

HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE DIRECTORATE

MEDIUM TERM PLAN 2005 –08 INITIAL ISSUES PAPER

A CITY FOR OLDER PEOPLE

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THE 2008 SCENARIO:

Older people in Southampton are using the Later Years Partnership to engage in the wide range of City life issues that affect them and they are taken seriously by the organisations involved in the Southampton Partnership. Not only are they significant consumers of commercial services in the City they are also significant users of a wide range of public services from public transport to benefits services. Clearly, the older people become the more use they also make of health and care services – and as such they are the single largest users of these services in.

A key priority for the Later Years Partnership and the City Council continues to be to harness and build the capacity to enable older people to influence decisions, and service provision in the city, ensure that strategies and plans take account of their needs, and to contribute fully to its governance.

KEY CHALLENGES 2005 – 8

National Priorities:

Nationally, in recent years, the government has placed a significant emphasis on older people, including the Better Government for Older People programme. The Government is again focusing on later years. Driven by demography and its impact on pensions, demand for services and the workforce, the Department of Work and Pensions is to publish a strategy on ageing. Two other initiatives that will need to be taken into account:-

- The Audit Commission has recently published 'Older People - Building a Strategic Approach' which picks up on the approach initially adopted by the City Council, and which is now being re-addressed. This approach will underpin CPA expectations in 2006.
- The Department of Health is currently undertaking a review of the National Service Framework for Older People, and NSF 'Mark 2' will impact on local authority and health services.

The government has also announced the review of adult social care services to report later in the year and proposals in the government's vision for Local Government emphasise the need to address the needs of older people.

The developing agenda requires a significant shift in thinking to promoting a quality of life in later years through better and more appropriate provision of a range of service supports as well as the focus on helping people live more independently through a focus on a range of support services which reduce needs for long term care for as long as possible.

Local Priorities/ Service Delivery

The establishment of a Later Years Partnership within the city, and the appointment of a Later Years Partnership Co-ordinator, enables the Council to now make progress in this area. A significant achievement has been the opening of the Millennium 3rd Age Centre, although many of the commitments in the current MTP remain to be addressed.

The Council's strategy to develop a City for Older People is based on:

- Shifting the balance of towards support for independence, including the development of low level support.
- Ensuring that the more general needs of older people are understood and met by mainstream services, programmes and resources.
- Promoting independent, healthy and active aging by:
 - providing opportunities;
 - promoting healthy active lifestyles;
 - tackling inequality;
 - providing good information and ease of access to service and opportunities.

Underpinning many of these challenges are key aspects of work undertaken through other programmes identified in this Plan. These include:

- Work to reduce fear of crime
- Neighbourhood based developments which should feature the needs and interests of older people
- The work being undertaken to implement the Older Persons Housing Strategy
- Recognition that the cultural needs of older people may require a varied and full approach both to address the very wide range of interests held by older people but also that they may have particular interests relating to their generation
- The very important role that effective health and social care services have in ensuring a good quality of life for as many older people as possible
- The need to tackle the lack of suitable transport in the city that bars many older people from everyday activities and opportunities that others take for granted and that support independence and healthy active aging.

Initial priorities for the partnership and the co-ordinator are::

- Building consultation and participation arrangements.
- Informing the development of a health and well-being strategy;
- Adoption of a falls prevention strategy;
- Influencing the Best Value Review on the use of publicly owned transport to increase mobility for older people;
- Prioritising the need for low level support, and inter-generational activity.

Links to other strategies

All other City Council strategies