

H REPORT OF CABINET MEMBER FOR ADULT SOCIAL CARE

Residential Care and Nursing Homes in Buckinghamshire

- 1 The review by Laing and Buisson has been completed and is being used to develop a strategy to increase the supply of beds and to facilitate the development of assisted living schemes in Buckinghamshire. The launch of the report is being planned for October. In the meantime, preliminary discussions on the recommendations have been held with the Fremantle Trust and BACH (Buckinghamshire Association of Care Home Owners).
- 2 I attended a meeting of South of England County Council representatives on 16 August which was held in Maidstone. Presentations were given on the service pressures in these authorities. There was particular focus on residential and nursing home placements and children's services; these are the areas where there is acute under funding experienced by most of the local authorities. A concerted campaign is being planned to lobby the Government to provide higher and more realistic funding for Social Services. This is taking the form of pressure through the LGA and Southern County representations, supplemented by local initiatives such as our review by Laing and Buisson and the follow up work.

Learning Disability Services

- 3 Work is continuing on our response to the White Paper "Valuing People". A Learning Disability Partnership Board will be established by the end of October. The project plan on the integration of learning disability services (Health and Local Authority learning disability services will be combined with the County Council being the lead authority from April 2002) has been widely discussed and supported by Health at the Modernisation Executive Board. A great deal of work will be required over the coming months to meet the challenging timetable.

Executive Partnership Board

- 4 This board was recently established to make decisions on joint planning, joint commissioning and the integrated delivery of social care and health services. A second meeting was held in August at which information on social care and

health budgets was shared and decisions made on the development of integrated commissioning. Work is also underway on "Pooled Budgets". (Section 31 of the 1999 Health Act provides new flexibilities to bring budgets together, reduce some of the traditional demarcation debates and improve delivery of services). A seminar is being planned on "Pooled Budgets" for Members of the County Council and the local Health Services which will take place in late November.

Joint Review

- 5 This portfolio and the Children and Young People's portfolio are having to devote a considerable amount of time to preparing for the Joint Review (a Social Services Inspectorate and Audit Commission inspection of Social Services). The position statement has been finalised and will be submitted by the deadline of the 1 October. The set-up meeting at the end of July identified a wide range of additional tasks to be completed before the Inspectors arrive in December.

HUGH CAREY

CABINET MEMBER FOR ADULT SOCIAL CARE