

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Social Care & Wellbeing	DATE	25 February 2010
DIRECTOR	Fred McBride		
TITLE OF REPORT	Response to the Consultation on the draft SCWB Commissioning Strategy for Adults		
REPORT NUMBER:	SCW/10/026		

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

In early November the draft Social Care and Wellbeing Commissioning Strategy for Adults 2010 - 13 was distributed for consultation to all stakeholders. There have been over 20 consultation events with service users, carers, service providers and other interested parties. In addition there have been a similar number of written comments made on the strategy. The aim of the consultation was to ensure the thoughts and views of key external stakeholders, including service users, representative bodies, voluntary and support organisations, as well as the wider Aberdeen public, would be taken into account during our policy and practice development.

This report summarises this feedback and where possible incorporates this into the amended report.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

Elected members are asked to note the comments and approve the revised Social Care and Wellbeing Commissioning Strategy for Adults 2010 – 13.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The strategy informs the future planning and service development and has been composed in light of both the current and likely future financial context.

4. SERVICE & COMMUNITY IMPACT

Links to Single Outcome Agreement

National Outcome 2

We realise our full economic potential with more and better employment opportunities for our people.

Local outcome: Aberdeen will have high quality employment opportunities for citizens (VD&FL).

National Outcome 6

We live longer, healthier lives.

Local outcome: Sustain long term change by focusing on the prevention of, or reduction in, health inequalities. (Joint Health Improvement Plan).

National Outcome 7

We have tackled the significant inequalities in Scottish society.

Local outcome: Improve the quality of life in our most deprived areas (Community Plan).

National Outcome 9

We live our lives safe from crime, disorder and danger.

Local outcome: Reduce anti-social behaviour, violence, domestic abuse, racist incidents and drug / alcohol related incidents (Community Plan).

National Outcome 11

We have strong, resilient and supportive communities where people take responsibility for their own actions and how they affect others.

Local outcome: Every citizen is enabled to be more active in his or her community regardless of their age, gender, sexual orientation, ethnic origin, where they live or disability to ensure everyone can contribute to 'active citizenship' (Strengthening Local Democracy Strategy).

5. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

None

6. REPORT

- 6.1 The overwhelming response to the SCWB Commissioning Strategy and the subsequent consultation process has been positive. People welcomed the

opportunity to comment on the strategy as well as being able to discuss, which in turn supported collective understanding.

6.2 There was discussion at most events around the challenges posed by the need to make savings.

6.3 Throughout the consultation process across all users groups there were the following common themes:

Access to ordinary decent quality housing - This needs to be improved along with the flexibility of domiciliary support. *'My husband might still be living with me rather than in a care home nobody likes, this could have been avoided if I'd been told I could get more help at home'* Relative of a service users with Huntingdon's Disease.

Access to employment for a range of people with support needs – This could be improved. *'Getting a job has helped me get back on my feet, I was lucky there are a lot of others here who want to work but don't get help to do so'* Service user Mental Health Drop in Centre

Supporting Others - People in all user groups want to see greater opportunity for them to contribute to supporting others *'I'd like to be helpful'* Service user with a diagnosis of Alzheimer's Disease.

Information and control - At almost all the consultation events participants recognised the local authority was facing severe financial restrictions, however felt they needed to be involved in planning for changes to their service. *'I know the council needs to save money at my centre and if they told us how much money there was we could have told them how'*. Learning Disability Service user.

6.3 The comments below relate to the format of the strategy and reflect diverse and sometimes conflicting opinion. In these areas we have not made substantial changes and offer some explanation why changes in these areas have been limited.

Duplication - A number of people have noted that there is duplication in the strategy. The reason for this is because people may only read the section of the strategy for a particular client group. Therefore if an action is related to a number of different client groups it is necessary to include it in each of the sections and therefore duplication is unavoidable.

Length -The strategy comprises 55 pages with a further 26 being taken up by appendices. Of these 55 pages, 35 relate to the individual plans for differing client groups. These contain some duplication as acknowledged above. The appendices provide additional background to some of the content of the strategy, but the document would still be relevant if people choose not to read these. In

future issues of the strategy we may issue only the main document, and provide the appendices on request. We acknowledge the comments that the strategy is lengthy, but do not feel that we could properly have shortened it without missing out important content.

Accessibility – Criticism was made of the lack of accessible versions of the draft strategy such as Braille, tape and easy read. Consultation did include events with specialist communication needs accessibility will be improved for the amended version of the strategy. We will provide accessible versions on request.

Level of detail - There have been comments that in places the document lacks detail. It should be noted that the strategy indicates a direction of travel, rather than a detailed plan. When the document is finalised after the consultation period, detailed plans and timescales will begin to emerge for the actions indicated.

Vision Statement

Some amendments that were suggested were in relation to the Vision Statement. The inclusion of this statement was a direct quotation from an existing document and we were therefore not in a position to change it within this document.

7. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

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8. BACKGROUND PAPERS