

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ADULT SOCIAL CARE

TELEHEALTHCARE

The Department continues to make excellent progress with the rollout of telecare, and expects to have around 1000 users of this service by the end of March 2012. The combination of reablement and telecare appears to be having a significant effect on the numbers of people entering long term residential care, meaning that we are forecasting (subject to the vagaries of a harsh winter between now and the spring) a significant reduction in care home admissions, which brings greater independence and a better quality of life for users as well as savings for the Council.

The joint procurement exercise with Care Trust Plus for an integrated telehealthcare service is now in its final stages, with bids being evaluated. The new service, with an integrated fitting and response service for both telecare and telehealth, will be up and running in April 2012.

PROVIDERS OF PERSONAL ASSISTANTS NETWORK

Personalisation requires the Council to:

- Provide sufficient information, advice and support for all those seeking help to remain independent in the community, including self funders.
- Enable all people who are assessed as eligible for support from social care services to have access to a personal budget so that they can, if they wish, take greater control of and manage their own care and support arrangements.

One of the major challenges of personalisation is to ensure the availability of alternative accredited services that both end users can trust and the Council can be confident in funding, over and above traditional services such as home and day care.

We already know that there will be a demand for personal assistants as evidenced through our experience of people who use a direct payment. As more people start to take up personal budgets, the demand for personal assistants will increase.

Eight organisations who can provide social care users with personal assistants are coming together to form the 'Providers of Personal Assistants Network'. The providers have been taken through an accreditation process to ensure that they are meeting the set standards.

We are working alongside Skills for Care and Blackburn College to ensure the personal assistants have ongoing access to appropriate training. We expect the network to be up and running in February 2012.

COMMUNITY BASED SUPPORT PLANNING NETWORK

Information and good support planning is the key to people getting better outcomes from their social care support in a way that doesn't rely on relatively expensive traditional services. We are in the final stages of forming a Community Based

Support Planning Network, made up of local voluntary organisations and groups whose role it will be to help people plan effectively how to meet their support needs within their estimated personal budget. This in turn will help drive the personalisation agenda.

We have taken the network member organisations through an accreditation framework (developed with advice from our Legal and Procurement departments) which sets the standards of service expected.

Nine local organisations and groups have expressed an interest in being part of a pilot – with another ten in touch with us and who may join the network at a later stage. We have developed an extensive training programme for those who wish to be involved. We expect to start the pilot in February 2012.

The key to the success of the network will be its sustainability in the long term through ensuring the organisations involved have capacity to respond to the demand for support planning, which will require support from the Council.

CENTRE FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING

A very successful and well attended workshop was held in November 2011 concerning the Centre for Independent Living, with a wide range of Council, partner and user representation. The output from this included three accommodation options for the Centre for Independent Living, which are to be taken forward by corporate asset management colleagues.

The three year vision for the Centre for Independent Living is that it will develop into *a vital community service delivered by local people with disabilities and older people and their families in partnership with community groups, the Council and local citizens.*

The Centre will provide information and advice as well as links to a range of community based services and support. It will cater for citizens of all ages and their families who need assistance to remain independent within their local community.

The shorter term objective for the Centre for Independent Living is to establish a board of interested parties who will agree to work in conjunction with the local authority to begin to provide valuable services to local people who need assistance to remain independent. To start this process we have run a workshop which was well attended and well received by community organisations, people with disabilities, carers and councillors.

A shadow board has been established to help plan the activity that will get the Centre for Independent Living development off the ground. A Centre for Independent Living Service Development Manager Post is currently being advertised across the Council and Care Trust Plus.