

Report to: **Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee**

Date: **13 June 2006**

Title of report: **Future scrutiny review focused on an aspect of the White Paper, "Our health, our care, our say"**

By: **Director of Law & Performance Management**

Purpose of report: **To suggest that the committee carries out a review on the provision of preventative services in the community**

RECOMMENDATION – that:

- 1) the committee agree to carry out a review of the provision of preventative services in the community; and**
 - 2) membership of the review board be agreed**
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1. Background

1.1 The White Paper, "Our health, our care, our say" was published on 30 January. The Paper sets out to meet the health challenges of the future and adapt to medical advances, whilst responding to demographic changes in society and increasing expectations of convenience and customer service.

1.2 The White Paper aims to achieve four main goals:

- better prevention services with earlier intervention
- more choice for people
- tackling inequalities and improving access to community services
- more support for people with long-term needs

2. Provision of Preventative Services in the Community

2.1 The United Kingdom currently spends less of its total health spend on prevention and public health compared to other advanced economies (the United Kingdom spends less than 2% compared to the 4% spent by the USA and 5% spent by the Netherlands¹).

2.2 The White Paper talks of an increased commitment to spending on prevention as part of a shift in resources from secondary to primary and community care.

2.3 The Government has tasked a national expert group with developing robust definitions and measures of preventative health spending and this will present its findings in late 2006. Following the development of these measures the Government will then treat spending on prevention in the same manner as spending on primary and community care.

¹ Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) 1999 data

2.4 This move to orientate health and social care services to focus on prevention and health promotion will impact on the way in which health, local authorities and other providers will supply services to their clients in the future and the form that they will take.

2.5 The Adult Social Care department funds only part of the overall range of preventative services in East Sussex. Many services are delivered without statutory agency support (eg. Voluntary sector services funded by charitable grants) and others are funded by different county council departments (eg. Libraries, Transport & Environment), borough and districts councils and Health.

2.6 The challenge for Adult Social Care is twofold. First it needs to ensure that, during a time of ever increasing demands on its finite budget, it spends appropriate levels of this on preventive services to maximise their potential to reduce future demands for conventional care services. It also needs to work within a multi-agency environment; ensuring ASC-funded services are best aligned with those funded by others. The Local Area Agreement and the new Comprehensive Performance Assessment process are key tools in achieving this.

3. Review outline

3.1 A scrutiny review of the provision of preventative services in the community would look to establish the following:

- An understanding of preventative services that are currently provided across the county
- What percentage of its overall budget does Adult Social Care currently spend on preventative services?
- Based on current evidence what preventative services have been shown to significantly reduce a future demand on care services?
- What percentage of its overall budget might be appropriate for Adult Social Care to direct in the future towards preventative services?
- What form should these services take?
- How best can Adult Social Care work in partnership with PCTs and other agencies to increase the impact that preventative services can have?

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Background documents:
White Paper "Our Health, our care, our say"