



SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE

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Dear Colleague

"BETTER OUTCOMES FOR OLDER PEOPLE", FRAMEWORK FOR JOINT SERVICES FOR OLDER PEOPLE - CCD1/2005

Introduction

1. This circular invites local authorities and NHS Boards to implement the Framework for Joint Services for Older People. They should:
 - review their existing joint and integrated services and the potential to develop more, by December 2005; and
 - ensure the development of joint and integrated services, whenever appropriate.
2. This Framework has 3 functions:-
 - To promote the implementation and mainstreaming of joint and integrated services by local partnerships.
 - To set out the requirements and timescales which the local partnerships of NHS Boards and councils should meet in developing joint and integrated services.
 - To act as a tool to assist in the implementation of joint and integrated services.

Background

3. The Joint Services Group was set up by the national partners, the Scottish Executive, COSLA and NHSScotland, to identify ways in which more joint and integrated services could be provided and commissioned by health and local authorities. It consulted widely with people who use services, carers, staff and independent sector providers, in developing the Framework. There was also a full 12 week public consultation exercise.

4. Responses indicated very widespread approval for the:-
- principles of the Framework
 - tools and checklists for developing joint and integrated services
 - high level of examples of joint and integrated services, quoted in the Framework, already in existence or being planned.

Approach of the Framework

5. The Framework focuses on better outcomes for people who use health, housing and social care services, and their carers. It builds on work already undertaken in relation to Joint Future and to Community Health Partnerships (CHPs).
6. Improved joint or integrated working now needs to concentrate on achieving improved services for older people that assist them to live as independently as possible. The Framework advocates that a strong evidence basis to demonstrate better outcomes should now be established by local partnerships.
7. The Framework will help inform both health, particularly CHPs, and local authority partners' approaches to meeting the assessed and future need in their area. It is designed for leaders and decision makers, such as councillors, NHS Board members and senior managers. Its principles and approach can be used for services for all care groups, not just for services for older people.

Details of the Framework

8. It has 3 parts:
- The Executive Summary
Part 1: Implementing and Evaluating Services
Part 2: Joint Services and the Journey of Care
9. The Framework is designed to be used in many ways by different stakeholder groups, for example to:
- generate a national consensus about the benefits of joint and integrated services;
 - identify and offer solutions to joint planners and commissioners;
 - assist staff and managers wishing to learn about examples of good practice.
10. It covers a wide range of issues and it:
- analyses key features of joint services, and the obstacles or other difficulties as well as solutions in their development.
 - explains the emerging needs of some groups of older people with additional needs, eg mental health and substance misuse, and how to meet them.
 - promotes an interest in joint services which encourage a healthy and active lifestyle.
 - proposes ways of meeting future demands generated by higher numbers of older people and higher expectations.

Action

11. Local authorities and NHS Boards should:

- review together their approach to joint services, having regard to the recommendations in the Framework (Part 1 Section 10) by 31 December 2005 and report the outcome of their reviews via Joint Performance Information and Assessment Framework (JPIAF) for 2005-06.
- Ensure the developments of joint services where appropriate, and report progress via the JPIAF for 2006-07.

12. Further copies of the circular are available from Stephen Young, Joint Future Unit, Area 3ER, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh EH1 3DG, Tel: 0131 244 5424, Stephen.young@scotland.gsi.gov.uk . Other enquiries should be addressed to Linda Watters, Joint Future Unit, Area 3ER, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh EH1 3DG, Tel: 0131 244 2374, Linda.Watters@scotland.gsi.gov.uk .

ADAM RENNIE

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