
Every Older Adult Matters; an outcomes framework

Introduction

The profile of the population of Cheshire is changing. Although our total population and our 'adults of working age' population will remain broadly stable, between 2005 and 2021 we will see a 38% growth in the population of people over 65. The population of those over 85, the most frail, will grow by over 63%. At the same time, the population under 16 will fall by over 10%. These fundamental changes in the structure of population will have a profound effect on our communities and on the work of many agencies.

In February 2007, the Communities of Cheshire Partnership agreed to commission the development of an 'overarching strategy' for older people, which would extend across all parties to the Partnership and which could support and co-ordinate the work of all partners in relation to older people in our community.

The work has been undertaken by the nominated officers from all seven local authorities in Cheshire, the two Primary Care Trusts, Cheshire Police and Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service. (*).

At the meeting of the Communities of Cheshire Partnership on 9 August, it was agreed that the Older People's Executive Commissioning Group of the Partnership should steer the draft strategy through to a final version.

The Strategy

A draft overarching strategy has now been produced. The draft strategy is based on the outcomes framework for adults (in this context including older people) from the White Paper 'Our Health, Our Care, Our Say'. The overarching strategy has been given the working title of 'Every Older Adult Matters; an outcomes framework'. A copy of the draft strategy is attached.

Local Strategic Partnerships

The draft strategy was presented for discussion to the September meeting of the Older People's Executive Commissioning Group and then at a meeting of the full Older People's Reference Group (which includes representatives from each of the Local Strategic Partnerships and older people themselves) on 16 October. The document was circulated in advance of the meeting to the very large reference group and people were invited to give any suggestions for improvement on the day, or in advance if they knew they would be unable to attend.

The immediate feedback from the draft document is that it has been warmly welcomed by all those which have seen it. The key positive point is the focus on the outcomes of the whole partnership, and representatives of older people themselves, who agree it is important for older people. Some textual improvements have been suggested and will be incorporated and, in the main, the feeling is that the final version of the document will be most welcome to Local Strategic Partnerships and to the whole system in terms of a basis for the 'refresh' of the Cheshire LAA.

The vexed issue of resourcing the achievement of the outcomes in the framework has been raised. It is recognised that some aspects of it are aspirational but there was also a view that, using the framework, much could be achieved through better joint working and co-ordination across the Partnership as a whole within existing resources.

Next steps for the outcomes framework

A final version of the report will be available as soon as the proposals for improvement in the text are incorporated by the officer group who drafted the report.

It is clearly recognised that the implementation of the framework must be properly managed to ensure that it becomes a living part of the work of the Cheshire partnership framework as a whole, and of individual agencies. As with most things this will not simply 'happen'; there will need to be input from officers to steer the framework through the series of discussions which will need to take place for it to become embedded within LSPs, Community Strategies, and the thinking of individual agencies who make up the Partnership. It may be that the Partnership would wish to commission a 'launch' of the document, with appropriate publicity.

The original officer group has worked very effectively to produce the strategy and the Communities of Cheshire Partnership can rightly be proud of the work their representatives have produced. Members of the officer group are clear that they were asked only to produce the strategy and that specific piece of work is nearing completion. The advice of the Communities of Cheshire Partnership is sought on how best to secure the resources to see this piece of work through to implementation.

The Cheshire Chief Executives discussed the report at an earlier stage and have expressed an interest in considering it again at the implementation stage.

Recommendations:

- **That the Communities of Cheshire Partnership receives the document 'Every Older Adult Matters; an outcomes framework' and adopts it as a document with the support of the partnership.**
- **That the Communities of Cheshire Partnership advise on the next steps in implementation, in particular in relation to how this is resourced, and whether a formal launch should be commissioned.**

- **That this report, and the framework itself, are shared with the Cheshire Chief Executives when the framework is finalised.**

Contact:

Sheelagh Connolly

Tel: 01244 973006 / Email: sheelagh.connolly@cheshire.gov.uk

(*)Central and Eastern Cheshire PCT; Roger Simpson, Bernadette Bailey, Mike Bridges,
Western Cheshire PCT; Helen Berry
Chester City Council; Julia Hope
Ellesmere Port and Neston Borough Council; Janet Jackson
Vale Royal Borough Council; Jackie Thornhill
Crewe and Nantwich Borough Council; Donna Williamson
Macclesfield Borough Council; David Kidd
Congleton Borough Council; Karen Carsberg
Cheshire Police; Jenny Ford
Cheshire Fire and Rescue; Frances Edgerton
Cheshire County Council; Sheelagh Connolly