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### **ADULT SOCIAL CARE WHITE PAPER**

In July 2012 the government published its adult social care White Paper. Titled 'Caring for our future: reforming care and support', the White Paper sets out plans which include a significant shift in focus towards preventative support, greater support for carers, personal budgets for all, and a national minimum eligibility threshold. The White Paper is accompanied by a draft Care and Support Bill, intended to implement the key plans set out in the White Paper, as well as undertaking a radical overhaul of all aspects of social care law to create a single clear, modern statute and code of practice. The key elements are not expected to be implemented until 2015, including the introduction of a national minimum eligibility threshold for adult social care.

A third document published was the government's report on Funding Reform. The report accepts in principle the proposals in the Dilnot Commission's model for future social care funding – financial protection for individuals via a cap on maximum costs. The statement defers any decision on a funding until the CSR in 2013.

### **PARTNERSHIP WORKING WITH CARE HOMES IN BLACKBURN WITH DARWEN**

The department is currently engaged with local care homes to establish the true cost of providing care. Colleagues from our procurement and finance teams are meeting with care homes to identify the cost in relation to each establishment. The department is working up a telecare pilot that will provide assistive technology to residents in care homes. Examples of this include sensors provided in place of hourly checks on residents during the night in relation to bedwetting or epilepsy.

### **TELEHEALTHCARE - LOCAL AND NATIONAL MEDIA COVERAGE**

The Council has received a considerable amount of coverage for its achievements over recent years in terms of improving outcomes for citizens and delivering efficiencies through telecare, as well as the new integrated scheme that will also provide telehealth to local patients with long term conditions. A positive article in the Lancashire Telegraph and three articles have also appeared in trade journals.

### **HEALTH REFORM AND CLINICAL COMMISSIONING GROUPS**

The reforms from the Health and Social Care Act are picking up speed with secondary legislation being published. The BwD Clinical Commissioning Group are finalising their application for DoH authorisation. They will assume full statutory responsibility for the commissioning of the borough's health services from 01/04/13. They are currently operating in shadow form. A briefing meeting is being planned for members on the full range of NHS reform changes in the autumn.

### **HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD**

The shadow Health and Wellbeing Board will meet on 24/09/12. 'Terms of reference' will be presented for discussion along with a consultation version of a new BwD Health and Wellbeing Strategy. By that time two new community representatives will have been appointed.

### **EAST LANCASHIRE HOSPITALS TRUST**

ELHT are submitting their application for Foundation Trust status at the end of August 2012. If successful it is anticipated they will receive authorisation from April 2013.

### **PUBLIC HEALTH TRANSITION**

The transition of the specialist public health service and about £11.5 million of prevention services will move to full Local Authority control from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013.