

## **DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE**

### **Review Title: Response to Government Consultation on Changes to the Care and Support System**

### **A Review by the Healthier Communities and Older People Overview and Scrutiny Panel**

#### **Background**

The Government has launched a period of engagement with the public and key stakeholders, regarding the future of care and support services, which is set to run from May to November 2008.

Care and support is described by the government as comprising of “the activities, services and relationships that help people to be independent, active and healthy – as well as to be able to participate in and contribute to society”

The Healthier Communities and Older People Overview and Scrutiny Panel would like to undertake a review in their capacity as community leaders, in order to facilitate and co-ordinate a response to this engagement exercise on behalf of the Bath & North East Somerset community.

#### **Purpose**

The aims of the review process are therefore to:

- Consider the engagement exercise being carried out by the Government
- Act as community leaders to facilitate debate amongst local residents on the issues raised by the engagement documents and process
- Respond to the government on behalf of the local population

#### **Objectives**

To consider and make representation to the government on behalf of the local population in response to the following key questions as set out in the government’s engagement documents:

- What do the government need to do to make their vision of independence, choice and control a reality?
- What should the balance of responsibility be between the family, the individual and the Government?

- Should the system be the same for everybody or should the government consider varying the ways they allocate government funding according to certain principles:
  - o Should there be one system for everyone or different systems depending on the type of care and support needs somebody has
  - o Which is more important – local flexibility or national consistency?
  - o What should the balance be between targeting government resources at those least able to pay and having a system that supports those who plan and save?

## **Scope**

The review will follow the scope set out by the government which comprises of four key areas:

1. Services that are grouped together as ‘social care’, such as meals on wheels, domiciliary care, day care, care homes, counselling and occupational therapy, and support for carers
2. Some elements of housing support services for older people and disabled people, funded through Supporting People, as well as adaptations that help people get around at home safely, such as handrails and walk-in showers, often funded through the Disabled Facilities Grant
3. Support for independent living for disabled people, including the Independent Living Fund
4. Benefits that help people with the extra costs of disability in later life (although any changes that may emerge will not affect existing benefit recipients)

## **Approach**

The Panel will nominate 3 Panel Members to form a Steering Group which will be responsible for co-ordinating the review and its activities.

### **1. Research**

- Draw together a background pack of information on the key issues
- Attending local stakeholder workshops organised as part of the Government engagement exercise

## 2. Consultation

A number of consultation activities will be considered, and the Panel will consider seeking suggestions from key stakeholders on how they would prefer to be engaged with. Some possible suggestions for consultation are as follows:

- Seeking views of local people via press release, web page, and e-consultation page
- Undertaking online consultation exercises such as online forum debates, online questionnaires and option to comment
- Signposting to the relevant government web pages to enable a direct response where this is preferred
- Contributor session to hear from expert witnesses and key stakeholders
- Series of facilitated workshops in a range of locations to hear from service users, carers, frontline staff and potential/future users of services
- Engaging with the third sector
- Working with the LINKs to draw in local opinion
- Placing consultation material in key locations such as doctors surgeries, libraries, chemists, sheltered accommodation etc

## 3. Consideration of evidence gathered

- All information gathered in this review will be considered by the Panel at a facilitated workshop and final conclusions and recommendations fed back into the Government engagement process which concludes in November 2008.

## Outputs of this Review

- Notes and papers from public Healthier Communities and Older People O&S Panel meetings
- Report incorporating key findings, conclusions and recommendations to be fed back into the Government engagement process

## Constraints

- The review must be managed within the budget and resources available to the Panel. The review has to meet an externally determined timescale and all consultation activity and formulation of recommendations will need to be concluded by November 2008.

## Draft Outline Project Plan

<b>Date</b>	<b>Stage / Activity</b>	<b>Meeting Type</b>
8 <sup>th</sup> July 2008	Draft Terms of Reference taken to Panel meeting	Public
July 2008	Steering Group meeting to further agree on review activities	Private
August to October 2008	Consultation activities undertaken	
October 2008	Facilitated workshop to draw together Panel's final conclusions and recommendations	Private
November 2008	Panel's final response sent to the Government for inclusion in their engagement process	

## Project Team

<b>Steering Group made up of 3 Members of the Healthier Communities and Older People O&amp;S Panel</b>	
<b>Director:</b>	Jane Ashman, Strategic Director, Adult and Health Services
<b>O&amp;S Project Officer:</b>	Alison Enever
<b>Panel Administrator, Democratic Services</b>	Jack Latkovic