Older Peoples Service Provision
Terms of Reference for the Provider Forum

1) Introduction

The Older Peoples’ Joint Commissioning Strategy\(^1\) describes how health, social care and supported housing services will change for older people in the next few years, and sets out the commitments made by the organisations responsible for these services to work jointly together to improve the experience of those who use them and get the most out of available resources.

The population of East Sussex is changing and there will be more older people living to an older age; as such health, social care and housing services have to respond to these changes and the commissioning process is a key mechanism for achieving this. The development of better joint working and the co-ordinated management of care and treatment provided by health and social care staff and providers is vital at all stages of this process.

Putting People First (PPF)\(^2\) represents the largest transformation of the way that social care is paid for and delivered to adults since the 1990 NHS and Community Care Act. As a policy PPF has four key ‘pillars’:

1. Choice and control
2. Early intervention and prevention
3. Building social capital
4. Universal services

The scope of change is wide and can be translated into the following areas:

- The way support is assessed, bought and paid for through the implementation of Personal Budgets and Self Directed Support (SDS).
- Support that is delivered in a personalised way with outcomes focussed on people’s goals for their lives.
- The nature of the pathway of care; a re-balancing of the way resources and interventions are used to ensure older people are enabled to maximise their independence and keep safe.
- Strategies that take in the role of universal services and social capital through communities that are engaged and active, where services are inclusive and information and advice is accessible to all.
- New or redefined roles in the following areas; advocacy, support planning and brokerage.
- Redefined relationships supporting safeguarding, risk and review within the SDS process.

Adult Social Care will need to engage with a range of key stakeholders to ensure that transformation in East Sussex is informed by evidence, information and views. Provider organisations will have an interest across the range of this transformation, and there will be many opportunities to deliver and diversify into new types of service provision. Person-centred support can take many forms and includes the concepts of social capital and the role of universal services and local communities in delivering services that are sustainable in the long-term. Provider organisations have a key role to play in PPF in a variety of ways, including the following:

- As providers in the market of care and support services and activities
- As organisations facilitating the representation of communities of interest in helping to understand local needs and priorities to inform service planning, commissioning and market development.

\(^1\) Joint Commissioning Strategy for Older People, ESCC, 2007- currently being refreshed
\(^2\) Putting People First Concordat – Transforming Adult Social Care and LAC (DH) (2008)
2) Purpose of the Older Peoples Provider Forum

The Older Peoples Provider Forum would have the following purpose:

- To facilitate information-sharing and policy briefings in relation to the Joint Older Peoples Commissioning Strategy and PPF.
- To share potential opportunities for service diversification and development under the ‘Transforming Social Care’ agenda.
- To help to identify appropriate provider representation on working groups and project teams associated with the Commissioning Strategy and PPF developments.
- To receive regular updates on Commissioning and PPF activity for discussion.
- To act as a source of information exchange and the development of innovative ideas for the design of personalised services and continued move towards outcomes-based commissioning.
- To enable provider issues and views in relation to specific aspects of the Commissioning Strategy and PPF agenda to be discussed with Adult Social Care.
- To initiate specific pieces of work or projects, that are identified as part of ongoing Commissioning Strategy and PPF development to help achieve objectives related to service provision, as the need arises
- To stimulate service diversification through collaboration and mutual support.
- To consider and propose joint training initiatives, in liaison with the Adult Social Care Strategic Workforce Forum.
- To build on relationships between all providers in a spirit of collaborative competition and encouraging partnership approaches.
- To share best practice in service delivery, and potential challenges in meeting new and developing service requirements and objectives.

3) Membership of the Older Peoples Provider Forum

The Forum is open to any current or future provider of services and support to older people with social care needs. This includes in-house ASC services, independent or third sector services, micro enterprises and Personal Assistants.

4) Meetings

Meetings will take place initially on a quarterly basis according to the requested frequency from the provider survey carried out in the autumn 2009. This will be reviewed and revised, as appropriate and with the agreement of all parties.

5) Review

To enable effective involvement of the all stakeholders in PPF requires structure, trust and accountability both within the sector itself and between the independent, voluntary and statutory sectors. These terms of reference will be reviewed on an ongoing regular basis to ensure that conflicts of interest and other issues are highlighted and transparency is maintained.

Any joint learning achieved through this process will be used to inform the wider development of practice in this area to the benefit of the PPF agenda, and other areas of policy development where partnership working across the independent, third and statutory sectors is key to improving services.