



March 2010 bulletin

News from NAAPS

Interviews for the new NAAPS Chief Executive

Interviews for the new NAAPS Chief Executive are taking place on March 3rd. There has been a great deal of interest in this two year post with a number of strong candidates short listed for interview. The interview panel hope to make their decision this week but may not be able to announce the decision immediately as any appointment will be subject to reference. Martin Ewing will let you know as soon as a firm appointment has been made.

David Ellis is retiring from SCIE

David is an old friend to NAAPS and to Shared Lives - many of you know him well and we all have cause to be grateful to him for the work he did in steering through changes to the regulation of Shared Lives in 2004. As you all know he went from the Department of Health to the Social Care Institute for Excellence and is finally retiring from his role there this week. If any of you want to email him before he leaves his email address there is david.ellis@scie.org.uk. Angela, John and I are attending his retirement party and have sent messages and given donations to his leaving present from you all.

Consultations (England)

Residential charging consultation

This 12 week consultation on the charging arrangements for residential social care began on 29 January. Views are sought on proposed amendments to the residential charging arrangements. Go to: www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Liveconsultations/DH_111525

Skills for Care consultation on the Common Induction Standards (CIS)

Skills for Care are refreshing the Common Induction Standards (CIS) to ensure they reflect current policy and practice and would like to hear your views on whether you think the Common Induction Standards cover the key areas for new workers to assure they are safe and appropriate to practice.

The deadline for responses to this consultation is **Friday March 12th 2010**.

Go to <http://www.skillsforcare.org.uk/participation/consultations/CISrefresh.aspx> to have your say on the Common Induction Standards to ensure they continue to be fit for purpose and ensure any new standards meet the needs of Shared Lives workers and carers and small community service providers.

CQC consultation on proposals for assessing health and social care in 2010/11

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) has launched a public consultation on proposals to promote high quality health and social care through a new approach to assessments in

2010/11. The assessments will apply to all 152 local councils, 392 NHS trusts and 24,000 adult social care providers. Complementing its new registration process that focuses on meeting essential standards of care, the commission's further assessments of quality will promote improvement above those basic requirements by providing independent information about the quality of care. The proposals for 2010/11 include regular scored assessments of care organisations as well as in-depth special reviews and national studies looking at selected areas of care requiring special attention. Assessments of quality will prioritise the experiences of people who use services and will carefully consider their outcomes.

The consultation closes on **27 April**. Go to:

www.cqc.org.uk/getinvolved/consultations/assessmentsofquality.cfm

Consultations (England, Wales and Northern Ireland)

Age equality consultation paper

There is growing recognition that ageism is a deep-rooted feature of society in England, including health and social care, despite the fact that there have been many improvements in service provision and practice in the past 40 years. SCIE is launching a consultative paper to involve a range of stakeholders, including people using, working in, commissioning and providing care and support, in co-producing guidance for practice. For further information, go to http://www.scie.org.uk/?dm_i=4O5,3M1W,PS5XZ,B8MH,1

Consultations (Scotland)

Self-Directed Support: A National Strategy for Scotland

The national strategy for self-directed support in Scotland has been developed to help take forward the personalisation of health and social care services in Scotland.

The increasing numbers of people accessing social care and the range of individual needs mean that services and supports will have to continue to become much more flexible and responsive in the future. This strategy responds to increasing interest in reshaping care and support in Scotland. It aims to set out and drive a cultural shift around the delivery of care and support that views people as equal citizens with rights and responsibilities. It recognises that for consumers and providers alike, tighter financial pressures, and demographic changes mean that improved outcomes cannot be delivered with more of the same.

Self-directed support has a role in supporting the Government's overarching aim of growing the Scottish economy. It supports the empowerment of individuals to gain equality of opportunity and sustain their citizenship. It also contributes significantly to improving health and well-being and tackling health inequalities.

The strategy has been developed with the support of a National Reference Group and through extensive discussion with other stakeholders. It will be a long term strategy, spanning 10 years, and so what is provided is a framework for significant changes in the way support is provided. It is not intended as detailed guidance, which may follow as the strategy is implemented.

The key themes of the strategy are:

- **Values and principles** that are based on human rights and equality legislation.
- **Ownership and leadership** reflecting the importance of leadership at all levels, including citizen leadership, and adoption of co-production in planning and delivering services, support and workforce training.
- **Supporting choice and control** through a shift to outcomes focused assessment, review and commissioning. It recommends action to assess the role and funding of support organisations, including disability led organisations.
- **Resources:** it recommends a review of the tools for assessing individual budgets to see what works best. It promotes joint work between local and national government to consider the use of non-social work budgets in providing lower level support and creating inclusive communities.
- **Measuring progress** through engagement with regulatory bodies to ensure the principles of self-directed support are understood. A short term goal is to review information gathered nationally to reflect the focus on individual outcomes rather than outputs and processes.

Following consultation, an implementation plan will be developed to identify timescales and targets for the strategy's short, medium and long term goals. Go to: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2010/02/05133942/1>

Consultations (UK)

Law Commission Consultation on Adult Social Care

This paper sets out the Law Commission's provisional proposals for the reform of the law relating to adult social care, with the objective of providing a new coherent legal structure. The consultation paper, as well as supporting documents, can be downloaded from the Law Commission website at: http://www.lawcom.gov.uk/adult_social_care.htm.

Publication of the consultation paper marks the start of a four month consultation, open to the public, in which the Law Commission hopes to engage in an extensive debate on their provisional proposals for reform. They are keen to encourage a wide range of comments on our proposals – particularly those from service users, carers, advocates and professionals.

Policy News (England)

GSCC appoint new Chief Executive

The General Social Care Council (GSCC) have appointed Penny Thompson as its new Chief Executive. Penny is a trained social worker and is currently co-director of independent public sector consultancy PeysnerThompson Ltd. She has over twenty years experience in social care and local government, including as Chief Executive of the London Borough of Hackney, and Social Services Director of Sheffield City Council.

Andy Burnham: Care and Support Conference

This event brought together some of the key voices in the care and support world to discuss the key issues facing the care and support system. One of the outcomes of the

conference was a paper which summarises the views given by the people attending the conference and which is reproduced in full below:

Consensus around the Vision... for the National Care Service

- A national care service, where individuals make a **contribution in partnership with the state**
- A system which enables **assessments of need to be portable across the country**, but delivered locally with local government in the lead
- A **personalised** system, giving individuals and families maximum control of the care and support they get
- A priority for **preventative care and early support**
- A **joined-up service** where all the services that you need will work together smoothly. This includes better joined up working between health, housing social care and the disability benefits systems
- Clear **information and advice** so people can understand and find their way through the care and support system, including disability benefits and health

But we also agreed...

In addition to this Vision reform also needed to

- Give more emphasis to the vital role that **carers, families and communities** make to the system
- Give more emphasis to the importance of including **adults of working age**, ensuring this part of the system is fully funded and better managing transition from childhood to adulthood
- Recognise that **workforce planning and development** are critical to the quality of care and support
- A wider range of high quality services to support people to experience personalised services
- Give people more detail on delivery, including **winners and losers**, and no perverse incentives
- Be clear whether it is a national **system or service**
- Not be isolated from other services e.g. housing, leisure, transport
- Support people as **citizens**, not passive recipients
- Promote opportunities for better integration between disability benefits and the social care system
- Recognise that a good care and support system will not only deliver quality care for the individual and their family but will also provide an infrastructure to support employers and increase wealth

However, there was concern over the **possible reform of disability benefits**

- Everyone acknowledged that such benefits provide valuable support to a wide range of people, for a range of disability-related costs. It was agreed that existing or potential recipients should not lose out
- People were fearful that reforming disability benefits would impact on their quality of life and independence
- Any reform needs to capture the strengths of the current benefits system, including universality

Comprehensive is the emerging consensus

- On balance, the majority view is in support of a comprehensive system, with a variety of ways to pay the contribution.

- An element of compulsion was supported, whether soft or hard
- Universality and fairness is important and we need to consider people's ability to make a contribution (progressive, not a flat rate)
- The contribution of carers needs to be taken into account and recognised in the payment options
- Any system needs to be simple and understandable
- There needs to be clarity over what you receive in return for your contribution
- On balance the majority view was to reject the Green Paper options of 'Partnership' and 'Insurance'
- Any change may need to be phased in over a period of time, recognising affordability
- Any system needs to work for future generations as well as the immediate cohort
- The conference regretted that the option of general taxation had not been explored

Guidance on eligibility criteria for adult social care

This guidance is issued under section 7(1) of the Local Authority Social Services Act 1970 and replaces *Fair access to care services - guidance on eligibility criteria for adult social care* which was issued in 2003. **Go to:**

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_113154

Care Quality Commission Publications

Two CQC publications are attached to this bulletin. These are:

- Their report on the state of social care and health in England in 2009
- A quick guide to registration

Policy news (Wales)

Wales' first ever Public Services Summit,

Wales' First Minister Carwyn Jones addressed the summit, saying that all the public services – including the NHS, education and social services – were facing a period of growing pressure on their finances as well as the impact of recession and an ageing population. There were examples of good practice but Wales now needed to drive through much greater efficiency across the board "If we are to avoid financial pressures turning into crude service cuts, we have to accelerate the pace of change dramatically," Mr Jones will say.

The First Minister announced a new all-Wales Efficiency and Innovation Programme to ensure optimum use of public money. The programme will be driven by a streamlined board chaired by Minister for Business and Budget Jane Hutt and monitored by the Public Services Summit.

The WAG is aiming to work with partners to develop a menu of the good practice and systems already up and running – and then mainstream these ideas across the public sector. This is potentially a great opportunity for Shared Lives in Wales – our evidence based business case demonstrates the savings that can be achieved by local authorities investing in more Shared Lives services.

Policy News (Scotland)

A Working Life for All Disabled People: The Supported Employment Framework for Scotland

The Supported Employment Framework for Scotland has been created to knock down barriers to work and offer people help to find and maintain employment, an issue which is more pressing than ever given the current economic climate. Go to:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2010/02/23115350>

Policy News (UK)

Launch of a £5m support programme for co-operatives

A £5m programme to develop co-ops across the UK has been launched by The Co-operative Group. The cash will fund Co-operative Enterprise Hubs, which will provide support, training and advice for new and existing co-ops. The launch in Cardiff last week followed a successful pilot and is a 'serious commitment' to co-ops, according to The Co-operative Group. To find out more about The Co-operative Enterprise Hub, visit www.co-operative.coop/enterprisehub

Resources

New website to help employers recruit social care workers

CareJobFinder.org is an innovative, free service to help employers contact people actively looking for work in social care. It has been launched as part of a national TV advertising campaign to promote work in social care by the DH. Employers can register to use the service at www.carejobfinder.org/join and will receive the contact details and work preferences of prospective recruits in their local area.

Personalising Care: a route map to delivery for care providers

This report (attached to this bulletin) draws on a survey funded by the DH and supported by the Care Provider Alliance. The report identifies the obstacles and blocks to the development and implementation of personalisation and offers guidance on best practice with case studies from the member organisations (including a number from Shared Lives and SCS members).

I spoke about the experience of NAAPS' members in delivering personalised services at the launch of this report (an event hosted by the Royal Bank of Scotland and organised by ECCA).

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