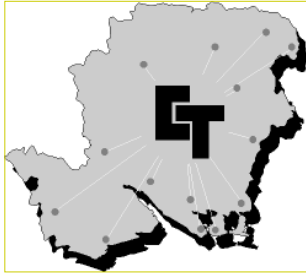


CARERS TOGETHER



Winter 2007

Volume 11 Issue 3

DO YOU CARE?

I
N
F
O
R
M
A
T
I
O
N

A
N
D

IN THIS ISSUE

Useful Numbers for Carers	Page 2
Editorial	Page 3
New Job Vacancies at Carers Together	Page 3
Internet Café	Page 3
Area Carers News	Page 4 - 7
Carers Training and Awareness Courses	Page 8
Carers Together Message Forum	Page 8
Innovation in local public services / Carers Cafes	Page 9
Annual Performance Assessment of Adult Services	Page 9
Guide to NHS Services in Hampshire / Southampton	Page 9
Carers Active Support Service	Page 10
Consultations	Page 10 - 17
Transformation of Adult Services	Page 18
Self care support / Extension of Direct Payments	Page 19
Health and Social Care	Page 20
Centres for independent living / Continuing healthcare	Page 20
NHS Operating Framework / NHS Choices	Page 21
Patient Safety report / Hospital Travel Costs Scheme	Page 22
Department of Health Quarterly Updates	Page 22
Guide to the NHS for planning authorities	Page 22
Our NHS our future	Page 23
Children and Young People issues	Page 24 - 25
News in brief	Page 26 - 28
Your Letters	Page 29
Carers Employment	Page 30
Carers Summit / Carers Active Listening Line	Page 31
Hampshire Carers Conference Report	Page 32

N
E
W
S

F
O
R

C
A
R
E
R
S

Produced by
Carers Together

9 Love Lane

Romsey

Hampshire SO51 8DE

Registered Charity No: 1051879

Limited Company No: 6262146

Telephone: 01794 519495

Fax: 01794 519895

Email:

admin@carerstogogether.org.uk

Website:

www.carerstogogether.org.uk

FREEPOST:

RRJZ-UEBJ-TULH

Carers Together

9 Love Lane

Romsey

SO51 8DE

**The views in this
newsletter are not
necessarily those of
Carers Together**

Editors:

Anne and Ann

Printed by

The Green Tree Press Ltd

1 Parham Drive

Boyatt Wood Industrial Estate

Eastleigh

Hampshire SO50 4NU

Tel: 023 8061 1234

Fax: 023 8064 4432

Email:

stu@greentreepress.co.uk

Distributed by

Sector Services

17 City Commerce Centre

Southampton SO14 3EW

Tel: 023 8023 2544

Email:

online@sectorservices.co.uk

**PLEASE LET US
KNOW IF YOU
REQUIRE A
LARGE PRINT
COPY**

Do you have an issue to raise or a comment to make?

LET US HAVE YOUR VIEWS

HAVE YOUR SAY

Why not send in an article, or write to us at **Carers Together?**
We will withhold your name and address from the newsletter at your
request, but cannot print any anonymous letters/articles received.

COPY DATE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE - 12 February 2008

Send your copy by Email: info@carerstogogether.org.uk or by post

ADVERTISING IN THIS NEWSLETTER

Carers Together are happy to include some advertising for organisations
who offer a service to carers. 'Do You Care?' is distributed to 4,000
addresses across Hampshire. There is a small charge towards our costs
and space is limited to half a page or less per advertisement. Should any
organisation wish to use this facility please contact Carers Together.

USEFUL NUMBERS FOR CARERS

AGE CONCERN Hampshire - Information/advice	0800 328 7154
AL - ANON for relatives	020 7403 0888
ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS	0845 769 7555
ALZHEIMERS SOCIETY - Helpline	0845 300 0336
BRITISH RED CROSS - Medical Loan	01730 266355
CARERS ACTIVE LISTENING LINE (CALL)	08000 3 23456
CARERS Helpline	08457 22 11 22
CHILDLINE	0800 1111
DWP - Job Seeker Direct	0845 60 60 234
DWP - Pensions Service	0845 60 60 265
ELDER ABUSE	0808 8088 141
HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL - Information	0800 028 0888
HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL	01962 841841
HEADWAY (Acquired Brain Injury)	023 9273 1931
LOCAL POLICE STATIONS - ALL	0845 045 45 45
MENCAP Helpline (Learning Disability)	0808 808 1111
NHS DIRECT	0845 46 47
PARENTLINEPLUS	020 7284 5500
PARKINSON'S DISEASE SOCIETY HELPLINE	0808 800 0303
SCOPE HELPLINE	0808 800 3333
SOCIAL SERVICES DIRECT	0845 600 45 55
SAMARITANS	0845 790 90 90
SENIORLINE	0808 808 7575

Key to special rate phone numbers

	Dialling code	Cost
Freephone	0500	Free
Freephone	0800	Free
Freephone	0808	Free
Lo-call rate	0845	Local call rate
National-call rate	0870	National call rate



Copies of all documents saying 'obtain from DH' are available free from
Department of Health Publications PO Box 777 London SE1 6XH

Response line: 08701 555 455 Fax: 01623 724524 Email: doh@prolog.uk.com Website: www.dh.gov.uk



This winter edition has the usual mix of legislation, consultations, publications and local news and views. We try to include an eclectic mix and almost inevitably miss some things people would like to know more about or include items that are not of interest.

We try to draw the attention of carers to the wide range of information, publications and legal issues that may and do affect them. People often quote three or four Acts as the only legislation that has a direct bearing on carers lives - but this assumes that carers are different and separate from the rest of the public. In fact carers are people first and have needs and aspirations as people as well as needs and interests as carers. Hence the mixture of news, views and information in this newsletter.

Whatever we include can only be a snapshot in time as the legislative process is always changing - as soon as we have gone to print another issue is raised. The government is continually introducing changing themes and many of these reflect the views and experiences of the public as well as government policy

This edition has several items of particular interest to most people and some specialist items. Our own carers support services (pages 4-8), county issues (pages 9-10), consultation (pages 11-17), changes to Adult Care and self directed support (pages 18-19), health, social care and the NHS (pages 20-23), children and young people (pages 24-25), news in brief (pages 26-28), your letters (page 29), information for carers (page 30-32).

Thank you to those who responded to our survey sent out with the last newsletter - it has been good to receive the feedback on our organisation and what it means to different people. It also gives us ideas for development and change. We also appreciate receiving your individual views throughout the year offering positive suggestions. We do try to reflect the results of your comments on our activities and publications but we cannot act on all of the suggestions as we have to try to balance the different views, interest, attitudes and wishes of all carers.

We are always pleased to welcome carers and other interested people to our Carers Centres in Romsey, Basingstoke, Horndean, Meon Valley, New Forest, and Southampton. Some sites are permanent bases for our staff, some are drop in facilities. All make carers and others welcome and provide information, advice, advocacy and support to carers. Our Romsey offices have meeting facilities and a new Internet Café for carers of any age and older people. Carers and older people are able to use a PC and access the internet any working day and there is a special supported group session twice a month.

It is a really important time for carers - make sure you take part in consultation on the Hampshire Carers Strategy and the Older People's Mental Health Strategy.

We hope the newsletter provides the information you need.

Editors

P.S Why not check out the new sessions at our Internet Café in Romsey? All carers and older people welcome. Call the office for more information or to book one of the sessions

Carers Action Planning for Emergencies Job Vacancies

This is a new scheme to assist carers to plan and prepare for emergencies. It builds on the Carers Emergency Planning training sessions included as part of our regular Carers Awareness Training Courses run across the county each year.

Carers Together is seeking a Team Leader/Project Manager and project workers to develop this new and exciting project to support carers across Hampshire.

The team leader will need good project management skills and the ability to develop this new service with all partners. The person appointed will have a thorough knowledge of all relevant carers services in the area, understand and empathise with carers and have the ability to develop the project and report back on progress.

The team members will be full or part time with a special ability to get alongside carers with empathy and work with them to develop their emergency plans. A knowledge of carers issues would be an advantage.

For more information and an information pack please contact:

Carers Together 9 Love Lane Romsey SO51 8DE
Tel: 01794 519495 Email: info@carerstogether.org.uk

CARERS OUTREACH COORDINATOR

Hi Everyone

Well can you believe its time for another newsletter, where does the time go? It has been a really busy time, for my job as well as covering the Basingstoke area. The carers cafés have been running smoothly. Instead of the usual break in August it was decided by the Carers that it would be nice to have a meeting, so a trip to Milestones Museum was arranged, which was very much enjoyed by those who attended. We now have the long awaited arrival of a new worker for Basingstoke, Michelle Armitage who has been in post for 2 months and has settled into her role like a duck to water. Michelle should be moving in to her new office at the end of December.

I have been busy setting up Chat to a friend and Chat to a group of friends. The first of the 3 groups started in November, with another 2 groups to follow. If you know of anyone who has a spare 45 minutes either once a fortnight or once a month to volunteer as a host / facilitator, I would love to hear from you. If interested please contact the Romsey office on 01794 519495.

Outreach is going well and I have attended many events throughout the county promoting Carers Together. I have yet to leave an event without finding a new carer or helping them with benefits e.g. Attendance Allowance, Disability Living Allowance and Carers Allowance along with any other benefit that may be relevant, or any information they may require. My Outreach diary for next year is already filling up January and February looks pretty busy. If you happen to see me and my faithful companion CISSI (the van) while out and about come over and say hello!!



Tracey Eldridge Carers Outreach Coordinator Tel: 01794 519495 Email: tracey@carerstogether.org.uk

BASINGSTOKE

Hello

My name is Michelle Armitage. I am the new Development and Support Worker for Carers Together in the Basingstoke and Alton area.

The follow Carers Cafes are being held in the area.

Alton Methodist Church	1st Wednesday of each month	12.30pm - 2.30pm
Basingstoke Carnival Hall	3rd Thursday of every month	10.30am - 12.30pm
South Ham Westside Community Centre	2nd Tuesday of each month	1.00pm - 3.00pm
Whitchurch/Overton The Cottage	4th Wednesday of each month	12.00noon - 2.00pm
Tadley	1st Thursday of each month	12.00noon - 2.00pm
Oakley	4th Tuesday of each month	2.30pm - 4.00pm

Carers Drop in clinic: The Wilson Surgery Alton every 4th Wednesday 3.00pm - 4.30pm starting January 2008. Please come and join us for an informal chat, sharing of information and a cup of tea/coffee.

Regards Michelle

Tel: 01256 353290 Email: michelle@carerstogether.org.uk

Carers Packs

Did you know that Carers Together produces a Carers Pack relevant to each area, with information that may be of some use to you? If you would like to receive an up to date copy of the Carers Pack, then please contact Carers Together
Tel: 01794 519495 or Email: admin@carerstogether.org.uk



You can find carers information at www.carerstogether.org.uk



HAVANT & PETERSFIELD and THE MEON VALLEY

Merry Christmas everyone!

2007 has been another busy year meeting lots of new carers and the people they care for, and sadly saying goodbye to some friends. I would like to remind you that you do not have to deregister from our database if your loved one is no longer with you. It is important to me and the carers who have become your friends that you continue to join in the Cafés and activities for as long as you wish, your contribution is still valued.

RELAXATION DAY

I am writing this on the Monday after our Carers Relaxation day which, as always, was a great day! I would like to thank all the therapists and helpers for their hard work. I would like to say how beautifully the carers sang and played the instruments in our musical session. I'd like to, but it wouldn't be true!!!! Still we enjoyed it!

Since the last newsletter we have also had our summer picnic which was held on the wettest day of the year. Fortunately we had an indoor venue as an alternative and the food and company were so good we didn't mind the torrential rain outside. My thanks to Mikala and Yvonne for the excellent food preparation.

Carers Cafés

We have some changes and additions.

Hayling Carers is now **Hayling Carers Club**. It meets the **2nd Tuesday of the month 2.00pm - 4.00pm** at Sunnyside Hall, 14 Webb Lane, Hayling Island. Open to all carers from all areas.

NEW NEW NEW

The Sunnyside Group for all carers and the cared for. **3rd Wednesday of the month 2.00pm - 4.00pm** at Sunnyside Hall, 14 Webb Lane, Hayling Island. Open to all carers from all areas.

OLD FAVOURITES

Petersfield Carers Café **1st Tuesday of the month 10.00am - 12.00noon**
at Winton House Pop-In, Winton House Centre, 18 High Street, Petersfield.

Emsworth Carers Café **3rd Thursday of the month 1.30pm - 3.30pm**
at Emsworth Pastoral Centre, The Square, Emsworth

Horndean Carers Café **2nd Tuesday of the month 10.00am - 12.00noon**
at Merchistoun Hall, 106 Portsmouth Road, Horndean.

Meon Valley Carers Support

Changes and additions.

The **Drop-In at the Paterson Centre** on the **2nd Wednesday of the month** now runs **11.00am - 12.00noon**

NEW NEW NEW

Bishops Waltham Café for all carers and the cared for. **2nd Wednesday of the month 12.30pm - 2.30pm**
at Our Lady Queen of the Apostle's (RC) Church, Martin Street, Bishops Waltham.

NEW NEW NEW

Soberton Heath Café for all carers and the cared for. **3rd Monday of the Month 1.30pm - 3.30pm**
at The Chapel, Chapel Road, Soberton Heath.

Carers Drop-In Call in for a confidential chat. **4th Tuesday of the month 11.00am - 1.00pm**
at Rear Office, The Paterson Centre, Swanmore. Appointments available or just drop-in.

I hope to see some carers I haven't met before as well as old friends at the December Cafés, the Christmas Lunch or the Christmas party.

Happy 2008 to you all.

Sylvia Hutchins – Merchistoun Hall 106 Portsmouth Road Horndean PO8 9LJ

Tel: 023 9259 5455 Email: sylvia@carerstogether.org.uk

NEW FOREST

The next date for your diary is for the Training and Awareness course for carers in the New Forest which will begin on Monday 7th January at 10.30am in Lyndhurst Baptist Church Hall and will run for 6 weeks. You will receive a separate invitation with full details this is just a bit of advance warning!



The Relaxation Day on the 8th September went really well. I think that all who came really enjoyed the day. I am always so grateful to the therapists and volunteers who every year make this day so memorable for the Carers, they are truly wonderful.



The New Forest Carers Forum have received a very generous gift from the Ladies of Barton on Sea Golf Club in excess of £3,700 so in addition to the trip to Portsmouth which will be financed by the Forum there will be other outings and activities in the New Year. If you have any ideas how you would like us to use this money, which is earmarked for Carers Respite i.e. time out, please speak to me. We intend to keep some back for emergency help and the next year's programme will be discussed at the meeting at the end of January.

As a reminder the Carers meetings in the New Forest are on

1st Wednesday Fordingbridge Café am,

1st Thursday Alzheimers meeting am at Everton, Brockenhurst Carers and Lyndhurst Café pm,

2nd Monday New Milton Carers pm,

2nd Thursday Ringwood Café am and Stroke Carers pm in Milford on Sea

2nd Friday Mental Health Carers pm,

3rd Tuesday Lymington Café am and Hythe Carers pm,

3rd Wednesday Alderholt Café am,

3rd Thursday Totton Cafe pm,

4th Wednesday Alzheimers at St Denys am.

Don't forget to drop in and see me on

Tuesday 8 January 9.00am - 11.00am, Tuesday 5 February 9.30am - 11.30am

NO drop-in in March as I am on leave then reverting to 1st Monday from 7 April otherwise I hope to see you at one of the cafés.

Do ring me for more details of any of the cafés.

Vicky 01425 622588 Email: vicky@carerstogether.org.uk

Leonard Cheshire Resource Centre, 16 Old Milton Road, New Milton, Hampshire BH25 6DX

CARERS CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Registered Charity No.1063112

www.knight-designs.co.uk/CCF/index.html

gaining in strength
by keeping in touch



A Quiet Day will be held in Furzey House on Friday 4 April from 10.00am to 4.00 pm. Cost £5 to Fellowship members and £15 non-members; the cost includes all refreshments including lunch. Please contact me for details or to register.

Vicky Tel: 07720 039740 or Email: victoria.howells@btinternet.com

SOUTHAMPTON

Cafes

New to Southampton! Parent Carers Café - a café in central Southampton for any parents caring for a son or daughter of any age with mental health problems, physical or learning disabilities, or drug dependency.

Each meeting will have a particular focus and will alternate between information that will be helpful in your caring role and sessions just about you – relaxation, keeping well etc.

Give me a call or just join us on one of the dates below for a coffee and a biscuit.

Bitterne Carers Café	Shirley Carers Café	Parent Carers Café
Bitterne Methodist Church Hall	Shirley Warren Action Church	Central Hall, St Mary's Street
First Thursday in the month	First Wednesday in the month	Third Thursday in the month
1.30pm - 3.30pm	1.00pm - 3.00pm	10.00am - 12.00noon
3 January	2 January	17 January
7 February – see below	6 February	21 February
6 March	5 March	20 March
3 April	2 April	17 April
1 May	7 May	15 May
5 June	4 June	19 June

Consultation – What do you think?

If you live in Southampton and are on our database, then watch out for a short questionnaire heading your way – Carers Together Southampton is consulting carers on what is important to them. You can fill out a short questionnaire, have a chat with me on the phone, or come to a small discussion group. The results from the survey will be gathered together into a report, which will be our 'starter for ten' at the AGM, details below...

Coming up

The AGM of Carers Together Southampton will be held on

Thursday 7 February at Bitterne Methodist Church Hall

The day will include a speaker, a tasty buffet lunch, and a quick workshop – it's over to you – what focus should Carers Together Southampton have for the future? Look out for your invitation coming through the post, or give me a call if you would like to come.

Also, I want to see lots of people at the:



This will be a day for you
a time out to pamper yourselves and just
have a bit of fun!

There will be refreshments, lunch, games
and activities and pampering sessions
available.

More details closer to the time.

Wendy Meredith - 9 Love Lane, Romsey, Hampshire SO51 8DE

Tel: 01794 519495 Mobile: 07921 700496 Email: wendym@carerstogether.org.uk

TRAINING AWARENESS AND SUPPORT

Hi everyone,

Since the last newsletter, I have organized and run my first Carers Awareness and Training Programme, which was held in the meeting room at the Romsey Office.

The training was held over five, two-hour sessions and each session had a main theme. **Understanding Community Services; Benefits & Direct Payments; Practical Help at Home; Moving and Handling** (back care) and last but not least, **Stress Management!** The speakers were a mix of 'outside' professionals and Carers Together employees, all of whom have a wealth of experience in their various fields and I'd like to take this opportunity to say a '**very big thank you**' to everyone involved. Without you all, it would not have happened!

The next training programme will be held in Lyndhurst on Monday 7, 14, 21 28 January and 4 February. We will be doing the mail out to carers living in that area so if you do not receive an invitation let us know. There are just over 400 carers in the New Forest area who are 'on our books' and I look forward to meeting some of you on the course in the New Year.

Training in the Havant/Petersfield area – April/May 2008

Training in the Basingstoke area – To be arranged for later in 2008

The Parent Carers Information Courses – The dates arranged so far are for Saturday 1, 15 and 29 March and will be for the day. Venues are yet to be confirmed. Shorter two hour courses are being arranged at the moment. The above courses are for parent/carers of children with disabilities (in transition – 14 years plus) and will be at different venues throughout the county.

With warm regards for Christmas and best wishes for a healthy and Happy New Year.

Jacky Thompson, Training Officer Tel: 01794 519495 Email: jacky@carerstogogether.org.uk

Carers Together Message Forum

Carers Together website message forum has been set up to support carers, who enjoy using the Internet and would like to make contact with other carers. This enables any carer to offload concerns, raise questions, respond to other topics raised or just 'chat' to other carers. It is NOT a public network and can only be accessed by carers who have registered with Carers Together.

It is easy to access the message forum. All you need to do is go to www.carerstogogether.org.uk and click on Message Forum. To register and access the Message Forum, do as the welcome window tells you – complete an enquiry form to Carers Together. The webmaster will then send you a password to access it and you are ready to go.

Once you have accessed the Message Forum, if you wish to post a new message, click the POST button in the centre green box. In the Post a New Message window, fill in your name, but you do not have to fill in any other details if you do not wish to, but please include a topic. Also, if you want a personal reply, please include an email address. This will be linked to an icon under your name in the topics window. Anyone who is part of the Message Forum can then click on it to send an email direct.

If you would like to become part of this Message Forum, but do not have access to a computer, then Carers Together does loan out computers to hands-on carers who wish to join. There is no membership fee involved, all we ask is that you maintain and regularly update the anti-virus software loaded on the PC. This not only protects the PC you are using, but also protects the people in your address book from receiving viruses from you. We do not provide internet access – that must be provided and paid for by the carer. We can however advise on where to get it and can help set it up when we deliver your computer. We can also give a couple of hours to show you how to use the computer and how to keep it up to date and basic maintenance. If you are interested in this, or would like to know more information, then please contact me.



Charlotte Meader Tel: 01794 519495 Email: charlotte@carerstogogether.org.uk



Romsey Carers Café

Romsey Carers Café continues meet on 1st and 3rd Fridays of each month with an interesting mixture of information, fun activities, and mutual support for carers in Southern Test Valley who look after or support someone with a long term illness or disability. Transport can be arranged if needed and the meetings end with an optional ploughman's lunch. We are a friendly informal group who share support, experiences, concerns and information, have a coffee or a snack lunch, chat with friends, collect information, access help with signposting to benefits available, find support, training and awareness. Alternate meetings we have a speaker and in November we heard from a Sister at Southampton University Hospital Trust about the stringent methods being used to reduce infections.

On Friday 7 December 2007 we held a special information and consultation day for carers to mark Carers Rights Day. This event, in partnership with Carers Together and Adult Services, aimed to help carers find solutions to the theme of the day 'Caring Costs'. It included information and discussion about Direct Payments, Self Directed Support, Carers Strategy, Joint Older Persons Mental Health Strategy and Benefits for carers.

**For information about the Carers Café in Southern Test Valley or for individual support
Tel: 01794 515126 or 519495 Email: admin@carersromsey.org.uk
or pop into 9 Love Lane Romsey any weekday between 9.30am and 4.30pm**

2008 Carers Café Meeting Dates

04 January	07 March	02 May	04 July	05 September	21 November
18 January	04 April	16 May	18 July	19 September	07 November
01 February	18 April	06 June	01 August	03 October	05 December

Annual Performance Assessment of Adult Care Services - 22 October 2007

This report summarises the findings of the 2007 annual performance assessment (APA) process for each council. The performance assessment notebook provides a record of the process of consideration by the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI), leading to an overall performance rating. The results for local authorities are:

Hampshire - Star rating 3

Delivering 'good' outcomes
Capacity for Improvement is 'excellent'

Portsmouth - Star rating 2

Delivering good outcomes
Capacity for Improvement is promising

Southampton - Star rating 3

Delivering good outcomes
Capacity for Improvement is excellent

Isle of Wight - Star rating 2

Delivering good outcomes
Capacity for Improvement is promising

Find more information: www.csci.org.uk/

Your Guide to Local NHS Services for Hampshire and Southampton

This guide, published by Hampshire and Southampton Primary Care Trusts brings you information about local health services and how you can help keep yourself healthy. It also includes useful telephone numbers / contact details. Find on: www.hampshirepct.nhs.uk/final_southampton.pdf

Seeing the light:

Innovation in local public services New Forest and Test Valley District Councils: A new kind of partnership

The partnership between New Forest and Test Valley was the first direct services partnership of its kind in local government. The partnership provides joint management of the direct labour workforces employed within their respective councils, which include refuse collection and recycling, street cleansing, building cleaning, transport, grounds maintenance and building works.

Find on:
www.improvementnetwork.gov.uk/imp/aio/1050789



Carers Active Support Service

Dear All,

Having realised that I have been in post for 6 months I thought it was time to introduce myself and my service. My name is Kim Upstill and I manage the Carers Active Support Service. I work Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday.

The service provides respite care for carers, but can also provide companionship to those living alone or in isolation. The staff, who have all been CRB checked, are a wonderful group of kind, capable, warm and understanding people. Together we cover the Winchester Area.

Access to the service is as simple as a telephone call to the Carers Together Office on 01794 519495. You do not have to go through Adult Services (Social Services). There are no eligibility criteria, only one of need. There are no client or carer assessments. There is no financial assessment, however there is a charge of £8.50 an hour but with no restriction on the number of hours received. Please be advised that this is not a hands-on service, so no personal care can be undertaken.

We are all so aware of how people's lives are changed when they become a carer. This service allows carers to leave their cared-for, with peace of mind and confidence.

Please feel free to contact me about any help you may need and I will do what I can.

Wishing you a peaceful Christmas and a happy New Year.

Kim

Email: kim.upstill@hants.gov.uk or kim.upstill@carerstogether.org.uk Mobile: 07921 700502

NB The service is growing and can cover areas other than Winchester if there is a demand - please contact the office if you would be interested in using the service so that the need can be assessed and appropriate action be taken

Healthy Horizons

Enabling the people of Hampshire to live longer and healthier lives - November 2007

'Healthy Horizons' was produced by the Hampshire Primary Care Trust (PCT) as the strategic framework for improving health in Hampshire. It sets out the priorities felt to be important in helping local people live healthier lives.

Planning for the future

The NHS has made significant progress in bringing about improvements in the lives of patients. However, changes in the population, in lifestyles and in clinical practice and technology mean the Health Service must adapt and respond to meet the needs of patients now and in the future.

The PCT needs to ensure it is well placed to respond to change and is looking ahead and planning for the next five to ten years. Recently it has looked at:

- ... how Hampshire's healthcare needs will develop
- ... how the PCT spends its money now and whether this is sustainable in the future
- ... how they perform against national/local targets
- ... what patients and public think about services

This work has shown us that in Hampshire there are four major challenges:

- ... modern lifestyle issues such as obesity, smoking and lack of exercise create demands on the NHS
- ... an ageing population in Hampshire is leading to more people living with long-term conditions, increasing the demand for healthcare and placing additional pressure on finite resources
- ... changing public expectations means a need to be more responsive/offer more personalised care
- ... advances in medical practice and technology are creating big opportunities to improve the quality of care but may also increase costs

Healthy Horizons is not a detailed blueprint for tackling the challenges but a broad direction of travel and identified key areas for action. During its development the PCT has taken into account the views of local residents, patients, carers, NHS staff and partners in health, local authorities and voluntary organisations. They want to hear what you think about what they've discovered so far and the priorities they've identified. Your feedback will help shape the operational plans that will put the strategic framework into action.

You can give your feedback by Email: yourviewscount@hampshirepct.nhs.uk or by post to:
Hampshire PCT FREEPOST (SCE14838) Healthy Horizons Waterlooville, Hants PO7 7BR

CONSULTATION

Older People's Well-Being Strategy

Launch date: 10th December 2007

Closing date: 10th March 2008

The draft Older People's Well-Being Strategy document is now available for consultation.

Hampshire County Council is keen to receive your comments on the proposed county priorities for partnership working over the next three years.

It has been written after listening to what older people have said is important to them about the way agencies should work together to improve the well-being of older people in Hampshire.

It builds upon the work started in autumn 2006 with two consultation workshops. That work and this draft strategy are structured round the 7 Dimensions of Independence, (developed by the Audit Commission and Better Government for Older People in 2004). They are recognised as representing the areas of an older person's life that need to be working effectively to allow them to remain independent with a positive quality of life.

Copies of the strategy or summary document can be obtained from Tel: 01962 845687 or by downloading from: www.hants.gov.uk/bettertime

Give your comments by using the feedback form, attached to the Strategy documents. Email to: wellbeing@hants.gov.uk or post to *Head of Older People's Well-Being Team, Chief Executive's Policy Unit, Hampshire County Council, The Castle, Winchester, SO23 8UJ.*

The final version of the strategy, agreed by key partners will be available from April 2008. The resulting work plan will be overseen by the county Joint Older People's Well-Being Steering Group.

Joint Hampshire Commissioning Strategy for Older People's Mental Health

Launch date: 3 December 2007

Closing date: 3 March 2008

Throughout 2007 many people who are interested in older people's mental health have helped Adult Services to develop a draft plan, 'The Joint Hampshire Commissioning Strategy for Older People's Mental Health'. This is now available for consultation and your views are being sought.

As part of this process they are asking:

- ... Does the strategy reflect your views on current services?
- ... Do you think the strategy will help to make services better?
- ... Do you see any problems in putting this strategy into practice?
- ... Do you think anyone is likely to be treated unfairly in putting this strategy into practice? (This might be due to age, disability, race, religion and belief, gender or sexual orientation)
- ... Can you see any problems in putting this strategy into practice relating to equality or diversity?
- ... Please tell them about examples of services or support that you feel represent good practice.

To obtain a copy of the covering letter and the summary plan Tel: 01962 833 040 or Email: adult.services.feedback@hants.gov.uk

Find on: <http://www3.hants.gov.uk/adult-services/older-people-mental-health-consultation.htm>

Send responses to: Older People's Mental Health Consultation, Adult Services, Freepost SO2077, Winchester SO23 8BR

Consultation on the regulations for Local Involvement Networks (LINKs)

Launch date: 28 September 2007 Closing date: 21 December 2007

The Government aims to strengthen the ability of local communities to influence what health and social care services are provided and how they are run.

To help achieve this aim, legislation is currently before Parliament to establish Local Involvement Networks (LINKs) across England. LINKs will be made up of individuals and groups from across the community. LINKs will be funded and supported to hold local health and social care services to account.

To enable LINKs to carry out their role, the legislation gives the Secretary of State a power to make regulations imposing duties on commissioners and certain providers of health and social care services to respond to LINKs (to requests for information and to reports and recommendations made to them by a LINK) and to allow entry by LINKs to premises under certain conditions.

This document outlines draft versions of these regulations, explains more about them, and asks for views and comments on them.

Find on: www.nhscentreforinvolvement.nhs.uk/index.cfm?action=PRE&PressID=30

To find out more about LINKs in your area or to send your views contact: Patient and Public Empowerment Team Commissioning and System Management Department of Health Skipton House London SE1 6LH
Tel: 020 7972 5324

Email: PPIMailbox@dh.gsi.gov.uk Web: www.dh.gov.uk/patientpublicinvolvement

CONSULTATION

Personalised care?

NHS Next Stage Review - Invitation to submit policy ideas - 19 November 2007

Lord Darzi has been asked to identify a way forward for a 21st century NHS for England, which is clinically driven, patient centred and responsive to local communities. Phase 2 of the Review is now underway, and the final report is due in June 2008.

The interim report envisages an NHS that provides world class quality care in all its aspects; care that is fair, personalised, effective and safe. The review is also a local process and in each strategic health authority area (SHA), groups of local clinicians and others are considering the evidence for improved models of care across 8 broad areas. Maternity & new born care, Children's health, Planned care, Mental health, Staying healthy, Long-term conditions, Acute care, End-of-life care.

Local events are being held to ensure that the views and experiences of staff, local stakeholders, public and patients inform the thinking of each pathway group. In addition, there has been an international clinical summit on 21-22 November so that those involved in the local pathway groups could hear and discuss best practice from abroad.

The local pathway groups will set out their proposed models of care in reports to their SHAs in the new year. They will also say what is preventing them from making, or could enable them to make, the improvements they believe are necessary. It will be possible to deal with much of this at local level, but some of the biggest issues will need to be resolved nationally. From the first phase of the Review, it is believed that many of the key barriers and enablers will fall under 7 headings: Quality improvement, Innovation, Workforce, Leadership, Primary & community care strategy, Informatics, Systems & incentives.

At the end of the Review, a decision will be taken on whether there is a case for an NHS constitution, as part of a new and enduring settlement for the NHS as it approaches its 60th birthday.

National working groups will consider a number of the themes. There will also be stakeholder deliberative events in the new year – look out for details on the website.

The timetable for the Review is tight, with working groups due to report at the end of February. On 19 November, Lord Darzi wrote to national health and social care stakeholders to invite them to submit policy ideas to the NHS Next Stage Review **by Friday 11 January 2008**. Further background, and a link to his interim report, can be found at the Review website: www.nhs.uk/ournhs

The New Place Survey: Consultation

Launched: 14 December 2007 Closing date: 8 February 2008

This document sets out proposals for a new survey to be carried out by local authorities. The survey will ask local people for their perceptions about the area in which they live. The results of the survey will provide data for 20 of the new National Indicators. Respond by Email: placesurvey@communities.gsi.gov.uk or on line: <http://placesurvey.communities.gov.uk/home/> or in writing: Jo Harper Communities and Local Government Zone 4/J2 Eland House Bressenden Place London SW1E 5DU. Find on: www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/newplacesurvey

**Believing we can
Promoting the contribution faith-based
organisations can make to reducing
adult and youth re-offending
Launched: 27 November 2007
Closing date: 22 February 2008**

This consultation wants to overcome the challenges of working in effective partnership with faith-based organisations and increase their role in prevention and reducing re-offending. This paper sets out the reasons why, consults on a way forward and asks questions to determine actions and responsibilities that can strengthen the role of faith-based organisations in reducing re-offending. Find on: http://noms.justice.gov.uk/news-publications-events/publications/consultations/BWC_third_sector_08/

**"Face-to-Face and Side-by-Side":
A framework for inter faith
dialogue and social action
Launched: 17 December 2007
Closing Date: 7 March 2008**

This consultation paper seeks views on the development of a framework for partnership which will support increased inter faith dialogue and social action. Find on: www.communities.gov.uk/publications/communities/interfaithdialogue
Respond to: Towards a framework for inter faith dialogue and social action Communities and Local Government 7th Floor Zone H9 Eland House Bressenden Place London SW1E 5DU or Email: interfaith@communities.gsi.gov.uk

CONSULTATION

Finding a Shared Vision of How People's Mental Health Problems should be understood: Consultation on guidance

Launch date: 28 November 2007 Closing date: 5 March 2008

The Care Services Improvement Partnership (CSIP) has developed draft guidance for consultation on 'Finding a shared vision of how people's mental health problems should be understood'. The guidance is aimed at everyone concerned with the development and delivery of services including people that use services and their carers.

This consultation seeks views on the draft guidance. The guidance aims to:

- ... identify a shared vision of how people's mental health problems should be understood that is recognised equally by different provider groups and by service users and their carers
- ... to raise awareness of the wide variety of different approaches to assessing mental health problems and wellbeing and
- ... to build mutual understanding of these different approaches as resources for drawing together, through a shared process between service users, carers and service providers, ways of understanding a mental health problem that reflect the particular and different strengths and needs of individual service users.

Views are sought on the draft guidance both specific questions as well as general comments. The information received back will be considered, to revise the draft and publish a final version planned to be in May 2008.

Find the consultation questions and the guidance on www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Liveconsultations/DH_080913

Responses or questions to: Bill Fulford, Ruth Kent Care Services Improvement Partnership 655 The Crescent Colchester Business Park Colchester Essex CO4 9YQ
Tel: 01206 287544 Email: sharedvisionconsultation@csip.org.uk

Consultation on the draft revised Mental Health Act 1983 Code of Practice

Launch date: 25 October 2007 Closing date: 24 January 2008

The consultation document invites your comments on the draft revised Mental Health Act 1983 Code of Practice (in the light of the Mental Health Act 2007).

The Code provides guidance to registered medical practitioners ("doctors"), approved clinicians, managers and staff of hospitals and approved mental health practitioners (who have defined responsibilities under the provisions of the Act), on how they should proceed when undertaking duties under the Act. It should also be considered by others working in health and social services (including the independent/voluntary sectors). Find on http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Liveconsultations/DH_079842

Mental Health Act 2007: consultation on secondary legislation

Launch date: 25 October 2007 Closing date: 24 January 2008

This consultation relates to the secondary legislation which gives effect to changes which are being introduced under the 2007 Act in October 2008. The secondary legislation in question consists of the:

- ... Mental Health (Hospital, Guardianship and Treatment) Regulations 2008
- ... Mental Health Act 1983 (Independent Mental Health Advocates) Regulations
- ... Mental Health (Approval of Persons to be Approved MH Professionals) (England) Regulations 2008
- ... Mental Health Act 1983 (Approved Clinician) Directions 2008
- ... Mental Health (Conflicts of Interest) (England) Regulations 2008
- ... Mental Health (Mutual Recognition) (England and Wales) Regulations 2008
- ... Mental Health Act 2007 (Commencement No [to be inserted] and After-care under Supervision: Savings, Modifications and Transitional Provisions) Order 2008; and
- ... Mental Health (Nurses) (England) Order 2008

Find on: http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Liveconsultations/DH_079832

Please sent comments on the content of the consultation documents to: Mental Health Legislation Team
Department of Health Wellington House 133-155 Waterloo Road London SE1 8UG
Email: MentalHealthAct2007@dh.gsi.gov.uk

CONSULTATION

Improving Health, Supporting Justice: A consultation

Launch date: 27 November 2007

Closing date: 4 March 2008

This consultation seeks views on how the Department of Health, the Department for Children, Schools and Families, the Ministry of Justice, the Youth Justice Board and the Home Office can best work together to improve health and social care services for people subject to the criminal justice system.

The publication of this document signals the start of a consultation process on how health and social care services can be improved for people subject to the criminal justice system. This is a joint initiative between the Department of Health, Department of Children, Schools and Families, Ministry of Justice, Youth Justice Board and the Home Office. Between them, these government departments/agencies have responsibility for health, social care and all the component services within the criminal justice system.

Contact: Offender Health Team Department of Health Wellington House 133-155 Waterloo Road London SE1 8UG

Find on:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Liveconsultations/DH_080816

Improving Outcomes from Health and Safety: A call for evidence

Launch date: 27 November 2007

Closing date: 31 January 2008

This review seeks views on how the health and safety regime affects small employers and employers whose overall risk is relatively low.

Its objective is to find ways to make compliance easier for these organisations, improve health and safety outcomes for their employees, and maintain the confidence of the public in the health and safety system as a whole.

Information about the review, the regime, more detailed questions and details of the confidentiality policy can be found on: http://bre.berr.gov.uk/regulation/reform/health_safety/index.asp

If you have comments or any other thoughts or would like to be invited to an event near you contact:

Ben Davison Email: Ben.Davison@berr.gsi.gov.uk or write to: Review of Health and Safety Better Regulation Executive BERR 1 Victoria Street, 3136 London SW1H 0ET or Tel: 020 7215 0278.

Consultation launched into the use and sharing of personal information

Launched: 12 December 2007

Closing date: 15 February 2008

A consultation into how personal information is used and shared in the public and private sectors was launched on 12 December 2007.

The consultation forms part of an independent review into use and sharing of personal information. It asks how and why information is shared and used; whether the Data Protection Act offers sufficient safeguards; what impact technological advances have had on the protection of personal information; and whether there are lessons the UK can learn from other countries.

The review, led by Dr Mark Walport and Richard Thomas, will assess how personal information is used and shared by organisations across the public and private sectors and how data sharing policy should be developed to ensure proper transparency, scrutiny and accountability. It will report back in the first half of 2008.

Dr Mark Walport said: 'Access to accurate information is key to many organisations' ability to deliver services and meet their objectives. But when using personal, private information, the utmost care and security is required. The recent loss of millions of peoples' private details serves as a stark illustration of what can happen when this principle is not followed. This review seeks to establish when and how personal information should be used, what safeguards should be in place and whether the powers and sanctions available are adequate.' Richard Thomas said: 'The review will be concentrating on information sharing. When do public bodies, in particular, need to make use of personal information held by others to do their job properly? Law enforcement, child protection and more personalised services may be examples. But we will need to assess the dangers if information is shared too freely.'

The terms of reference of the review into the use and sharing of personal information were announced on 23 November 2007. Find on: www.justice.gov.uk/news/announcement_231107a.htm

Copies of the consultation document and the response form are available online at: www.justice.gov.uk/reviews/datasharing-intro.htm

The consultation seeks views from the public, professionals involved using and sharing personal information, and others with an interest in data sharing and protection. The consultation seeks real life examples of data sharing, and views on current data protection legislation and safeguards.

CONSULTATION

Valuing people now: from progress to transformation - a consultation on the next three years of learning disability policy

Launch date: 4 December 2007 Closing date: 11 March 2008

Care Services Minister Ivan Lewis recently launched a consultation to seek views on the priorities for learning disability for the next three years. 'Valuing People Now - From Progress to Transformation' is a cross-government consultation which sets the agenda across a range of issues, including health and well-being, housing, employment, education and community inclusion. It builds on the vision set out in Valuing People (2001) which was the first white paper on learning disability for thirty years - a vision based on the four main principles of rights, independence, choice and inclusion.

The key areas it will focus on are:

- ... the personalisation agenda - having choice and control through individual budgets, direct payments, person centred planning and advocacy;
- ... what people do - helping people to be socially included in their local communities, with a particular focus on paid work;
- ... better health - ensuring that the mainstream NHS provides full and equal access to good quality healthcare and that specialist healthcare services are modernised;
- ... access to housing - ensuring that people have access to housing that they want and need with a focus on home ownership and real tenancies;
- ... making sure that change happens - making learning disability partnership boards more effective and checking that the things we say should happen do actually happen.

Care services Minister, Ivan Lewis said: "People with learning disabilities have a right to live independently as equal citizens in our society. Valuing People represented a major step forward in policy and has led to many improvements for some people with learning disabilities in some parts of the country. However, our challenge now is to make independent living and equal citizenship a reality for all people with learning disabilities in every part of the country.

Valuing People Now retains the fundamental principles of Valuing People while seeking to secure transformation over the next few years on issues such as housing, employment, access to mainstream NHS Services and maximum control and choice for people with learning disabilities, and where appropriate carers over their support.

I urge people with learning disabilities, their carers and front-line professionals to respond to this consultation over the next 3 months so the final strategy can achieve a major revitalisation of the Valuing People agenda and reflect peoples every day aspirations and experiences."

Dame Jo Williams, Chief Executive of Mencap, said: "This is a much-welcomed step forward to ensure Valuing People really makes a difference to the lives of people with a learning disability. It is particularly good news as it puts the individual in control of their care. Next Steps aims to give real teeth to the original 2001 Valuing People report, which aimed to make the lives of people with a learning disability and their families better. All government departments and local authorities must make sure they really get behind Valuing People Next Steps, if it is to fulfil its potential to genuinely improve lives."

The Department of Health will set out proposals for the next three years, based on the responses that they receive to the consultation, in a document to be published by summer 2008.

Find on: www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Liveconsultations/DH_081014

Services for people with learning disability and challenging behaviour or mental health needs [Mansell report - revised edition 2007]

6 November 2007

Services for people with learning disabilities and challenging behaviour/mental health needs is an updated version of the guidance originally produced by Professor Mansell and his project team in 1993. This good practice guidance sets out the actions that should be taken in order to effectively meet the needs of people with challenging behaviour. The guidance contained in this document supports the agenda set out in 'Valuing People' (2001) and the focus on personalisation and prevention in social care.

For more information contact: Social Care Policy & Innovation 120 Wellington House 133-155 Waterloo Road London SE1 8UG

Email: SCPI-Enquiries@dh.gsi.gov.uk Find on: www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_080129

CONSULTATION

Annual health check consultation: Commission sets out proposals for 2008/09 assessment of NHS trusts Launched: 20 December 2007 Closing date: 12 March 2008

The Healthcare Commission is launching a concerted drive to ensure all patients have a guarantee of basic standards of care in compliance with the Government's core standards on healthcare. The standards set out by the Government in 2004, describe a minimum level of performance all trusts must meet.

Subject to legislation, the new health and social care regulator will develop a registration system for trusts that provide services. The Commission will work with the NHS, strategic health authorities and Monitor to support trusts to reach compliance with standards for all patients by 2009, ready for this registration.

The proposals are part of plans for the 2008/2009 annual health check. A key feature is that it will achieve a better tailored assessment for all trust types, which reflect the services they provide. Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) will have more flexibility to agree local priorities with partners and the Healthcare Commission intends to publish comparative information on the performance of PCTs against national and local priorities so that local communities can see how their PCT is doing.

The Commission proposes to maintain one overall assessment for PCTs, but plans to score trusts for how they buy services on behalf of patients and how they provide services. It will provide a clear independent assessment of PCTs purchasing role, which is a very important one for patients. It is committed to ensuring its assessment complements rather than duplicates the SHA's role as performance managers of PCTs.

The proposals aim to maintain stability in the annual health check and make the modifications necessary to reflect changes in the healthcare system, such as the Department of Health's Operating Framework for the NHS for 2008/09 which was published last week. (see page 21)

The Commission will continue to focus on the things that matter most to patients including safety, clinical quality, the experience of patients, reducing health inequalities and the health of children. Health and healthcare to be assessed include areas of key concern to patients/public such as healthcare associated infection; 18 week wait; improving health/well-being of the population and the experience of patients.

In 2008/2009, the Commission will further build on its work with patient groups, in particular local and community based patient organisations. As part of the health check, feedback from local patients and the public is vital in crosschecking the declarations made by trusts on their compliance with standards and identifying areas of concern. The Commission will also look at how well trusts are engaging with and being responsive to patients when planning services. This programme will begin in April 2008.

There is also a consultation on proposals to conduct three in-depth reviews:

- 1 palliative and end of life care
- 2 commissioning for learning disability services based on our recent audit on the provision of such services (working with the Commission for Social Care Inspection and the Mental Health Act Commission)
- 3 the safety of medicines being prescribed in primary care, focusing on the interface between hospital and primary care following discharge. This will focus on PCTs' role in assuring safety.

Find on: <http://2007ratings.healthcarecommission.org.uk/homepage.cfm> To comment on the Commission's proposals go to: http://forms.healthcarecommission.org.uk/ShowForm.asp?fm_fid=405

Email: feedback@healthcarecommission.org.uk Write to: Consultation Healthcare Commission Freepost Lon London EC1B 1QW Tel: 0845 601 3012 Fax: 0207 448 9391

Third sector strategic funding and investment review Launched 12 December 2007 Closing date: 20 March 2008

The Department of Health is undertaking a review to develop a strategic framework for its investment in the third sector that transforms current piecemeal arrangements into a strategic portfolio of investment that more explicitly supports delivery of the Department's objectives and priorities. There are a number of events and forums planned. Feedback and publication of a response document are expected in early summer of 2008.

To respond to the consultation, access the documentation or take part in the events and forums Find on: www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Liveconsultations/DH_081183

You can contact the review team direct: Third Sector Funding Review Room 5E40 Quarry House Quarry Hill Leeds LS2 7UE Tel: 0113 25 46741 Email: thirdsectorfundingreview@dh.gsi.gov.uk

CONSULTATION

Towards Lifetime Neighbourhoods: Designing sustainable communities for all. A discussion paper

Published: 19 November 2007

Lifetime neighbourhoods are those which offer everyone the best possible chance of health, wellbeing, and social, economic and civic engagement regardless of age. They provide the built environment, infrastructure, housing, services and shared social space that allow us to pursue our own ambitions for a high quality of life. They do not exclude us as we age, nor as we become frail or disabled.

This publication is available free of charge from Communities and Local Government Publications, PO Box 236, Wetherby LS23 7NB. Tel: 0870 1226 236, Fax: 0870 1226 237, Textphone: 0870 1207 405, Email: communities@twoten.com. Please quote the product code 07 HHS 04920 when ordering. Delivery will be 5 to 7 days from receipt of order. A maximum quantity restriction may apply. For an enquiry about your order please contact customer services on 0870 1226 236, open Monday to Friday 08:00 - 18:00. Download from: www.communities.gov.uk/publications/communities/lifetimeneighbourhoods?view=Order+form&supplierId=437877

£4.9bn to support independent living

On 6 December 2007 the Communities Minister announced £4.9bn funding for Supporting People over the next three years. The funding will help over a million vulnerable people each year, including victims of domestic violence, teenage parents, older people and those with mental health problems - enabling them to live independently in their own accommodation.

Supporting People is a major part of the drive to tackle social exclusion, deliver social justice and support the third sector in delivering vital services. It supports over 800,000 older people, 40,000 single homeless people, 36,000 people with mental health problems, and 8,000 women at risk of domestic violence at any one time.

Funding allocations are now based upon need, which is a fairer and better use of public funds. This first ever three year settlement for Supporting People, along side a radically slimmed down performance framework, which includes two performance indicators for housing support, will provide councils with a much greater level of certainty of funding, greater flexibility on spending and the ability to plan ahead and use money more effectively by entering longer term contracts to provide housing support services that will save money.

An Action Plan for Community Empowerment: Building on Success 19 October 2007

This document brings together the actions that Communities and Local Government is taking to enable more people to play an active role in the decisions that affect their communities; from participatory budgeting and measures to strengthen the role of local councillors, to the empowerment of young people and calls for action through petitions and other forms of participation. This publication is only available online. Find on: www.communities.gov.uk/publications/communities/communityempowermentactionplan

Creating Strong, Safe and Prosperous Communities Statutory Guidance:

Launch date: 20 November 2007

Closing date: 12 February 2008

The draft document provides guidance to local authorities and their partners on creating strong safe and prosperous communities, specifically relating to new legislation introduced in the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.

The guidance covers, Local Strategic Partnerships, Sustainable Community Strategies, the new duty to involve, Local Area Agreements, the revised best value regime and commissioning.

This publication is only available online

Have your say - Respond to this consultation online, by email or in writing, using the following address: *Jo Harper Communities and Local Government 4/J2 Eland House London SW1E 5DU*

Joint Strategic Needs Assessment

The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 requires Primary Care Trusts and local authorities to produce a Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) of the health and wellbeing of its local community. Responses to 'Commissioning Framework for Health and Wellbeing' called for greater clarity on undertaking JSNA.

This guidance, which complements the statutory guidance Creating Strong, Safe and Prosperous Communities (currently out for consultation - see above), provides tools for local partners undertaking JSNA. It describes the stages of the process, including stakeholder involvement, engaging with communities, recommendations on timing/linking with other strategic plans. It also contains a core dataset, and guidance on using JSNA to inform local commissioning, publishing and feedback.

Find on: www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_081097

Putting people first

A shared vision and commitment to the transformation of adult social care 10 December 2007

Across Government, the shared ambition is to put people first through a radical reform of public services, enabling people to live their own lives as they wish, confident that services are high quality and promote their own individual needs for independence, well-being and dignity.

Five cabinet members have signed '**Putting People First**' as lead partners with involvement in the reform process - Health Secretary Alan Johnson, Chief Secretary of the Treasury Andy Burnham, Communities and Local Government Secretary, Hazel Blears, Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills, John Denham, Education Secretary Ed Balls, Work and Pensions Secretary Peter Hain as well as Leader of the Local Government Association Sir Simon Milton, NHS Chief Executive David Nicholson and President of the Association of Adult Directors of Social Care Anne Williams.

This ministerial concordat establishes the collaboration between central and local government and sets out the shared aims and values which will guide the transformation of adult social care over the next three years. It recognises that the sector will work across shared agendas with users and carers to transform people's experience of local support and services.

An extra £520 million of ring fenced funding will be allocated to councils as a Social Care Reform grant over the next three years through the introduction of Personal Care budgets. The grant includes some NHS resources in recognition of the impact social care can have on improving people's health and well-being. It is worth £85 million in 2008/09, £195 million in 2009/10 and £240 million in 2010/11. The grant will be paid to councils on top of the core PSS funding and **in addition to** the increases in other DH grants recently announced, including those for carers, mental health and the social care workforce.

Progress on social service transformation will be monitored by the independent regulator against the outcome-focused metrics set out in the National Indicator Set. The new Care Quality Commission's performance assessment will contribute to the Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA).

Key elements of the transformation programme in every community will include:

The concordat identifies the following elements that will be central to transformed local services:

- 1 The vast majority of people who receive funded care using their own personal budgets so they can decide which support services they want. An increasing number supported to use direct payments
- 2 High quality care homes, homecare and day services to be rewarded. Poor performers failing to respect people's dignity to no longer be used by local councils and the NHS
- 3 First-stop shops offering information, advice and advocacy about community services e.g. local community equipment providers, fall services or domiciliary support and transport links to help people, irrespective of their means, choose care for themselves or a family member.
- 4 Investing in support that keeps older people healthy and with local councils and voluntary organisations taking joint responsibility for tackling loneliness and isolation amongst older people
- 5 Carers to be treated as equal partners and experts by professionals. New specific support for carers will be announced by the Prime Minister in spring 2008.
- 6 Closer collaboration between the NHS and local government so that people receive more coordinated and efficient support in the community including co-located services, e.g. social workers based in primary health centres alongside GPs and nurses
- 7 Assessments and paperwork to be streamlined so social workers are able to spend more time on the frontline and less time with their computers
- 8 A network of 'champions' in every community promoting dignity for older people
- 9 Inter-generational programmes bringing older and younger people together in schools, day centres and neighbourhood housing schemes
- 10 New technology to be at the heart of ensuring people can remain in their own homes and live independently.

Find on:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_081118

Research evidence on the effectiveness of self care support

20 November 2007

This document provides an evidence base on the effectiveness of self care support, such as information, self care support devices, self care skills training and self care support networks in the care of people with long term health conditions, short term ailments and among those taking initiatives to stay healthy.

The purpose of the document is to draw the attention of commissioners and practitioners across the country to the evidence base which not only highlights the impact on the care system of supporting self care but also provides, through a large number of research studies, practical examples of what self care support services may look like and how they can be implemented in a variety of different local settings.

The evidence base explores a large number of systematic reviews (160), primary research studies (240) and surveys covering the different types of self care support interventions. The reviews and studies also cover a range of health problems, conditions and issues including arthritis, asthma, cancer, depression, diabetes, mental health, obesity, pain, other long term conditions, minor ailments and health promotion.

Overall the evidence suggests that self care support can result in beneficial health outcomes for people and more appropriate use of health and social care services. It should help ensure that self care support becomes an integral part of an effective and efficient healthcare system throughout the country.

When looking at the types of self care support interventions, it is important to note that self care support services are already being provided in routine business in some places by nurses, physiotherapists, GPs, health visitors, social workers, carers, health assistants and others in primary health care centres, people's own homes, day centres or hospitals. The problem is that these services may be called by different names in different settings or may be provided in some areas locally, but not consistently nationally across the country. Some may be provided for people with asthma but not for people with arthritis, whereas there may be potentially equal benefits in providing such support services across a range of condition groups. Similarly, some areas of the country may have well structured strategies or policies to support self care but such initiatives though having significant potential benefits may not exist in other parts of the country.

Obtain from DH (see page2) or find on

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_080689

The extension of direct payments

Last modified date: 16 November 2007

Direct payments are cash in lieu of social services. They offer individuals who are assessed as needing community care services the opportunity to arrange their own personalised care, rather than receiving services directly provided by a local authority. Direct payments have been available for adults of working age since 1997. The scheme was extended in 2000 to include older people and was further extended in 2001 to include carers, parents of disabled children and 16 and 17 year olds.

Direct payments are currently not available to people lacking capacity, as defined by the Mental Capacity Act 2005. Current legislation states that an individual must be able to give his or her consent in order to receive a direct payment. People who lack capacity are unable to give this consent.

The government made a commitment in the 2006 White Paper Our health, our care, our say, to extend the availability of direct payments to 'those groups who are excluded under the current legislation.' The Health and Social Care Bill helps to deliver this commitment by extending the availability of direct payments to those who lack capacity. It allows a direct payment to be made to a 'suitable person' who can receive and manage the payment on behalf of a person who lacks capacity.

Currently those excluded from receiving direct payments due to a lack of capacity to consent include some adults with head injuries, some people with dementia and severely disabled children moving into adulthood where they would lose their direct payment under current legislation.

The new legislation will enable the parents of a child with learning disabilities who are in receipt of direct payments, under section 17A of the 1989 Children Act, to continue to be able to receive them once their child reaches 18 years of age. Currently, the young adult loses their direct payment once they turn 18.

Extending direct payments to these groups of people will increase individuals' independence.

See Health and Social Care Bill (page 19) Find on: www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Legislation/Actsandbills/HealthandSocialCareBill/DH_080454

Health and Social Care Bill

The Health and Social Care Bill was introduced into Parliament on 15 November 2007. It contains significant measures to modernise and integrate health and social care.

The Health and Social Care Bill contains four key policy areas:

Care Quality Commission

The Care Quality Commission will be a new integrated regulator for health and adult social care bringing together existing health and social care regulators into one regulatory body, with tough new powers to ensure safe and high quality services.

Professional regulation

The reform of professional regulation will enhance public and professional confidence in the system of professional regulation and strengthen clinical governance as part of the Government's response to the Shipman Inquiry.

Public health protection measures

The public health protection part of the Bill provides a comprehensive set of public health measures to help prevent and control the spread of serious diseases caused by infection and contamination.

Health in Pregnancy Grant

The Health in Pregnancy Grant will be a one-off payment to expectant mothers ordinarily resident in the UK, to help with the costs of a healthy lifestyle, including diet, in the later stages of pregnancy.

The Health and Social Care Bill also includes a number of smaller measures:

- ... The transfer of the global sum for pharmaceutical services
- ... Powers to extend membership of NHS indemnity schemes
- ... The extension of direct payments
- ... Changes to the National Assistance Act 1948
- ... The creation of a power for the Secretary of State to give financial assistance to social enterprises
- ... The creation of the National Information Governance Board for Health and Social Care
- ... The abolition of the National Biological Standards Board and the transfer of its functions to the Health Protection Agency
- ... Legislative cover for performance management and routine feedback to parents as part of the National Child Measurement Programme

The Department of Health has published impact assessments for those areas of the Bill which met the cost threshold for requiring an impact assessment. Impact assessments are tools to examine the potential effects, including costings, of the measures proposed by Government departments. The cover note for the impact assessments explains which parts of the Bill required an impact assessment and why. It also sets out why the Department considers that those measures not requiring an impact assessment will not have an adverse impact on equality.

Find on:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Legislation/Actsandbills/HealthandSocialCareBill/index.htm

Any queries or comments on the Health and Social Care Bill should be directed to:

The Health and Social Care Bill Team health&socialcarebill@dh.gsi.gov.uk

Centres for Independent Living and Local user-led Organisations: A discussion paper 28 September 2007

This report was written in July 2006 by Jenny Morris. Commissioned by the DH Valuing People Support Team, the report looks at what needs to happen in order to fulfil the recommendation in the Improving Life Chances report that: "By 2010, each locality (defined as that area covered by a Council with social services responsibilities) should have a user-led organisation modelled on existing CILs (Centres for Independent Living)"

Find on: www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PolicyAndGuidance/DH_078838

NHS continuing healthcare and NHS-funded nursing care public information leaflet

Continuing NHS healthcare and NHS-funded nursing care is provided over an extended period of time to meet physical or mental health needs that have arisen as a result of disability, an accident or illness. The care can be provided in a variety of settings including a hospital, nursing home, hospice or the patient's own home. This leaflet has been produced to answer your questions about NHS continuing healthcare and NHS-funded nursing care following changes that were introduced on 1 October 2007 when the National Framework for NHS Continuing Healthcare and NHS-funded Nursing Care was implemented. Find on: www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PolicyAndGuidance/DH_079515

The NHS in England: The operating framework for 2008/9 - 20 December 2007

The Operating Framework sets out a brief overview of the priorities for the NHS next year. It is accompanied by annexes (some part of the document, some virtual) which provide more detail on the priorities, how they are measured and how the new arrangements for managing the system will work.

The 2008-09 Operating Framework sets out:

- 1 The health and service priorities for the year ahead:** freeing up the front line by moving towards local stretch targets, whilst delivering on national priorities. 2008/09 is the start of the next three-year planning round. In this context, the Operating Framework sets out the priorities and planning framework for the NHS for the 2008/09 financial year, within the context of the 3 year CSR period 2008/09 - 2010/11
- 2 The reform levers and enabling strategies:** reform with a purpose - to improve services. The focus will be on developing world class commissioning as the key agent for change on behalf of patients and the public, using the full range of levers and incentives to transform services and improve outcomes
- 3 The financial regime:** setting out a framework that fully supports reform goals and incentivises transformational improvements in services within available resources. Key to this will be the need to sustain the surpluses the NHS is on track to deliver

The business processes: ensuring a business-like and transparent approach to planning that supports locally led decisions whilst providing accountability. There is a strong emphasis on genuine partnership working at a local level with local government and other partners to ensure that local health and wellbeing needs are better understood and addressed in partnership.

Related documents

- ... Letter from David Nicholson, NHS Chief Executive, covering the Operating Framework for 2008/09, and confirming the PCT Resource Allocations for the year
- ... Delivering health and well-being in partnership: the crucial role of the new local performance framework
- ... Practice based commissioning - budget setting refinements and clarification of health funding flexibilities, incentive schemes and governance
- ... Guidance on preparation of local IM&T plans for 2008/09
- ... Efficiency appendix to NHS Operating Framework
- ... Generic choice model for long term conditions
- ... Privacy and Dignity: the elimination of mixed sex accommodation



Find on:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_081094

NHS CHOICES

In the summer 2007 the NHS launched a new online information source to help deliver choice and personalised healthcare for all. The Government's aim is that from April 2008, patients will be able to choose from any hospital that meets NHS standards and costs. NHS Choices will provide the information required by patients to make full use of the extended choices available to them.

NHS Choices will bring benefits to patients and health professionals. People using the site can find good quality information about medical conditions, treatments, advice on healthy living, and comparative data on hospitals. The service is designed to help people make the most of their own health and get the best out of the UK's healthcare system. It is anticipated that it will lead to increased treatment compliance and a reduction in missed appointments. The website will use state-of-the art interactive and multi-media technology to reach the most disadvantaged groups in society.

Frontline staff will be able to use the new service to help patients in poorer communities where internet and broadband availability is low. Information will be provided in a number of different formats e.g. audio programmes will be available for streaming to local radio stations.

NHS Choices will provide a unique 'one-stop shop' of easily accessible information using the combined experience and expertise of nhs.uk, NHS Direct, the National Electronic Library for Health, the Information Centre, the Healthcare Commission, and other health and social care organisations, the new website will assist patients and health professionals to make informed and personalised health choices. .

NHS Choices is a long-term project, which will continue to evolve over the next 18 months with new features and content added via a series of planned new releases. The new service is flexible and will continually improve and adapt in response to feedback from those in and outside, of the NHS.

Find on: www.nhs.uk/Pages/homepage.aspx

New safety report gives insight into patient deterioration

16 November 2007

This report sets out why deterioration incidents happen and helps NHS staff working in acute hospitals to improve patient safety. It includes a checklist of questions, a toolkit, links to a variety of resources and good practice examples. Common factors contributing to deterioration incidents include:

- ... Not taking observations
- ... Not recognising early signs of deterioration
- ... Not communicating observations that cause concern
- ... Challenges in prioritising competing demands
- ... Verbal and written communication breakdown
- ... Insufficient training to understand the relevance of observations
- ... A lack of successful implementation of relevant policies and procedures
- ... A lack of strong and effective ward leadership.

The NPSA recommends that every acute trust sets up a multidisciplinary 'deterioration recognition group' to lead and coordinate efforts to improve the safety of patients who are vulnerable to deterioration. These groups should lead on reviewing local systems/processes and coordinating efforts to ensure optimum patient safety. Contact National Patient Safety Agency 4-8 Maple Street London W1T 5HD Tel: 020 7927 9500 Email: enquiries@npsa.nhs.uk or find on: www.npsa.nhs.uk/EasySiteWeb/GatewayLink.aspx?allid=6240

A guide to the NHS for local planning authorities

October 2007

This guide is intended for chief executives in local authorities together with directors of planning. In addition, it may be of interest to directors of public health in primary care trusts and directors of estate and facilities in NHS trusts and primary care trusts (directors of estates and facilities in Foundation Trusts may also find this guide useful).

The guide gives local planning authorities an overview of the NHS in England. It outlines the key principles of public health; identifies the wider determinants of health and how planners impact on them; and points to how local planning authorities can interact with NHS organisations to deliver sustainable health and social care services.

Find on:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_078980

Department of Health:

Quarter 2, 2007 - 08

Date of publication: 30 November 2007

This document is the second in a series of quarterly updates that outline the NHS financial position alongside progress made in health and health services. Lots of interesting articles and perspectives in both editions. Find on: http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_080967

Hospital Travel Costs Scheme - Guidance for NHS organisations

November 2007

This document provides updated guidance on the Hospital Travel Costs Scheme. It is issued in response to a recent consultation held on the scheme, which highlighted the need for clear and focused guidance for NHS organisations on the operation of the scheme. It clarifies roles and responsibility of NHS organisations in administering and publicising HTCS to patients and the public.

The key components are:

- ... Appointing a senior manager/board level director to be responsible for reviewing/monitoring HTCS;
- ... Ensuring the scheme is publicised to patients and the public and that information is available;
- ... Ensuring that robust systems are in place to deliver HTCS, including:
 - ... Ensuring facilities are in place to make refunds of costs immediately and in cash on the day of travel at any time of the day;
 - ... Ensuring the cashiers office and alternative payment locations are clearly signposted and physically accessible to all patients.
 - ... Ensuring a system for the delivery of advance payments to patients exists;
 - ... Ensure front line staff are aware of the scheme and how it is administered.

It provides further information on eligibility criteria and a clear framework for local decision-making that takes into account local variation in geography and circumstance, which can affect individuals' need for help with travel costs.

For more information contact your local hospital or Scott Binyon Market Research, Patient and Public Involvement Room 5E62, Quarry House Quarry Hill, Leeds Find on: www.dh.gov.uk/en/Policyandguidance/Organisationpolicy/Financeandplan

Our NHS our future

This interim report by Professor the Lord Darzi of Denham sets out a vision for a world class NHS focused on improving the quality of care. He says 'based on what I have heard and seen, I believe that only this approach allows us fully to respond to the aspirations of patients, staff and the public. Only this approach enables us to deliver the kind of personalised care we all expect. The vision should be an NHS that is:

Fair - equally available to all, taking full account of personal circumstances and diversity

Personalised - tailored to the needs and wants of each individual, especially the most vulnerable and those in greatest need, providing access to services at the time and place of their choice

Effective - focused on delivering outcomes for patients that are among the best in the world

Safe - as safe as possible, giving patients and the public the confidence they need in the care they receive.

He continues to say that this is not about changing the way NHS is funded or structured. Successive reports have shown not only that our system is fair, but also that other comparable systems are, in key respects, less efficient. He believes we now need to:

- ... move beyond expanding the capacity of the NHS and focus on improving the quality of care for patients
- ... be ambitious – respond to the aspirations of patients and the public for a more personalised service
- ... change the way we lead change – effective change needs to be animated by the needs and preferences of patients, empowered to make their decisions count within the NHS; with the response to patient needs and choices being led by clinicians, taking account of the best available evidence
- ... support local change from the centre rather than instructing it – providing the right systems/incentives
- ... make best use of resources to provide the most effective care efficiently.

Lord Darzi suggests some immediate steps should be taken ahead of his final report in the summer 2008:

- 1 To help make care **fairer** the Secretary of State has announced a comprehensive strategy for reducing health inequalities, challenging the NHS, as a key player, to live up to its founding and enduring values.
- 2 To help make care more **personal**, patient choice should be embedded within the full spectrum of NHS funded care, going beyond elective surgery into new areas e.g. primary care and long term conditions:
 - ... New resources should be invested to bring new GP practices – whether by traditional or new private providers - to local communities where they are most needed
 - ... Newly procured health centres in easily accessible locations offering all members of the local population a range of convenient services, even if they are not registered with GPs in these centres
 - ... New measures to develop greater flexibility in GP opening hours, with the aim that the majority of GP practices will offer greater choice of when to see a GP, extending hours into evenings/weekends.
- 3 To support the delivery of more **effective** care, establish a Health Innovation Council
- 4 To help make care **safer**, support the National Patient Safety Agency (NPSA) to establish a single point of access for workers to report incidents: Patient Safety Direct. To reduce rates of healthcare associated infections still further we should: legislate to create a new health and adult social care regulator with tough powers, backed by fines, to inspect, investigate and intervene where hospitals are failing to meet hygiene and infection control standards, give matrons further powers to report any concerns they have on hygiene direct to the new regulator, introduce MRSA screening for all elective admissions and for all emergency admissions as soon as practicable within three years.
- 5 We should ensure that any major change in the pattern of local NHS hospital services is clinically led and **locally accountable** by publishing new guidelines to make clear that: change should only be initiated when there is a clear and strong clinical basis for doing so; that consultation should proceed only where there is effective and early engagement with the public and resources are made available to open new facilities alongside old ones closing.

The second stage of the Review will set out how the vision for a world class health service can be delivered through a locally accountable NHS in which health and social care staff are empowered to lead change, supported by the right reformed systems and incentives. Groups of health and social care staff will be established in every region to discuss how best to achieve this vision across eight areas of care: Maternity and newborn care, Children's health, Planned care, Mental health, Staying healthy, Long-term conditions, Acute care, End-of-life care. They will listen to patients, the public and others to identify what it would take over the next decade to commission and provide world class care, using the best available evidence, and set out their plans to deliver on our vision of a fair, personal, effective, safe and locally accountable NHS. He is also looking at the view that the NHS could benefit from greater distance from the day to day thrust of the political process, and the possible merit in exploring the introduction of an NHS Constitution. These steps – local and national – will form the basis for a vision for a world class NHS, to be published in June 2008 in time for the 60th anniversary of the NHS.

Find on: www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/dh_079077

The Children's Plan: Building brighter futures

The Children's Plan sets out the Department for Children, Schools and Families plans for the next ten years under each of its strategic objectives. It aims to strengthen support for all families, take the next steps in achieving world-class schools, bring about change in parents' involvement in their child's learning and make sure that young people have exciting things to do outside school, and more places for children to play.

The Government wants to make this country the best place in the world for children and young people to grow up and the Children's Plan sets out how they are going to achieve that – by putting the needs of families, children and young people at the centre of everything they do. In drawing up the Plan they listened to parents, teachers and professionals, as well as to children and young people themselves.

The Children's Plan will:

- ... strengthen support for all families during the formative early years of their children's lives
- ... take the next steps in achieving world class schools and an excellent education for every child
- ... involve parents fully in their children's learning
- ... help to make sure that young people have interesting and exciting things to do outside of school
- ... and provide more places for children to play safely.

It also means a new leadership role for Children's Trusts in every area, a new role for schools as the centre of their communities, and more effective links between schools, the NHS and other children's services so that they can engage parents and tackle all the barriers to the learning, health and happiness of every child.

There are ambitious new goals for 2020, and there will be report on progress in a year's time.

- ... The plan includes proposals to extend free childcare to 20,000 two-year-olds in disadvantaged areas in addition to the increase in free childcare for three to four-year olds from 12 to 15 hours per week.
- ... A review will be carried out of the entire primary curriculum with the aim of placing greater emphasis on English and maths, while all new schools will be carbon neutral by 2016.
- ... Young people will be given more access to leisure and community activities through a £160m commitment to build and refurbish youth centres, while 30 supervised play parks will be built around the country from April next year.

Find on: www.dfes.gov.uk/publications/childrensplan/?cid=childrens_plan&type=bannerad

This give links to the plan, a summary and equality impact assessments.

Are you looking after or supporting a relative, friend or neighbour?

Do you need

- ... Advice
- ... Advocacy
- ... Information
- ... Signposting to services
- ... Support
- ... A break from caring
- ... To be in touch with other carers through a local support group, or by telephone, or via an email carers support group?
- ... Help to plan for the future

If you would like to chat to a Carers Support Worker, request information about benefits, offload your concerns, receive support or be more aware about the services available to help you.

Contact :

Carers Together

9 Love Lane

Romsey SO51 8DE

Tel: 01794 519495

Email: admin@carerstogether.org.uk

Website: www.carerstogether.org.uk

Children's Health, Our Future: A review of progress against the 2004 National Service Framework for Children, Young People and Maternity Services 14 November 2007

This report provides an overview of the work of the National Service Framework (NSF) for Children, Young People and Maternity Services.

It outlines key policy milestones, progress to date, and the major challenges and opportunities still ahead.

These will call for greater leadership at all levels, from Whitehall to the front-line. More than ever before, new approaches to improving outcomes for children will call for collaboration between all those involved in setting the policy, commissioning and providing services.

Find on:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/publicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_080379



Children and Young Persons Bill 2007

Department for Children, Schools and Families

The Children and Young Persons Bill (CYP Bill) was introduced in the House of Lords on 14 November 2007 and fulfils commitments made in the White Paper, Care Matters: Time for Change. It strengthens the legislative framework underpinning the care system, and ensures the right structure is in place to enable children and young people to receive high-quality care and support. **The Bill will:**

- ... enable the Department to test out a new model of social work provision
- ... help bring about greater educational stability
- ... increase support available for children in care at school
- ... ensure local authorities support care leavers on a Higher Education course with a bursary
- ... improve quality/stability of placements for children in care
- ... introduce more checks and balances into the care planning and review system, and ensure the voices of children in care are heard by strengthening the role of the Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO). This includes IRO services being completely independent from local authorities, where necessary
- ... ensure that young people retain support and guidance as long as they need it, that young people's views are heard and that the placement plan is properly reviewed when significant placement decisions are made.
- ... ensure that local authorities maintain effective contact with children in care by extending the duty for social workers to visit children placed in children's homes and those in youth custody
- ... make 'independent visitors' available to a wider group of looked after children
- ... improve the support for family and friend carers, enabling local authorities to financially support carers and make it easier for family carers to obtain orders granting legal permanency;
- ... ensure appropriate continuing supervision of children in long term residential placements made by health/education services and give foster carers access to independent review mechanisms
- ... improve the Department's ability to safeguard children

Find on: www.dfes.gov.uk/publications/childrenandyoungpersonsbill/ For more information about the CYP Bill Tel: 020 7273 5907 or Email: cyp.billteam@dcsf.gsi.gov.uk

Quality Standards for Young People's Information Advice and Guidance (IAG)

31 Oct 2007

From April 2008 local authorities will assume overall responsibility for the quality of young people's IAG. New standards of quality and impartiality have been developed for organisations commissioning and delivering IAG, including: local authorities, Connexions services, learning providers, voluntary and community-service organisations and others. The standards will help local authorities to secure high quality IAG provision for young people in their area as part of an integrated youth support service. The standards are also for use by learning providers, external IAG providers and users of IAG services to check that the expected standards are being achieved.

A range of materials have been produced to support the organisations using the standards:

A User Guide, which includes:

- ... Briefing notes to help the different potential users of the standards (local authorities, schools, further education colleges, work based learning providers, Connexions services, Voluntary and Community organisations etc.) to apply the standards to their organisations;
- ... More detail about the evidence indicators for each standards;
- ... An audit form that helps commissioners and deliverers of IAG to assess their current provision against the standards;

Case studies providing examples of how the standards are being met in practice;

A leaflet - setting out for young people (and their parents and carers) what they can expect in relation to IAG services. Organisations may wish to use this leaflet as it stands, or adapt it to suit local circumstances.

Find on: www.cegnet.co.uk/content/default.asp?PageId=2435

Printed copies of the leaflet are available from DCSF Publications, PO Box 5050, Sherwood, Nottingham, NG15 0DJ. Tel: 0845 602 2260. Please quote reference IAGYPL07 when ordering.



Patient Opinion

A new social enterprise for the NHS

Patient Opinion is all about enabling patients to share their experiences of health care, and by doing so help other patients - and perhaps even change the NHS.

As well as allowing everyone to see what patients are saying about their services, it also offers a way to feed the experience of patients back to the NHS so that their insights and ideas can be put to good use. Find on: www.patientopinion.org.uk/

New work programme focused on dementia

On 6th August 2007, Ivan Lewis, Minister for Care Services, announced the development of a new National Dementia Strategy. The strategy is being developed over the year and aims to significantly improve services and support for people with dementia (and their families) by focusing on three key themes - raising awareness, early diagnosis and intervention, and improving the quality of care.

The work programme is being led by: **Professor Sube Banerjee** Professor of Mental Health and Ageing at the Institute of Psychiatry, King's College London, **Jenny Owen** Executive Director of Adults, Health and Community Wellbeing in Essex and **Neil Hunt** and Chief Executive of the Alzheimer's Society. Neil chairs the programme's External Reference Group.

National Stroke Strategy 5 December 2007

This national strategy is intended to provide a quality framework to secure improvements to stroke services, to provide guidance and support to commissioners and strategic health authorities and social care, and inform the expectations of patients and their families by providing a guide to high quality health/social care services. There is also an impact assessment.

There are approximately 110,000 strokes in England each year. Stroke is the third largest cause of death in the UK, responsible for 11% of deaths in England, and the largest cause of adult disability. Stroke costs the NHS and the economy about £7bn a year. It is reported that there are a number of areas where stroke services are underperforming. It is felt that sustained improvement can be achieved through the comprehensive approach described in the Strategy.

More information from:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_081062

Understanding the Travel Needs, Behaviour and Aspirations of People in Later Life - 20 November 2007

This study explores the travel needs, behaviour and aspirations of people as they make the transition into retirement and later life. The study was commissioned by the Department for Transport (DfT). The objectives of this study were to:

- ... Describe older people's current transport needs and behaviours.
- ... Discuss older people's experiences of using transport
- ... Explore the transition into retirement and the attitudes that inform older people's transport behaviours now, and in the past
- ... Examine the transport aspirations of older people
- ... Transport and infrastructure
- ... Journeys made in later life
- ... Experiences of different modes of transport
- ... The cost of transport
- ... Concessionary travel for older people
- ... The impact of life events on transport use
- ... Driving cessation
- ... The importance of transport in later life

Obtain from Department for Transport Great Minster House 76 Marsham Street London SW1P 4DR
Tel: 020 7944 8300 or from: www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/scienceresearch/social/olderaspirations

Local Transport Bill First Reading 7 November 2007

This Bill supports the Government's strategy to improve public transport and tackle road congestion by ensuring local authorities have the right powers to take local action to meet local transport needs. For the aims of the Bill and links to related documents go to:

www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/regional/localtransportbill/

Concessionary Bus Fares

This page gives details on concessionary fares schemes that offer discounted travel on local public transport for older and disabled people. Bus travel remains the most used form of public transport, especially by older people.

Information about additional special grant funding for national bus concessionary fares has been added. This is the provisional distribution of the special grant funding to English local authorities for the extra costs of the national bus concession being introduced on 1 April 2008.

Find on:

www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/regional/buses/concessionary/



An Introduction to the Local Performance Framework: Delivering better outcomes for local people

20 November 2007

'An Introduction to the Local Performance Framework: Delivering better outcomes for local people' was jointly produced by the Department of Communities and Local Government and the Local Government Association (LGA).

This guidance gives a clear overview for all those helping to implement the new performance framework.

It also outlines the timetable for implementing new Local Area Agreements (LAAs), which need to be in place by June 2008, to cover the period 2008-2011. They need to reflect up to 35 local shared priorities, along with plans to comply with the streamlined set of 198 national indicators.

Find on: www.communities.gov.uk/publications/

Healthy Competition: How councils can use competition and contestability to improve services 27 November 2007

Healthy Competition considers the potential for councils to use competition and contestability to generate cost savings and service improvements.

This report gives practical examples of councils successfully using competition and contestability, and explores the pre-conditions that councils must have in place to make effective use of these mechanisms.

Subjects included:

- ... Consumers, business and industry;
- ... Economics and finance;
- ... Government and public administration;
- ... Performance management

Find on:

www.audit-commission.gov.uk/reports/NATIONAL-REPORT.asp?CategoryID=&ProdID=D8FF4C6D-C465-4f81-9052-C18A0C16E83C&fromREPORTSANDDATA=NATIONAL-REPORT

Central-Local Concordat 12 December 2007

Creating a more participatory democracy requires a healthy representative democracy at local level. It also requires citizens to understand the roles of central and local government, and who can be held responsible for the decisions and services which affect their lives.

Communities and Local Government and the Local Government Association (LGA) have worked together to establish a concordat to govern the relations between central and local government.

This establishes for the first time an agreement on the rights and responsibilities of local government, including its responsibilities to provide effective leadership of the local area and to empower local communities where possible. Find on:

www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/centrallocalconcordat

Audit Commission: Putting commissioning into practice

Published 22 November 2007 by the Audit Commission this national report on whether practice based commissioning (PBC) is working from a financial management perspective. As well as key findings, the report explores the barriers to effective implementation of PBC. Find on:

www.audit-commission.gov.uk/reports/NATIONAL-REPORT.asp?CategoryID=&ProdID=67664124-E760-4e93-81BB-A0A871EA885E&fromREPORTSANDDATA=NATIONAL-REPORT

The Equality and Human Rights Commission

The Equality and Human Rights Commission replaces three former equality commissions: the Commission for Racial Equality, the Disability Rights Commission and Equal Opportunities Commission.

The Equality and Human Rights Commission champions equality and human rights for all, working to eliminate discrimination, reduce inequality, protect human rights and to build good relations, ensuring that everyone has a fair chance to participate in society. Find on: www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/Pages/default.aspx

Government Equalities Office

To strengthen further the Government's ability to deliver across the entire equalities agenda, a new Government Equalities Office, responsible for the Government's overall strategy and priorities on equality issues, has been established.

The Women and Equality Unit has transferred to the new Office together with a number of staff working on equality policy.

On 11th December 2007 the Government Equalities Office published its Simplification Plan, in line with the Government's better regulation agenda.

Find on:

www.womenandequalityunit.gov.uk/about/index.htm

Carnival Hall Friday Craft Club

This Club for adults with physical disabilities, their family, friends and carers is now up and running at Carnival Hall, Council Road, Basingstoke every Friday between 10.00am and 1.00pm. A warm welcome awaits all from beginners through to advanced crafters. Bring your own craft project and join others with a similar interest to socialise and share skills.

There are also opportunities to try new crafts and techniques. Recent crafts participated in include card making, cross stitch, transfer painting, spirelli and beadwork. The venue is fully accessible with free parking on site. Teas and coffees are available and admission is £2.00 per session.

For more information please call

Jo or Elly Audleys Resource Service Basingstoke

Tel: 01256 326404 or Email elly.drew@hants.gov.uk or josette.pinkney@hants.gov.uk.

This club is supported by Hampshire County Council, Basingstoke Hindu Society and Four Lanes Trust.

Elder Abuse - New Service

I am project manager for a new service offering Family Group Conferences to older people who have experienced abuse.

The area covered is the whole of Hampshire, Southampton and Portsmouth.

All organisations who work with older people, and those working with domestic violence need to know about the new service.

I would be interested to hear from anyone who might like to become involved, perhaps by supporting an elderly person through the process, or acting as their advocate.

Please contact Linda Tapper, Bluebird Project manager, Daybreak Family Group Conferences.

Tel: 023 8069 6644 Email: daybreak5adslmail.newnet.co.uk

PAYING CARE HOME FEES - *Edited from The Daily Telegraph 17.11.07*

Nearly one in five people have to sell their assets, including the family home, to fund their place in a care home, research has disclosed.

The research by Partnership, a financial company offering care fees annuities, says that more than a third (37 per cent) of British adults over 50 have had to put someone into residential care. It says a greater awareness of care costs are "essential" if people are to avoid financial hardship from supporting someone in long-term care. The study also shows that six in 10 adults over the age of 50 have no idea how much care homes charge - around - £25,000 to £30,000 a year - until they are faced with the reality.

The study comes after it emerged that most pensioners forced to sell their houses to cover care home bills are charged more than fellow residents paid for by the council.

Some residents pay up to £30,000 a year without being told what they are getting for their money.

The inquiry, by the Commission for Social Care Inspection, published last month, provides strong evidence that the property-owning people suffer worst financially when they go into a care home.

It is thought that homes tend to charge more to private residents because councils use their monopoly power to drive down the costs they pay. The effect is that private residents subsidise the others.

The report follows years of concern over the means-test system, which makes those who have saved all their lives sacrifice everything when they go into a home - while someone who has never worked or saved gets the same help free.

At the moment, anyone with capital - to include savings, investments and, in some cases, the value of the person's home - worth more than £21,500, must pay their own care home bills. Around one person in 10 is dipping into the everyday family coffers to pay for another's care, 17 per cent have eaten into their would-be inheritance and 19 per cent have had to sell all the assets of the person in care. A major worry for thousands of families and carers.

Email received 25.09.07**YOUR LETTERS**

I would just like to say this is the first time I have been on this particular Carers site and it is fantastic, informative, clear and easy to understand without all of the jargon that sometimes takes over.

I have recently started F/T work as a Carer Support Worker. Previously I had worked P/T in primary schools for 12 years....so its a very steep, but exciting learning curve for me! I am in my Induction period, learning lots each day and doing research, when I can, into what is/isn't available for Carers, what is involved, effects of Caring etc....in fact as much as I can learn, as it is all so new to me.

So, I would just like to say Congratulations on the site, it is brilliant, the best I've accessed up to now! I also rang the Helpline number about an hour ago, to check it was still in use for when I pass the site details on to my new and existing Carers, if they've not found it already. On there I spoke to a lovely, helpful lady who is going to send me further details and put me on your database....so thank you to you whoever you are!

Thanks again!

FROM Sally-Anne Davey, Coordinator, Supporting Carers Better Network 16.11.07

I have just read from cover to cover, and thoroughly enjoyed your Summer Issue of Carers Together.

Last year The Supporting Carers Better Network commissioned Dr Alan Simpson at City University to do some research to identify what needs to be included in the education and training of mental health staff and carer support workers to address the needs of mental health carers. The findings of the research titled 'The Mental Health Carers Curriculum Project' will be used to inform the development of a nationally-accredited curriculum and training modules.

The research and report was completed in July this year and I thought the following summary may be of interest to your readers, with the full report being available on our website at www.scbnetwork.org

Best Wishes, Sally-Anne Davey, St Barnabas Church, Temple Road, Epsom, Surrey KT19 8HA
Tel: 01372 721518 Email: sallyanne-davey@together-uk.org Website: www.scbnetwork.org

Report Summary

“This report outlines the results of a scoping exercise funded by the Department of Health to inform the development of a national curriculum for mental health professionals to improve the support provided to mental health carers.

A literature review, focus groups with various stakeholders and a national survey health and social care educators were employed. A comprehensive education and training programme is required in order to enable mental health staff to inform, involve and support families and carers of people with mental health problems. Education on the importance of working in partnership with families should be provided to all mental health students and trainees throughout their pre-registration professional education, supplemented with visits to and placements with families, carer support workers and carers' centres and organisations. Continuing professional development should then be utilised to ensure that the mental health workforce is able and motivated, to ensure that all mental health services are family-friendly and sensitive to the needs of families and carers, and able to provide intensive family work and interventions to those that require it. This requires three different but interlinked levels of training.

In order for such a programme of education and training to be effective, the findings in this report strongly indicate that any training programme needs to form part of a comprehensive organisational structure and strategy that includes explicit support throughout all levels of health and social care organisations. Consequently, we have drawn on the experiences and recommendations of successful programmes to identify key factors that help establish, develop and maintain family-focused services and greater support for carers.”

Carers, Employment and Services: time for a new social contract?

A new study released by Carers UK on 21 November 2007 sets out the design of a new social contract for care which would revolutionise the way care is delivered in the 21st century. For the first time, a definitive model is presented of what a new social contract for care might look like and who the stakeholders would be, with a full set of policy recommendations designed to create the right environment for the change.

The work, commissioned by Carers UK, was led by Professor Sue Yeandle from the University of Leeds and is one of six major reports on working age carers, who represent 75 per cent of all carers in Great Britain. The findings will contribute to the government's current review of the National Strategy for Carers, and will inform the new Standing Commission on Carers and the promised Green Paper on long term care.

Imelda Redmond said, "The new social contract goes beyond the traditional view of a contract between the state and the individual. It calls for new commitments which also involve employers, local agencies and communities. We all have a role to play in supporting carers within our communities since care is something that we can all expect to provide and receive at some point in our lives."

Starting with a call for a radical overhaul of the entire infrastructure of support for carers, the study suggests that the new social contract needs to build on the following realities:

- ... Chronically ill and disabled people need care, most of which is provided by carers – i.e. family/friends
- ... The economy needs carers
- ... Replacing all unpaid care with formal care services is both impossible and undesirable
- ... Carers are crucial partners in delivering social care
- ... Carers need independence, income and life choices and should not pay a penalty for the contribution they make.

Professor Yeandle stressed that the new social contract needs to be explicit, detailed and agreed by all parties. She said "This must involve individuals, families, local communities, voluntary organisations, employers and the state – at local and national level. All stakeholders need to be clear about their roles and responsibilities and to agree a core set of values if they are to provide the support that carers need."

The ethical context would need to be clear - recognising and including carers, key and non-negotiable partners, to whom all within the infrastructure were committed. There would need to be a set of legal, regulatory and fiscal frameworks supporting carers. Research shows that caring carries three main penalties: poorer health, financial strain and social exclusion. Recommendations for each include:

Carers' health

- ... More responsive services in health and social care.
- ... Investment in carers breaks.
- ... Improved GP/community health support for carers.
- ... Information, training and brokerage services for carers.

Carers' economic and financial security

- ... A new advice, guidance and advocacy service on caring and employment.
- ... A wider range of jobs available to those working part-time or flexibly.
- ... Review of the integration of the tax, benefits and pensions system.
- ... Investment in improving access to education, skills and training for carers.
- ... A new specialist SME advisory service for small businesses.
- ... New support/services for those whose caring changes or ends.

Carers' social inclusion and equal rights

- ... Carers identified in all equalities legislation.
- ... A strong statistical evidence-base about carers.
- ... Services which support carers' participation as active citizens.
- ... Extension of the right to request flexible working to all employees.
- ... 'Carer-proofing' of local strategic developments and planning processes.
- ... Welfare to work policy tailored to meet carers' needs.
- ... Campaign on carers and employment targeting employers and trade unions.

Choice & Control



The report is 60 pages long and was conducted at the University of Leeds and commissioned by Carers UK.

The authors are Professor Sue Yeandle and Dr Lisa Buckner. For more information:

Kate Groucutt Tel: 020 7566 7616 Mobile: 07855 383445 Email: kate.groucutt@carersuk.org or

Patricia Orr Tel: 020 7592 1980 Mobile: 07889 140139 Email: pat@thirdsectorpr.co.uk

Download from: www.carersuk.org/Policyandpractice/Research#9944

There are 4.27 million carers of working age; 1.8m of them men and 2.4m of them women.

A new report issued by Carers UK in September 2007 said that the value of unpaid support which carers provide has now reached £87 billion a year – more than the total spend on the NHS.

Carers Summit

What do carers really think? 8 November 2007

The government is in the process of reviewing the national carers' strategy and the first national carers summit, organised by charity Carers UK, let politicians know what is important to them. The 250 carers from across the country who attended the event demanded more support for former carers, better funding of care for disabled and older people, more support for families with disabled parents, and more support for carers who wish to remain in or return to work.

They voted for:

- ... Reliable transport for disabled children and adults to and from hospitals, day centres, schools and activities as their top priority in relation to their demand for new policies on transport.
- ... More control for individual carers over the types of breaks they receive as their top priority in relation to their demand for a review of policy on carers' breaks.
- ... Priority treatment for carers and support from the word go as their top priorities in relation to their demand for a new approach to supporting carers through the health service.
- ... Scrapping the rule that says you cannot receive carers' allowance on top of a pension as their top priority in relation to their demand for a review of policies on carers' benefits.

A vote on priorities for the coming year revealed that carers' top three pressing concerns are:

- ... Better services for disabled, older and clinically ill people
- ... Carers' health
- ... Carers' services

Carers attending the Summit gave a clear message to the Government that they expect the forthcoming National Carers Strategy to deliver real change that improves carers' lives.

- ... Prime Minister Gordon Brown sent a special message to the Summit.
- ... Imelda Redmond, Chief Executive of Carers UK, told the audience that this was a historic time as carers and caring had risen to the top of the political agenda. She also acknowledged there were tough decisions ahead. Although Carers UK is campaigning for more funding to support carers, decisions had to be made on how best to spend limited resources.
- ... Ivan Lewis MP, Minister for Carers and Social Care told delegates that the Government would be judged on whether the National Carers Strategy made a real difference to carers' lives. He also called on carers' organisations to pressure the British Medical Association to make sure GPs were identifying and supporting carers.
- ... Anne McGuire MP, Minister at the Department of Work and Pensions spoke about the challenges of improving carer benefits. She highlighted that the Carer's Allowance had been introduced by the Government in the 1970s as a token for the contribution made by carers. She fully acknowledged that times had changed and a National Carers Strategy group was working on proposals to reform carer benefits.

The day belonged to carers, and they made clear what changes would make a difference to their lives. There were several ways carers' views were captured. You can hear all the debates and speeches and see the results of how carers voted on: www.carersuk.org/Getinvolved/NationalCarersSummit

Carers UK will be writing a report based on carers' contributions which will be sent to Gordon Brown to help shape the National Carers Strategy.

Are you a carer of any age or an older person living in Hampshire?

Do you need to offload stress, chat about your concerns and problems, speak to a friendly person who understands how you feel? You may just want to hear a friendly voice or you may want information about services available to support you. You may want to share your name or remain anonymous. It's your choice.

You may want to join one of our telephone groups. This is a virtual meeting place for older people over the phone. It isn't self-help or a dating agency - just a chance to talk and make new friends without leaving your home.

Call our Carers Active Listening Line - anytime between 9am and 11pm 365 days per year for an empathetic chat with one of our dedicated listeners.

Telephone number 08000 3 23456



CARERS TOGETHER

Winter 2007

DO
YOU
CARE?

9 Love Lane Romsey SO51 8DE Tel: 01794 519495 Email: admin@carerstogogether.org.uk

Carers Strategy and Action Plan - 30 November 2007

This Conference Report 'Carers Strategy and Action Plan' dated 30 November 2007 was produced as a result of Hampshire Carers Network Consultation and Information Day on 29 October 2007

Over 100 delegates took part in the conference which began with an inspiring talk by Caroline Tomlinson. Caroline is a carer and Director of 'in Control' Total. Her personal story of her son Joe and the family's journey towards independence and control of their own lives is moving and inspiring. Delegates were given an information pack including a copy of Caroline's book 'The Essential Guide to getting a life' which is obtainable through 'in Control'. Find on: www.in.control.org.uk

A list of questions frequently asked by carers was brought together as a result of asking carers and professionals what questions they felt should be included.

The aims and action plan for the proposed Hampshire Carers Strategy were also made available for comment. The final draft will be going out for comment early in January 2008. Southampton carers were able to comment on the Southampton Strategy.

Participants in the workshops sat at tables of 10 each with a facilitator. The emphasis and detail of the results from each table was slightly different, reflecting the wide ranging views of the people there, but the essentials were very similar. Delegates were asked to use blue sky thinking under four headings for the consultation and to identify five to ten priorities for their group. The substantive results of the blue sky thinking are attached to the report.

Outcomes carers said they want from a carers strategy included:

- ... A clear definition of what is meant by a 'carer'
- ... Independent, carer led and variable peer support and advocacy
- ... Seamless services and support between health and social care with joined up budgets and staff teams
- ... Information that is comprehensive and timely including a central point for information
- ... Assessment that is effective including an assessment passport
- ... Adequate income to enable carers to care well including individualised budgets for carers
- ... Adequate health care for carers
- ... Reliable and responsive home help services
- ... Effective communication - face to face, telephone, letter, computer, email etc
- ... Short breaks from caring and respite that is bookable well in advance
- ... Effective and available out of hours care
- ... Transport that is available, reliable, flexible and responsive to need, reasonably charged, accessible.

Supporting Carers



Actions and suggestions by carers to achieve the outcomes were based on the outcomes and the knowledge, needs and wishes of the participants. They included:

- ... Reviewing benefits/allowances e.g. carers allowance not to be counted as an overlapping benefit etc
- ... Listening to carers - when carers ask for help they are desperate – please offer what is needed
- ... Ensuring every carer has access to a personalised service i.e. service to fit around carers wants/needs
- ... Promoting Carers Cafes, services and support
- ... Bringing back home help services and maintain continuity of Home Help
- ... Raising the profile and registration of carers at GP surgeries.
- ... A review of top up fees in nursing homes to maintain continuity of care
- ... Good communication between agencies with joined up use of identified allocated funding

For a copy of the report contact Carers Together

9 Love Lane Romsey SO51 8DE Tel: 01794 519495 Email: admin@carerstogogether.org.uk

To obtain a copy of the draft Hampshire Carers Strategy, submit feedback or comment on the action plan contact: **Maria Milton** Carers Commissioning Officer Trafalgar House The Castle, Winchester SO23 8UG
Tel: 01962 847268 Email: maria.milton@hants.gov.uk

To find out about the Southampton Carers Strategy contact: **Sue James**

Policy Development Manager (Practice) Health and Community Care Southampton City Council
Tel: 023 8083 4879 Email: sue.james@southampton.gov.uk

The next network meeting will be in May and details will go out in the Spring Newsletter.