Older People's Commissioning Strategy

WARDS: All

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To present the Older People's Commissioning Strategy

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS:

(1) Comment on the overall strategy

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 The new Older People's Commissioning Strategy builds on a previous strategy that covered 2004-2008. This new strategy aims to bring the plans for older people's services up to date and clearly identify the commissioning priorities for the next five years.

3.2 The commissioning strategy is important for two main reasons, it gives context for what we are intending in relation to commissioning and it also acts as a performance measure. This will enable us to monitor our progress against the actions and targets.

3.3 The lead arrangements for each partnership commissioning area are as follows

Commissioning Area	Lead Organisation
Older People (inc Intermediate Care)	Local Authority

3.4 Two consultation events involved a range of commissioning staff, providers, voluntary sector representatives, independent providers and service users and carers. In addition to these events a number of one-to-one meetings were carried out to ensure that a wide range of views were covered. The main themes of the commissioning strategy reflect the consultation that was completed.

3.5 The older people's commissioning strategy will work in conjunction with a range of other policy documents both nationally and locally to help shape services in the next three years. This strategy aims to improve the commissioning cycle within older people's services to help address and

improve the key areas identified in the strategy.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 White Paper: Our Health, Our Care, Our Say

The White Paper, published in January 2006, sets out the reforms intended to develop modern and convenient health and social care services. The White Paper acknowledges the importance of joint commissioning and ensuring quality research, data and evidence to effectively procure the right services to meet the needs of an individual.

4.2 Personalisation

On 17th January 2008, the Department of Health issued a Local Authority Circular entitled "Transforming Social Care". The Circular sets out information to support the transformation of social care signalled in ... *Independence, Well-being and Choice* and re-enforced in ... *Our Health, our care, our say: a new direction for community services*.

4.3 Living well with dementia: A National Dementia Strategy (Feb. 2009)

The aim of the Strategy is to ensure that significant improvements are made to dementia services across three key areas: improved awareness, earlier diagnosis and intervention, and a higher quality of care. The strategy identifies 17 key objectives which, when implemented, largely at a local level, should result in significant improvements in the quality of services provided to people with dementia and should promote a greater understanding of the causes and consequences of dementia. This strategy should be a catalyst for a change in the way that people with dementia are viewed and cared for England.

4.4 THE LOCAL CONTEXT

The challenges and opportunities facing Halton has led to the identification of a number of priorities for the Borough (outlined in the Community Strategy 2006-2011) over the medium term with the overall aim of making it a better place to live and work.

Commissioning Strategy for Carers (Due Sept 09)

The Joint Commissioning Strategy has been developed via ongoing consultations and contributions from stakeholders who provide services to carers as well as carers themselves. We have listened to what carers have told us about the help and support that they need and have responded by addressing the issues throughout the Strategy.

Local Area Agreement

The Local Area Agreement (LAA) is the framework used to deliver Halton's vision as mentioned earlier. The LAA is a target based process that focuses on the five agreed priorities.

- **A Healthy Halton**

- **Halton Urban Renewal**
- **Employment learning and skills in Halton**
- **Children & Young people in Halton**
- **A Safer Halton**

Commissioning Strategic Plan

- This document was produced in 2008 by NHS Halton & St Helens and clearly outlines the need to change, the key priorities and the investment required to make a difference within the health equalities in Halton.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

5.1 Children and Young People in Halton

None

5.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

Within a number of the commissioning areas the targets for services will be linked to supporting vulnerable service users to access education, training and employment opportunities. This has been identified as a Local Area Agreement target (NI150) within Mental Health and is also an important part of stroke rehabilitation.

5.3 A Healthy Halton

Each of the service areas covered in the strategy is expected to clearly demonstrate a positive impact on the health and well-being of service users in Halton. This includes performance towards healthier lifestyles, better access, improved accommodation, dignity and improved mental health outcomes.

5.4 A Safer Halton

Contracts within this report will be able to support specific Local Area Agreement targets linked to information provision, satisfaction with services and overall perception of the area that they reside. These targets will be agreed as part of any revised contract and will be monitored through the relevant Commissioning Manager.

5.5 Halton's urban renewal

None

6.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Commissioning priorities for each of the service areas have been identified and work has begun to clearly identify the financial implications of individual pieces of work in the future. These final elements will be completed before submission to the Councils Executive Board.

6.2 One of the main implications that will need to be addressed will be the need to redesign existing services, not just create new services. This will take place across a range of service areas including mental health, prevention / early intervention and accommodation based provision.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

7.1 This strategy outlines the key risks and issues that commissioning faces in the next three years. If these areas are not addressed then the risk to health inequalities, economic burden, strain on frontline health and social care services would be extreme. The strategy sets out in the quality of life section a continuing shift toward improved lifestyle and an increase in preventative service provision.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

8.1 The Older People's Commissioning Strategy addresses issues of equality and diversity for a range of service users. It ensures that access to services is not restricted because of age, mental health and well-being, limiting illness. It also considers alternative and diverse methods to address the needs of older people in Halton. Two key messages from the strategy relate to maintaining the dignity of all people accessing services and ensuring that nobody is discriminated on the grounds of age.