



DERBY CITY COUNCIL

COUNCIL CABINET
27 APRIL 2004

Report of the Director of Social Services

Implementation of the Single Assessment Process for Older People in Derby

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 To note the work carried out to prepare for the implementation of the Single Assessment Process (SAP) in April 2004.
- 1.2 To approve the Social Services proposal for further Single Assessment Process development in 2004 / 2005.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 This report outlines the Social Services plan for implementation of the Department of Health requirements for SAP for Older People and as such, forms the Social Services contribution to a joint health and social care initiative. This requirement is contained within the National Service Framework for Older People.
- 2.2 It is applicable to all people of ages 65 and over who come into contact with health and care services in Derby City except those within the Care Programme Approach in Mental Health Services.
- 2.3 There are key milestones to be achieved by April 2004, but Single Assessment is a longer-term development requiring organisational and cultural change over several years.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 The Department of Health (DoH) requires Health and Social Care agencies to implement its SAP for Older People guidance by 1 April 2004. DoH has not provided any additional resources to support this requirement.
- 3.2 In essence, this guidance requires agencies to implement systems for the collection and transfer of minimum data sets and for assessments for older people to be carried out within a framework shared by Social Services, Primary Care Trusts and other NHS Trusts.
- 3.3 Derby Social Services, with 12 other Health and Social Care Agencies, entered into an agreement to establish a SAP across the whole of Derbyshire in 2003. The Derbyshire and Derby SAP Consortium is led by Derbyshire Social Services. Within this, we have a Steering Group focusing on implementation in Derby. The Derby partners are Southern Derbyshire Acute Trust, Central and Greater Derby Primary Care Trusts and Derby Social Services.

- 3.4 A pilot site became operational on 1 August 2003 in order to test the SAP process. The other pilot sites are Chesterfield and Ashbourne. This was located in the Acute Trust but involved all the local partners. The Derby site is one of only four in the country involving an Acute Trust. The Derby site has successfully piloted Liquid Logic (enables electronic information sharing), and EasyCare, (a common, DoH accredited assessment tool), and have reached the stated target of fifty individual assessments within the Pilot criteria using the tools described.
- 3.5 The SAP Pilot ends on 31 March 2004. Interim evaluation has established that many benefits have been accrued from the SAP Pilot and that the consortium involvement should continue to be the model for 2004 / 2005.
- 3.6 However, evaluation suggests that the EasyCare assessment tool be subject to further benchmarking and a process has been commenced with partner agencies in Derby to achieve this in April and May.

The Department has allocated £15,000 to continue this work in 2004 / 05 by supporting first stage roll out of SAP at levels sufficient to meet Department of Health requirements. This will enable the Social Services Department to meet the requirements of the Department of Health by 30 June as contained in the 12 Steps Guidance issued in 2002 and revised in January 2004.

- 3.7 An evaluation of progress in the Derbyshire and Derby Consortium against the 12 Steps Guidance is attached at Appendix 2.
- 3.8 Further work in 2004 / 5 will concentrate on:
- Providing a range of staff training and development opportunities to promote cultural change
 - Concluding an evaluation of SAP against the Department's core business process
 - Testing SAP in another part of the Department, with Reception and Screening being actively considered
 - Agreeing the minimum data set for information to be shared across agencies
 - Confirming the IT solution (delayed due to the NHS National IT Strategy).

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1 Options to test and implement DoH guidance requirements were considered
- A) Within a Social Services model alone or;
B) Within a Derby Health and Care community model.
- 4.2 These were rejected due to the considerable benefits of scale to be accrued by a wider consortium approach across Derbyshire that can also meet core requirements for Derby and improve services to local older people.

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Background papers:	None.
List of appendices:	Appendix 1 - Implications Appendix 2 – Evaluation against the DoH 12 Steps Guidance

IMPLICATIONS

Financial

1. A contribution of £15,000 to further develop work in the consortium has been included in the budget for 2004 / 2005.

Legal

2. No implications at this point.

Personnel

3. No implications at this point.

Corporate Themes and Priorities

4. This initiative supports the Corporate objective to support and protect vulnerable people and help people live independent lives. It echoes Priority 9 in particular by reducing the number of times an individual's core data is collected and by enabling more timely information sharing across care agencies.

