

To: Buckinghamshire Partnership Forum

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DEVELOPING JOINT COMMISSIONING OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE SERVICES

A PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. To advise the Partnership Forum of the steps being taken to establish joint commissioning of services between Social Services and Health which will be further explored through a presentation to the Partnership Forum.

B PROPOSED ACTION

2. **The Partnership Forum is invited to NOTE the progress being made on this initiative and COMMENT on the implementation timetable and process.**

C SUPPORTING INFORMATION

5. Joint Commissioning is defined by the Department of Health as the process by which two or more agencies act together to co-ordinate their commissioning, taking joint responsibility for translating an agreed health and social care strategy into action for the benefit of users and carers.
6. At the 6th of February mental health workshop this year, Buckinghamshire County Council, Buckinghamshire Health Authority and the Primary Care Groups made a commitment to establish joint commissioning of mental health services by October 2001. Joint commissioning is seen as an important mechanism for supporting the development of integrated provision and for allowing for more flexible responses by health and social care to meet identified local needs.
7. A joint commissioning steering group has been established with senior managers from the above agencies to translate the commitment made into action. At the first meeting in April 2001 it was agreed that the joint commissioning framework must be able to support joint commissioning for other care groups in addition to mental health.
8. Terms of reference have been produced and external consultancy support from the Institute of Applied Health and Social Policy has been jointly commissioned. The objectives for this consultancy support are to work with elected members, Board members, and senior managers through the steering group to develop an agreed framework between Social Services and Health for the development of joint commissioning of services which:-
 - is developed following a detailed option appraisal
 - ensures accountability for joint commissioning to constituent agencies
 - ensures probity in the way commissioning happens
 - facilitates the implementation of national and local strategies and plans
 - seeks to resolve issues over where resources for particular initiatives should come from

- has the support from other stakeholders
- maximises the use of existing commissioning resources within Social Services and PCG/Ts and NHS Trusts
- takes account of the development of Buckinghamshire Modernisation Board and other fora for multi-agency working and decision-making.

An outline project plan has been developed. The steering group anticipates bringing a further detailed report to the Partnership Forum in July for discussion that sets out the options for a structure for joint commissioning.

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