

Report to: **Cabinet**

Date: **15 July 2005**

By: **Director of Adult Social Care**

Title of report: **East Sussex County Council Submission on the Adult Social Care Green Paper**

Purpose of report: **To seek the Cabinet's agreement to the proposed response to the Green Paper**

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Cabinet is recommended to approve the response to the Adult Social Care Green Paper attached as an appendix to the report.

1. Financial Appraisal

1.1 There are no direct or immediate financial implications arising from the Green Paper or the submission. The Green Paper does however outline a 10-15 year vision for Adult Social Care which has significant financial implications, especially if the future White Paper retains the Green Paper's current position that the service improvements suggested are cost-neutral and will not be supported by increased central government funding.

2. Supporting Information

2.1 Published on 21 March 2005, *Independence, Well-being and Choice*, the Government's Green Paper on Adult Social Care is a consultation document on proposals for the future direction of social care for adults in England. Predicated on the recognition of demographic and cultural shifts which will require significant changes to both the quantity and style of social care provision in the future, the Paper outlines better and broader services for vulnerable adults. This is underpinned by an emphasis away from a 'deficit' model and towards independence, empowerment, participation and choice.

2.2 Submissions on the Green Paper are invited by 28 July, and Cabinet has requested that East Sussex make a formal submission. The appended Submission document has been prepared with reference to the Local Government Association briefing material, and reflects an East Sussex County Council perspective of the issues raised.

3 Conclusion and Reasons for Recommendation

3.1 The view reflected in the submission is that the aspirations and ethos of the Green Paper are welcome and indeed largely align with both the Council's current activity and future priorities. Some areas offer challenge, particularly the emphasis on increased provision of preventative services. There is also an assertion that the public will accept a greater degree of risk and self-responsibility in managing their own care and an expectation that Directors of Adult Social Care will be able to consistently galvanise Health

and a broadened range of other partners into shifting significant resources into modernised, community-oriented services for all citizens.

3.2 The major concern however, is the insistence that increased provision can be developed at no additional cost. Without funding for “pump-priming” investment into services and adequate resources to manage change the Paper’s stated objectives will not be met. Alarming demographic shifts and higher expectations for quality and choice indicate a need for higher levels of funding in the future if services are to continue to develop and improve.

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Local members: All

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
None