

## **C REPORT OF THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ADULT SOCIAL CARE**

### **National Service Framework for Older People**

1 The local launch of the National Service Framework (NSF) for Older People took place on 4 July. This is an action plan to improve health and social services for older people and sets new national standards for all older people whether they live at home, in residential care or are being cared for in hospital. It focuses on:

- Routing out age discrimination
- Providing person centred care with older people treated as individuals with respect and dignity
- Promoting older people's health and independence.

2 There are 8 standards

Routing out age discrimination  
Person centred care  
Intermediate Care  
General hospital care  
Stroke  
Falls  
Mental Health in older people  
Promotion health and active life in older age.

3 Progress against the standards in this NSF have to be measured against agreed milestones.

### **Learning Disability Services**

4 Work continues on our response to the White Paper, "Valuing People". A Learning Disability Partnership Board has to be established by October this year. The plan is also to integrate learning disability services by April 2002 with the County Council being the lead agency. A Project Manager has been appointed and work is taking place on the human resource implications, budgets and

organisational development. Proposals must ensure proper accountability for statutory functions and effective involvement of users and carers.

### **New Partnership Executive Board**

5 The first meeting of this new board took place on 6 July. The main purpose is to make decisions on joint planning, joint commissioning and the integrated delivery of social care and health services. The board will also resolve difficulties and obstacles at the interface between social care and health in Buckinghamshire.

### **Residential and Nursing Homes in Buckinghamshire**

6 The review by Laing and Buisson is nearing completion and this should help us to develop a strategy for the future. One nursing home will be closing very soon and another may follow. It is becoming increasingly difficult to find rooms at an affordable price for older people. This is a major problem, particularly in the south east of England and has resulted in delayed hospital discharges. Winter planning is now seen as an all the year round issue (retitled Capacity Planning!). At the same time the challenge is to develop more intermediate care (recuperative and rehabilitative services) to reduce the need for hospitalisation and to provide an alternative to staying in hospital or having to move to long term residential or nursing home care.

7 The development of an effective strategy which is compatible with developments in neighbouring authorities, is an extremely high priority and an area conference is under consideration. Once the strategy has been developed, it will be costed and proposals presented to Cabinet.

### **Joint Review**

8 This Portfolio and the Children and Young People's Portfolio are giving high priority to preparing for the Joint Review (the Social Services Inspectorate and Audit Commission inspection of social services). The position statement must be submitted by 1 October and the Inspectors will be here during December and January.

**Swift**

- 9 Following the Cabinet decision on 21 May, work is progressing to replace the social care information system with the new SWIFT system.
- 10 Both these developments will require a great deal of officer time and will have a major impact on the work of the two portfolios.

**HUGH CAREY**  
**CABINET MEMBER FOR ADULT SOCIAL CARE**