

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee

Date of Meeting:	Wednesday, 16 th September, 2009
Report of:	John Weeks, Strategic Director - People
Subject/Title:	Shaping the Future of Care Together
Portfolio Holder:	Councillor Roland Domleo

1.0 Report Summary

- 1.1 This report contains information about the Government's Green Paper, "Shaping the Future of Care Together", which is about the care and support needed by Older People and disabled people.
- 1.2 The report recommends that the Members of the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee should give advice to the Cabinet about their response to the consultation exercise upon the Green Paper's proposals.

2.0 Decision Requested

The Members of the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee are recommended to decide to advise the Cabinet that they should:-

- 2.1 Welcome the emphasis which the Green Paper gives to prevention and early intervention, believing that a sustainable future for Adult Social Care in Cheshire East will depend upon such an approach.
- 2.2 Welcome the encouragement given to joining up services, recognising that within Cheshire East significant work is under way on that agenda.
- 2.3 Welcome the commitment expressed to pushing forward the development of personalisation, noting that Cheshire East is already well advanced with the task of extending greater choice and control to people.
- 2.4 Welcome the ambition to achieve greater consistency, but deplore the idea of establishing a fully National system.
- 2.5 Recommend that further consideration should be given to the development of a compulsory insurance model, built around a state based insurance scheme.
- 2.6 Welcome the attention given to the needs of carers, on the basis that investment in supporting informal carers will be crucial to the future of Cheshire East's Adult Social Care Services.

- 2.7 Urge that in the development of thinking about the future funding of care and support, more of a whole system approach should be taken, which embraces the resources of both Local Government and the NHS.

3.0 Financial Implications for Transitional Costs

- 3.1 There are no financial implications

4.0 Financial Implications for 2009-10 and beyond

- 4.1 There are unlikely to be any direct implications for the Council financially.
- 4.2 However, there could well be significant indirect consequences, depending upon the option finally selected. If, for instance, it was decided to “nationalise” the care service, Local Authorities would lose some of their commissioning responsibilities and that would no doubt be expressed in a reduction in the funding made available.
- 4.3 The Green Paper (Chapter Three) sets out a fine vision of what people ought to be able to expect from a good care and support system. For example, it describes the preventive services which such a system should deliver. It will, of course, be necessary to invest in the development of those preventive services.

5.0 Legal Implications

- 5.1 One of the options outlined is for “a fully national system”, under which National Government, not Local Authorities, would decide how much funding people should get.
- 5.2 In that event, there would no doubt have to be changes to the statutory duties of Local Authorities.

6.0 Risk Assessment

- 6.1 In many respects the Green Paper is disappointing. It does not seem to move the debate very much further beyond the findings and recommendations made by Sir Derek Wanless in his report, “Securing Good Care for Older People”, of March, 2006. (www.kingsfund.org.uk/publications).
- 6.2 There must be a real risk that, in the context of recession and recovery from recession, these crucial issues will again be shelved, and government will continue to avoid addressing something which is in the box marked “too difficult”.
- 6.3 If on the other hand, government goes for a fully national system, there is a significant risk of substantially undermining what has traditionally been the role

of Local Government – to assess needs and commission services to meet them.

- 6.4 Finally, there must also be a risk of raising public expectations unrealistically. Chapter 3 of the Green Paper sets out what every adult ought to get as a result of reform of the care and support system. Quite appropriately, that is presented in very positive terms. If the resources are not made available and if difficult changes are not pushed through, there is a risk of serious disappointment.

7.0 Background and Options

- 7.1 The Green Paper was published on 16th July, 2009. Its publication was delayed somewhat, no doubt to ensure that possible expenditure implications had been fully scrutinised by the Treasury.

- 7.2 There are essentially two large matters addressed in the Green Paper:-

- The nature of the system for delivering care and support. The Government recommends the development of a National Care Service in England. One of the crucial issues is seen as consistency. It is felt to be no longer acceptable that there should be such significant variations in the standards and quantity of care and support offered by different Local Authorities. The options are between a fully National Service in which Central Government decides how much funding an individual should receive and a mixed service, in which a division of responsibility between Local and Central Government is maintained.
- The funding of the system for delivering care and support. Five funding models are set out, two of which the Government is inclined to discard as unaffordable. The remaining three models upon which views are invited are the Partnership model, the Insurance Model and the Comprehensive Model.

- 7.3.1 The Green Paper was briefly considered at the meeting of the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee which took place on 29th July, 2009. On that occasion a Briefing Note on the Green Paper prepared by the Local Government Association (LGA) was distributed to Scrutiny Committee Members. That Briefing Note is attached to this report as an Appendix and it sets out a clear explanation of the three Models referred to above.

- 7.3.2 The full text of the Green Paper is available online at www.tsoshop.co.uk

8.0 Overview of Year One and Term One Issues.

- 8.1 The public consultation on the Green Paper will close on 18th November, 2009.
- 8.2 It is intended that this matter, and the Scrutiny Committee's advice upon it, should be considered at the meeting of the Cabinet scheduled to take place on

3rd November, 2009. That would enable the Cabinet to resolve upon a formal response to the consultation within the deadline.

- 8.3 The Government's timetable for implementation in the light of the feedback it receives is not known at this time.

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

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