

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

Date: **12 June 2008**

By: **Chairman of the tabletop review board**

Title of report: **Tabletop scrutiny review of the provision of short term residential respite care**

Purpose of report: **To update the committee on the work of the review board**

RECOMMENDATION – that the Committee considers the work of the tabletop review board and agrees to have an update report on respite provision to the November 2008 committee meeting.

1. Financial Appraisal

1.1 There are no financial implications arising from the recommendation.

2. Supporting Information

2.1 Councillor Barry Taylor and Councillor Trevor Webb (chairman) carried out a short tabletop review to explore the provision of short term residential respite care. The review board held two meetings with officers on 26 March and 7 May 2008 to consider:

- the purpose of residential respite care and consider the different types of provision available;
- the provision of residential respite care in East Sussex (from both the department's directly provided services (DPS) and the independent sector providers); and
- how recent work by the department, along with central government legislation, has impacted on the demand and provision of residential respite care.

3. Findings

3.1 The review gave members an opportunity to develop their knowledge and understanding of residential respite care provision and have a frank discussion with officers about current respite provision and how the department plans to provide respite care in the future.

3.2 The review board concluded that:

- It was very difficult to establish a clear picture of the level of respite being provided and a breakdown of service users in terms of age and client group. This was due to inconsistencies in recording information and the use of several categories when recording episodes of residential respite care. This issue had been highlighted during the departmental review in 2007. A recommendation from that review had been to reduce the categories used for recording episodes and this would be introduced on the CareFirst database. The review board acknowledged that work was being done in this area and looked forward to seeing evidence of improvements in the update report to the November committee meeting.
- It was noted that the distribution of DPS and Independent sector services varied across the county. It was therefore not always possible to provide a wide choice of services. This also meant independent providers in areas where the level of provision was low were able to charge higher prices for their services.

- There was a shortage of nursing home respite care, particularly in the independent sector. Development of the four Age Well sites was highlighted by officers as a possible means for increasing provision in the future, subject to agreeing the final service model for these resources.
- An increase in vacant beds within the independent sector (partly due to the department's policy of keeping people in their own home for longer) meant the department was confident that, as DPS provision reduced, the increase in demand could be met from the independent sector. However, the department raised concerns that some independent providers were not offering an actual 'respite' service, but just taking the opportunity of filling a spare bed. Whilst this was acceptable in an emergency situation, for planned respite it was important to ensure that the client looked forward to the experience so that the carer did not then feel guilty about taking a break from their responsibilities. Further work in this area would be needed to ensure that the quality of all respite care in the independent sector was of a high standard.
- The Putting People First agenda will have a huge impact on the way in which respite care is provided. The introduction of individual budgets will mean that clients will have the ability to decide how they wish to arrange their care provision. This could mean purchasing a service from Adult Social Care, the independent sector, or even paying a family member or neighbour to provide care or support. As yet it was too early to assess how this change will impact on the demand and provision of residential respite care.

4. Recommendation

4.1 The review board recognised that recent work by the department, along with central government legislation, will continue to impact on the demand and provision of residential respite care over the next few years. The review board therefore decided that further work by them should be delayed at present. However, given the points highlighted at 3.2 the review board agreed that the ASC Scrutiny Committee should keep a watching brief on respite care and that an update report on respite provision be presented to the ASC Scrutiny Committee in November 2008.

4.2 The review board highlighted areas to be included in the update report:

- Up-to-date figures on the provision of residential respite care in both DPS and the independent sector, including a breakdown by age and client group.
- An update on the actions taken following the outcomes of the departmental review.
- An update on the work of the Service Placement Team on the improvements it has made to sourcing and procuring residential respite provision in the independent sector.
- The impact that personal budgets will have on respite provision in DPS and the independent sector and how the department will manage this.
- How the increase in demand for residential respite care from the independent sector has been managed and feedback on service user satisfaction of this provision.
- An update on the residential respite care to be provided at the four Age Well sites and how this will alleviate current shortages of nursing care respite provision.
- Outcomes from the Carers Respite Emergency Support Service pilot and the impact that this has had on demand for emergency respite provision.
- Future opportunities to provide respite care in a client's own home.

4.3 The Committee is recommended to agree to receive an update report on respite provision to the committee meeting in November 2008.

Councillor Trevor Webb

Chairman of the Tabletop Review Board

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Local Member(s): All

Background documents: None