

# CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

## Cabinet

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**Date of Meeting:** 4 February 2014  
**Report of:** Director of Adult Social Care and Independent Living, Brenda Smith.  
**Subject/Title:** Adult Social Care – Strategic Direction of Travel – Informal Support to Address Prevention and Early Intervention  
**Portfolio Holders:** Cllr Janet Clowes, Health and Adult Care

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### 1.0 Report Summary

#### **The Direction of Travel for Informal Support to Prevention and Early Intervention**

- 1.1 The vision for the future is for the Council and partners to enable adults to be self-reliant and healthy for as much of their lives as possible. The goal is to make Cheshire East a place where strong empowered communities, including businesses, create that self-reliance.
- 1.2 In this context the informal support for vulnerable adults and their carers needs to change to maximise the opportunities for self-reliance, independence, and healthy lives. This report summarises the proposed strategic direction of travel for informal support to address prevention and early intervention for people with social care eligible needs.
- 1.3 The recommendations within this report support the delivery of the Cheshire East Council Three Year Plan:
- Outcome 1: Our Local Communities are Strong and Supportive
  - Outcome 2: Cheshire East has a Growing and Resilient Economy
  - Outcome 5: Local People Live Well and for Longer
- 1.4 Quality informal support is needed that meets the objectives of:
- encouraging prevention of ill-health or dependency
  - accessing early help and advice to maintain or regain health and independence
  - promoting self-reliance and community inclusion to increase well-being
  - personalisation and promoting open choice

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- 1.5 This paper seeks endorsement of the strategic the direction of travel for this informal support to ensure its contribution to these objectives. Changes are needed to the ethos and objectives of informal support to help more citizens to avoid or delay a loss of independence. It will also enhance well-being both physical and emotional. The majority of vulnerable adults express a wish to be as independent as possible. This requires:

A substantially increased range of options in a diverse market that enable self-help, self-reliance and healthy lives

A wide range of options so that personalised open choices can be made

An ethos that positively promotes self-reliance and healthy lives

Access to quality, timely, information and advice to encourage effective and personalised open choices

Personalised budgets – so that individuals with eligible social care needs can buy what they prefer to meet those needs

Commissioning with or seeking alignment from a range of partners and service areas who can also refocus (redesign) their resources to contribute to the self-reliance and healthy lives objectives. This must maximise all of the assets in Cheshire East including commercial enterprises as well as public, voluntary and faith sectors.

- 1.6 To deliver on the direction of travel strategic commissioning capacity will focus on developing:-

A wider range of appropriate support options in all localities, for different needs and preferences and using all potential providers/contributors in a diverse market

Personalised budgets

Accessible, quality advice and information

- 1.7 Market development needs to maximise all potential routes for support including for example existing commercial businesses, new businesses, social enterprises (and similar), voluntary groups, faith groups, interest groups, tenant groups, civic societies, town and parish councils etc.

- 1.8 It is well-established that prevention and early intervention is the best means of contributing to healthy lives. The wider determinants of health include transport, noise, violence, housing, fuel poverty and use of outdoor space. In addition social isolation is recognised as a factor that will increase the likelihood of a need for support. The market developments will ensure all these factors are addressed within the informal support system.

- 1.9 The principles of personalisation as reiterated in the Care Bill enable the right options to be available to meet the individual's needs and preferences thus increasing the achievement of good outcomes. Those principles include:-

Personal budgets so that people can choose support that helps them meet the outcomes they want to achieve

A wide range of choices for support to ensure real choice and tailoring to an individual

Less services that are for 'a group', more that are individualised

- 1.10 The Care Bill includes specific responsibilities for Local Authorities in respect of Prevention and Early Intervention which this direction of travel will address.

Specifically the Care Bill requires that Local Authorities:

ensure services are available to prevent care needs becoming more serious

ensure people can access information to make decisions about care and support

ensure people have a good range of providers to choose from

## **2.0 Recommendations**

- 2.1 That Cabinet full endorse and support the implementation of this clear strategic direction of travel for informal support. This addresses prevention and early intervention for adults with social care needs and delivers Council Plan outcomes.

- 2.2 That officers are authorised to take all necessary steps to implement the proposed strategic direction of travel.

## **3.0 Reasons for Recommendations**

The Current Informal Support Market Position – High Level Assessment  
General Support for All Vulnerable Adults.

### **3.1 Advice and Information**

Some good advice and information is available but overall this support is patchy, duplicative, silo-based and not universally accessible. It has not been subject to a strategic commissioning approach. The result is that some

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vulnerable people and their carers may be missing opportunities to increase independence and well-being.

### **3.2 Community Inclusion and Diverse Social Networks**

All vulnerable adults need opportunities to participate in the community and enjoy supportive and diverse social contacts. Adults who may require social care can sometimes be isolated from these opportunities because of the way that support is designed. Support can tend to group people based on their vulnerability rather than exploring ways to engage in the community.

### **3.3 Older People**

3.3.1 There is a generally traditional set of options available that individuals are 'fitted into' in groups rather than options that are tailored to the individual. Often these options are designed for doing things for people rather than helping them to do themselves, this can encourage further loss of capacity and diminishing self-reliance.

3.3.2 There are only a small number of options that actively promote self-help and self-reliance, early intervention/prevention and healthy ageing.

3.3.3 There is some activity dedicated to ensuring the contribution of older people in communities is valued and that individuals can fully participate and are not socially isolated. However this is an area that needs to be expanded.

### **3.2 Learning Disability**

3.2.1 Activity that increases social inclusion and community support is under-developed, but there are good examples where individuals are being supported in the community informally.

3.2.2 There are good examples of a more tailored approach using personal budgets for people with learning disability but these are relatively limited at present.

3.2.3 Individuals who could be more self-reliant, for example cooking for themselves, can instead receive care that does things for them rather than teaches them how to do for themselves. Informal support can provide new skills and learning to increase independence and well-being.

3.2.4 Assistive technologies have not yet been fully exploited to enable adults with learning disability to gain greater independence and self-reliance. A pilot of assistive technology use for these adults is about to commence.

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Occupational opportunities and supported employment offers some individuals the option of work-based day activity.

### **3.3 Mental Health**

3.3.1 The informal support options for people with mental health needs are under-developed. One of the key strengths locally is the use of a recovery model of intervention. However for recovery to sustain people need to then access ways of building up their skills and capacity for example so that they can gain employment. It is this type of support that could be enhanced in the new direction of travel.

### **4.0 Wards Affected**

4.1 All

### **5.0 Local Ward Members**

5.1 All

### **6.0 Policy Implications**

6.1 The recommendations within this report support the delivery of the Cheshire East Council Three Year Plan:

Outcome 1: Our Local Communities are Strong and Supportive  
Outcome 2: Cheshire East has a Growing and Resilient Economy  
Outcome 5: Local People Live Well and for Longer

### **7.0 Financial Implications**

The Adult Social Care departments of all Councils face the same dilemma of how to cope with increasing demand with reduced resources. Increasing self reliance and ensuring people remain healthy for longer contributes towards solving this funding problem. The direction of travel is therefore closely aligned with the financial direction of travel.

### **8.0 Legal Implications**

8.1 'As drafted within this report, the precise legal implications have yet to be crystallized, but will likely include:

1. Issues around personal budgets and the necessity for CEC to comply with public procurement requirements when directly commissioning services.

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2. Issues in respect of direct payments including the need to comply with legislation and have in place robust administration processes in respect of the same.
3. CEC's public sector equality duty under s.149 Equality Act 2010.

Detailed legal advice will be provided in due course once specific measures are identified for consideration by officers.'

## **9.0 Risk Management**

- 9.1 The direction of travel proposed seeks to strongly contribute to the Council 3 year plan outcomes. There is a risk that these outcomes would not be fully achieved without this change to the adult social care direction of travel.
- 9.2 The implementation of any major change programmes necessary to meet this direction of travel will be managed through the Council's TEG and EMB project management processes.

## **10 Access to Information**

- 10.1 The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting the report writer:

Name: Ann Riley  
Designation: Corporate Commissioning Manager  
Tel No: 01270 371406  
Email: [ann.riley@cheshireeast.gov.uk](mailto:ann.riley@cheshireeast.gov.uk)

Appendix 1 – Background report on the direction of travel proposed.