

COMMITTEE: HEALTH SCRUTINY

DATE: 22ND AUGUST 2006

REPORT OF: DIRECTOR OF CLINICAL SERVICES
STOCKPORT PRIMARY CARE TRUST

REPORT TITLE: NHS FRAMEWORK FOR NHS CONTINUING
HEALTH CARE – CONSULTATION DOCUMENT AND
NHS – FUNDED NURSING CARE IN ENGLAND

1.0 Introduction

The consultation document sets out proposals for the new integrated National Framework for NHS Continuing Healthcare and NHS funded Nursing Care in England. This Framework has been developed in response to widespread calls for the Government to act to promote fairness and consistency in the provision of these services, and to remove the potential for a ‘postcode lottery’ under current arrangements, in which each one of the 28 regional Strategic Health Authorities has its own policies and processes.

The National Framework has been developed in consultation with representatives from health and social care and voluntary organisations as well as users and carers. It sets out a practical framework for practitioners, and a coherent system of eligibility and assessment for NHS Continuing Healthcare and NHS funded Nursing Care to ensure that access to these NHS services is interpreted and applied fairly and consistently.

The National Framework for NHS Continuing Healthcare and NHS Funded Nursing Care in England was released on the 19th July.

The National Framework is based on the provisions and responsibilities of the current legal framework for NHS Continuing Healthcare. When the National Framework is operational, Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) will be required to determine a person’s need for NHS Continuing Healthcare by reference to the assessment process set out in the framework. The PCT must go on to provide, or arrange for the provision of, such services (including accommodation) as it considers appropriate in light of that assessment. The assessment process stipulated in Directions will be underpinned by Departmental guidance. This guidance will provide further detail on the national policy on when a person’s care should be funded by the NHS (ie the eligibility criteria), and what services should normally be provided.

2.0 Remit of the Consultation

The National Framework will not change the extent of services that can be provided free of charge, nor will it alter the underlying policy on continuing care.

The National Framework does not deal with individual budgets or direct payments – the White Paper *Our Health, Our Care, Our Say: A New Direction*

for Community Services makes it clear that these will not be extended to NHS healthcare.

The Consultation does not explicitly cover under 18s (children). Whilst similar principles and values should apply, there are different legislative drivers for younger people's services, including their need for education. However, acknowledging the important links with children's services, we are publishing a separate paper on children's Continuing Care alongside this consultation and ask for your separate contribution on the specific issues which relate to this group.

While always welcoming feedback based on personal experiences, the Consultation will not be able to respond to or comment on individual cases.

This Framework does not apply to individuals who are detained under the Mental Health Act 1983, and who are the responsibility of the NHS under the provision of this Act.

3.0 CONSULTATION PROCESS

There is a 3 month consultation period ending on the 22nd September 2006. The PCT has a responsibility to ensure that the national consultation document is made widely available to statutory and voluntary organisations and the public. The PCT aims to fulfil this responsibility by:-

- Widely distribute Department of Health information leaflets to General Practitioners, public places – libraries etc, all clinical and social care teams, voluntary organisations and self help groups.
- Presentations and discussion to key stakeholder organisations, Local Authority, Foundation Trust and Pennine Care. Each of these organisations have 'champions' and it is intended to use these people to consult within their own organisation.
- PCT Board – July 2006
- Professional Executive Committee (PEC) – August 2006
- Health Scrutiny Committee – August 2006
- Health and Wellbeing Group – September 2006
- All Our Tomorrow's Partnership Shadow Board
- Media Press Release – August/September 2006
- Networking Event – 7th September 2006
- Open Forums x 2 – 7th September 2006
- Ethnic Diversity Service – August 2006

4.0 RECOMMENDATION

4.1 A presentation will be given at the meeting and is attached to this report.

4.2 The Committee is invited to comment on the presentation.