

Independent Living and Carers Services EIT Review Strategy Update

Introduction:

Before the financial year 2011/12, all of the services commissioned operated under ring fenced grant arrangements. Some services had specific strategy documents in relation to their direction of travel and some isolated services followed a wider strategic direction.

All of the services commissioned support specific service area strategies and guidance, for example the Carers Strategy, has been written to support strategic developments in all of the social care areas of work with a focus on carers issues.

The Housing Support elements of the Independent Living services have been funded through a ring fenced grant since the establishment of the Supporting People Programme in 2003. As with the carers strategy the Supporting People Five year plan support a range of different social care strategy areas.

Smaller areas of work around support for people with long term conditions have been planned and supported by strategic groups that have monitored and informed commissioning of services, e.g. the use of funds for services for people with stroke issues have been commissioned as part of the North Tees Long Term Conditions Steering Group.

Strategic Direction:

Supporting People/Housing Support:

The Supporting People Programme set out national standards for services to be procured in a Local Authority area, the services were designed to support vulnerable and socially excluded people to maintain a tenancy and work to become independent citizens in a community of their choice.

All Local Authorities were expected to create a five year plan for the programme in 2005, The Stockton plan included the following elements of linking the Supporting People Programme to other related local strategies:

- Carried out local research into the housing needs of vulnerable client groups including older people and young people at risk;
- Consulted with service users through the Service Review process;
- Linked in with strategic plans such as the Council's Community Strategy, Housing Strategy, Homelessness Strategy and the Local Delivery Plans;
- Linked in with strategic partners including the Drugs Action Team, the Learning Disabilities Partnership Board and the Asylum Seeker and Refugee Forum;

In addition to linking into a number of strategic areas of work, the five year plan outlined how the programme would be managed and identified plans for any additional expenditure that may become available. These developments included the following:

- Held regular Provider Forums to enable Housing Providers to carry out a dialogue with the Supporting People Team;

- Consultation with key stakeholders such as the Council's Children, Education, and Social Care service and the Housing Strategy service along with Registered Social Landlords and other housing providers;
- Holding regular Commissioning and Strategy Group meetings to inform and make decisions at local level about the focus of the Supporting People programme activities and to develop priorities for the Strategy.

Plans were then announced to mainstream the Supporting People Programme and the work over the last two financial years has been in preparation for the mainstreaming, of which the EIT review is part of that process. Recently strategy drivers in relation to Mental Health, Learning Disabilities, Women Fleeing Domestic Violence, Young People and Older People with Dementia, have all had Supporting People involvement designed to embed housing support into the main strategic developments of the Council and its' partners.

Carers Strategy/Other Independent Living Services:

The Carers Strategy is in the process of being updated following the update of the National Strategy and a subsequent consultation with local carers around the services they need and how those services should be delivered.

The strategy is setting out nine strategic priorities which have been identified by national strategy and local consultation. These are:

- Improved assessment and understanding of carers' needs
- Improved advice and information for carers
- Improved support for carers to maintain their own health and well-being
- Improved support for carers to carry out their caring role
- Improved support to help carers have a life away from caring
- Improved support to help carers wishing to enter employment, to do so
- Improved support for carers of people affected by dementia
- Improved support for young carers, designed for their particular needs
- Carers will be at the heart of service planning and evaluation

The strategic drivers for the Stockton Carers Strategy are:

- **Recognised, Valued and Supported :Next steps for the Carers Strategy (2010) HM Govt** which identifies the need to support carers in identifying themselves as carers at an early stage and to provide them with the personalised support they need to enable them to carry out their caring role while enabling them to fulfil their educational and employment potential and remain mentally and physically well.
- **Our Health, Our care, Our Say: A new direction for community services (2006) DH** which sets out the agenda to put people in control of their own health and care with the aim of enabling and supporting health, independence and well being.
- **Living well with dementia: A national dementia strategy(2009) DH** which aims to improve the services and support for people affected by dementia and their carers. The number of people affected by dementia in Stockton is

projected to increase by around 34% in the next 10 years and the number of carers to increase proportionately.

- **National Service Framework for Long Term Conditions (2005) DH** which sets to improve the lives of people with long term conditions and this includes supporting their carers.
- **Improving Life Chances of Disabled People (2005) HM Govt** which aims to improve the quality of life of disabled people and their carers.
- **Putting People First: A shared vision and commitment to the transformation of Adult Social care (2007) DH** which aims to ensure people have maximum choice and control over the services they receive and those services are personalised to meet individual needs.
- **The Vision for Adults: A Strategy for Adult Health and Care Services in Stockton-on-Tees 2009/2014:** Improving support for carers, and uptake of services by carers, forms part of the success criteria, but carers are seen as part of the whole system aimed at achieving high quality outcomes for all.
- **Stockton-on-Tees Independent Living Strategy (2009-2012)** Promotion and dissemination of information around independent living services reduces the need for support by carers.
- **Stockton-on-Tees JSNA 2010:** carer support services contribute to improving lifestyles, reducing health inequalities and enabling people to have greater independence, choice and control.

In terms of other services commissioned for people with long term conditions, sensory loss and physical disability we have followed a route of commissioning via the Long Term Conditions Group (Stockton and Hartlepool), which now has ceased due to changes in Primary Care Trust circumstances and; also the Independent Living Steering and Assistive Technology Steering Groups. The services are few in number and have been designed to follow other strategies and support needs identified within them.