

Vulnerable Adults

Key Drivers / Issues

- Changing Demographics – an ageing population
- Increasing numbers of people with complex disabilities living longer
- Resources and capacity not keeping pace with increased demand
- Reducing reliance upon institutional forms of care (care & nursing homes, acute hospitals etc.) and developing preventative and community based services.

Context

The context for health and social care is laid out within two Government White Papers:

- ‘Our health, our care, our say’ which promises to help people to stay healthy and independent, to give people choice in their care services, to deliver services closer to home, and to tackle inequalities; and
- ‘Choosing Health’ which seeks to reduce health inequalities, promote health & wellbeing, ensure independence and dignity for older people and secure strong and prosperous communities.

In addition, local strategic intelligence tells us:

- life expectancy is above average in Devon, but is inconsistent at a local level the single most important influence on health is income.
- Devon’s biggest health challenges are heart disease, stroke and cancer; chronic diseases including asthma, arthritis and dementia; mental ill health and emotional distress; accidents; sexually transmitted diseases and abuse of substances.
- Within adult social care, 76% of clients receive community based services, but 63% of our daily spend is within residential/nursing care.
- Within health care, 51% of services are primary care, 30% are community based and 19% acute secondary care; whilst 63% of funding is within acute secondary care, 26% within primary care and only 11% within community based services.

If we do nothing to reconfigure services to meet the needs of our changing demographics and ageing population we will face additional costs for intervention based services which will far exceed the funds available to either the NHS or the Local Authorities.

Joint Strategic Review

Devon Primary care Trust, in partnership with Devon County Council, is currently undertaking a Joint Strategic Review of health and social care to inform health and social care strategic direction for the next five years and to set future commissioning priorities. For the first time, health and social services will achieve co-ordinated care for an individual; addressing cause not

just effect, and maximising the opportunity to make better use of our joint resources to enable the right care at the right time in the right place.

The Review has six key aims:

- Health as good as it can be prevention and early intervention
- Care as local as possible and as specialised as necessary
- The most effective treatment and care that's continuously improving
- The right support for people with complex needs
- Making the best use of our resources for the best possible impact
- A say and an influence promoting partnerships in care.

The review will focus in depth in five key areas:

- Support for people at home – community based services
- Urgent care – rapid response, ambulance service etc.
- End of life care – palliative care
- Maternity services
- Children's services

Contributions from public consultation

The review will be informed by population and health needs, national priorities and best practice, taking stock of existing services, messages from recent reviews, views and priorities of local people via a series of local consultation events, and a stakeholder reference panel.

Linked Issues

It is expected that the strategic direction and commissioning priorities for the next five years that the joint review will identify will be linked to other issues identified within the Sustainable Communities Strategy; however it is too early at this stage of the review to be able to articulate these with any great accuracy.

The timetable for the review is:

April to Sept 07 – assessment of needs, taking stock of existing services & strategies, listen to the views and priorities of local people.

Sept 07 – March 08 – issuing draft strategic commissioning priorities for discussion, proposals for in-depth reviews, further discussion and consultation, delivery milestones set out in business and LAA planning for 2008/08 onwards.

It is therefore anticipated that further work will need to be undertaken over the Autumn to begin to shape the LAA delivery plan, making explicit links with other issues identified within the SCS in line with the joint review timetable.