

JOINT COMMUNITY CARE PLAN 2006 - 2009

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1 Introduction

- 1.1 This is the first Joint Community Care Plan between Aberdeenshire Council and NHS Grampian since the Aberdeenshire Community Health Partnership was established in 2005. The Plan meets the statutory requirement for joint planning and reflects the continuing commitment to partnership working in the planning, development and provision of community care and health services for the people of Aberdeenshire
- 1.2 Part 1 of the Plan sets out the policy objectives and priorities for services, expected outcomes, the resources required to meet the objectives of the overall Plan and the general themes that apply across community care. Part 2 describes the policy priorities, the service achievements and action plans for meeting the needs of each of the main community care groups
- 1.3 The Joint Community Care Plan brings together information from many other strategies and plans. The electronic version of the Plan, available on the Aberdeenshire Council and NHS Grampian websites, allows links to be made to more detailed information on relevant policies and plans held elsewhere and will be a useful way of accessing the information that informs the Plan

2 Key Messages

2.1 The Changing Context of Community Care

The Plan highlights that the changing age profile of the population will have a significant effect on the demand for community care services and the way these services are delivered. The population of older people within Aberdeenshire will see a significant increase over the next five to fifteen years and this will create challenges for the local authority and the NHS to provide services to enable most people to remain in their own homes for as long as they are able to. Free Personal Care, Telecare developments, Care and Repair, falls prevention work and health improvement programmes will all feature significantly in the outcomes expected from the Plan. The number of children and adults with profound disability and complex needs is also increasing. There is a continuing need for the local authority and the NHS not only to be the main service providers but to work with and support the relevant voluntary organisations to develop their capacity to meet the needs of children, young people, parents and carers

2.2 Working in Partnership

The Plan highlights the essential joint working required to deliver the Community care objectives. The Joint Future initiative has strengthened good joint working arrangements between the Housing and Social Work Service and the NHS. This is continuously being developed, and is reflected in the decision-making structures, joint strategies and projects. The Plan also

reflects the relationship with the Community Planning Partnership in delivering the Community Wellbeing theme of the Community Plan. Social Work has a policy of supporting and working with voluntary organisations in the provision of community care. Appendix 4 of the Plan details the commitment to organisations to provide a range of services, including specified services on behalf of Social work and specialist advice, information and research.

2.3 Joint Strategic Plan for Services

Part 2 of the Plan details the many achievements across community care service users groups for the period 2004-2006 and our plans for 2006-2009. We have a number of joint strategies for community care groups and we need to ensure that our plans are realistic and achievable. Strategies need to be monitored to ensure that we are delivering the actions identified and also need to be reviewed to ensure that we are being responsive to the changing needs of the people we provide services to

2.4 Resources

Appendix 4 details how the Joint Community Care Plan will be resourced. Community Care accounts for the largest proportion of the social work budget, with a budgeted Gross Expenditure for 2006-07 of over £82.8 million. Social work supports a number of Voluntary Sector organisations and also makes small grant funding to enable the provision of community care services. In order to allocate resources as effectively as possible, social work has developed Resource allocation indices for the Home Care, Occupational Therapy and Care Management budgets. These take local population factors into account as well as the impact of deprivation. Eligibility Criteria has been introduced for community care services to ensure that the people who have the greatest need for services receive this, in a climate where there is a greater need than resources can fund. Resource transfer income of £10.2 million was committed from NHS Grampian for the period 2006-07. Over two thirds of this total is for the provision of services for people with a learning disability following resettlement of people from Ladysbridge and Woodlands hospitals.

2.5 General Themes

The Joint Community Care Plan highlights a number of general themes that are the responsibility of either a number of services within the Local Authority or are shared with the NHS. Transport is a main theme in the rural area of Aberdeenshire, whether this is to enable people to get to the main towns or to keep hospital appointments in Aberdeen or Elgin. Equality is a theme where there is a responsibility for public bodies to comply with legislative requirements in the production of race, gender, disability and other equalities schemes. Protection of Vulnerable Adults is a further area that requires close working between the Local Authority, NHS and other organisations such as Grampian Police and the Care Commission. Joint training sessions have been held to assist staff employed in health and social care to adopt a uniform approach to recognising abuse and to know what steps they must take in tackling an alleged abuse situation.

2.6 Performance Measurement and Inspection of Services

The Joint Community Care Plan highlights the requirement to achieve both local and national improvement targets. Performance Indicators are reported periodically to relevant Committees and performance on specific areas such as Joint Future and Mental Health are reported to the Scottish Executive. There has been a significant increase in the number of inspections over the last few years. In addition to the performance inspection by the Social Work Inspection Agency, the Housing and Social Work Service is inspected by a number of organisations such as the Care Commission, Communities Scotland and is also involved in Joint Inspections through the NHS and Education service.

2.7 Service User and Carer Involvement

The Housing and Social Work service involves services users and carers in the planning of services through their involvement in strategic groups, forums and through contact with the organisations we commission services from. There are also number of ways that tenants are involved in the planning and delivery of services. Members of the public and organisations are invited to comment on the content of the Joint Community Care Plan through the Aberdeenshire Council website, the NHS website and Arcadia

3 Overall Summary

- 3.1 The Joint Community Care Plan is the main strategic document for community care services for the period 2006-09. It brings together information from many other sources and provides the framework for the work of the Housing and Social Work service and the NHS. A copy of the Plan is sent to the Scottish Executive and it is available for organisations and the general public through the website. The Plan details achievements for all community care groups, plans for future services, and highlights general themes. It details the resources required by the local authority and the NHS to meet the ever increasing demand for community care services.

June 2007