Cabinet Members’ Progress Report

1. Purpose of Report
The purpose of this report is for the Cabinet and Support Members for Social Care and Health to:

(a) Highlight some of the recent issues considered by the Cabinet since the last Panel meeting; and

(b) Identify some of the key issues and priorities for the coming months.

Questions, comments and views are invited from Members of the Scrutiny and Performance Panel on the content of this report. Members are also invited to identify issues for future scrutiny, for potential inclusion in the Panel’s Work Programme.

2. Important Issues from Cabinet
None to report this time.

3. Other Important Issues

3.1 Working with the Voluntary and Community Sector

In response to a previous discussion on 9 September 2008 at the Healthier Communities and Older People Scrutiny and Performance Panel I am now in a position to provide a further update on working with the Voluntary and Community Sector. Having considered the input from the Directorate and SCIO at the meeting the Panel made the following recommendations in support of the Directorate’s commitment to developing a “mixed economy” of high quality and value for money social care provision in Staffordshire:

‘That the Directorate develop a Voluntary and Community Sector Funding Strategy that sets out the principles of:

- Regular open and frank dialogue.
- Consultation at the start and throughout the commissioning process.
- Supporting sustainable longer term contracts.

That the Directorate and County Council continue to work with, and through, SCIO to build capacity in the sector in order to support changing local priorities and to support the sector in developing and delivering more outcome focussed measures of success.’

In direct response to these recommendations, on November 6th the Joint Commissioning Executive approved the development of a Commissioning Strategy for the Third Sector (the voluntary and community sector). On November 11th the Adult Care Board endorsed the approach more fully outlined in the Appendix attached to this report.

Commissioning will play a significant part in the place shaping agenda, in supporting the local
Commissioning in the future will increasingly be about the whole person with agencies taking a more preventative approach and moving towards commissioning what Lord Darzi refers to as ‘upstream’ services. The Third Sector is well placed to support the health and well-being agenda in being community-based, offering specialist services and has the ability to offer choice and promote independence. This means the best possible outcomes for the people of Staffordshire, making the best use of available resources.

The Strategy will also seek to align and streamline the County Council’s Directorate of Social Care and Health’s and two Primary Care Trusts’ approach to procurement with the Third Sector. Staffordshire County Council’s Social Care and Health Directorate, NHS North Staffordshire and South Staffordshire Primary Care Trust all provide funding for Third Sector organisations, but the processes for applying and accessing this funding has been inconsistent and is often confusing for the Third Sector. Through the delivery of this Strategy we aim to make accessing service level agreements, contracts and grants less complicated, for it to become a more transparent process and for services to be commissioned on a fairer basis for the Third Sector, in line with Compact principles.

The Strategy will be developed over the period from November 2008 to April 2009. A working group of partners including Staffordshire Consortium of Infrastructure Organisations (SCIO) will meet a number of times in the New Year to progress the development of the Strategy. The Joint Commissioning Unit and SCIO will also engage the sector more broadly through a Third Sector provider reference group which will identify issues direct from the sector and create open and frank dialogue. This approach will ensure that consultation with the sector happens at the beginning and throughout the commissioning process.

3.2 Pearce Court

I wanted to let you know about an incident on Monday evening, 1st December, in the Lichfield District. There was a power failure early in the evening which affected a large part of the city. As the evening went on, the estimated time for power to be restored was getting ever longer. The Civil Contingencies Unit and Lichfield District emergency planning colleagues notified me of the situation, and concern for residents of a sheltered housing scheme at Pearce Court. A small number of these residents are particularly vulnerable because of their physical and mental frailties. The team in the district council had been trying to make some arrangements to get these residents to warmth and shelter and called us for help.

I am proud to say that the response from front line staff in Social Care and Health was exemplary. Within a short time of getting that first call, 4 community care workers were on site at Pearce Court to help people prepare for evacuation and probably an overnight stay away from home; I asked for 2, and immediately got 4 volunteers, including one lady who cancelled a planned evening out to go and help. The Day Centre Manager, a driver and one of our buses was also there and ready to move people to the Leisure Centre where there was heat and light, and 2 social workers from the Emergency Duty Service ready to support people who needed to go to bed and breakfast or residential accommodation overnight.

In the event, the power was restored just in time before we had to move people out of their homes, but I wanted to share this story with you, and also share the appreciation and reassurance felt by the people living in Pearce Court.
3.3 Carers’ Rights Day 5th December 2008

Carers’ Rights Day in the Lichfield District was held on Friday 5th December this year. The event was opened by Cllr Brenda Constable, Chairman, Health (Overview & Scrutiny) Panel, Lichfield District Council and was attended by approx 35 people. The theme of the day was "Making the most of your money" and exhibitors included Welfare Benefits, Fusion Credit Union, Hestia (Energy Saving) as well as advice from a pharmacist and health checks from the PCT. Those who attended the event were able to discuss money matters with the experts present as well as having the opportunity to have a mini health check whilst they were there. Hestia were on hand with energy saving advice as well as handing out energy saving light bulbs and power down plugs. Several visitors were even lucky enough to win a prize in the free tombola.

3.4 Images

“Images” is a Social enterprise that produces hand made cards and jewellery and has most recently been involved in the “WISH DAY” at the Assembly rooms Tamworth, Macmillan Coffee morning at Marmion House and has produced a range of cards and jewellery for Social services Headquarters in Stafford for the recent CSCI inspection.

“Images” was developed using European social Funding on the “Puissance” project which linked potential enterprises across the locality and other authorities to develop and share good practice.

The demand has steadily increased over the last few years and this year has seen the biggest upsurge in orders and business. The future looks full of potential and we will be looking to expand further with plans to investigate alternative premises, marketing opportunities, internet orders and “e-cards”.

3.5 Service users Andrew and Marie Wakelin from Tamworth got married in November of this year. The happy couple had their ceremony at Tamworth Registration Office, followed by a reception at the Royal British Legion Club.

Both Andrew and Marie attend Tamworth Day Services where they first met several years ago. Community Living Support staff helped with the preparations and were there to support the bride and groom on the day.

4. Portfolio Holders’ Decisions

None to report this time.

5. Summary of Items Contained in the Forward Plan
May 2009
Section 75 Pooled Budget Arrangements for Learning Disability Services

The Joint Commissioning Unit is developing a proposal to pool County Council and NHS commissioning funding for Learning Disability services. This will form the basis of a formal agreement under Section 75 of the NHS Act 2006 and will need Cabinet approval.

Susan Woodward, Cabinet Member – Healthier Communities and Older People
Carol Dean, Cabinet Member – Safer and Stronger Communities
Tony Wilkins, Support Member – Disability Services
Michael Clarke, Support Member – Older People's Services
REPORT TO THE JOINT COMMISSIONING EXECUTIVE
TO BE HELD ON: 6 November 2008 and the
ADULT CARE BOARD TO BE HELD ON: 11 November 2008

Subject: Developing a Commissioning Strategy for the Third Sector

Lead Director: Ian James, Director, Joint Commissioning Unit

Lead Officer: Harriet Summerfield, Commissioning Manager (Partnerships), JCU

Recommendation: For Approval X For Discussion For Information

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT:
To seek approval for the development of a Commissioning Strategy for the Third Sector.

KEY POINTS:
1. Commissioning will play a significant part in the place shaping agenda, in supporting the local economy and creating ‘An Environment for a Thriving Third Sector’, a priority within Staffordshire's Local Area Agreement 2008 -2011.
2. The Strategy will be developed over the period from November 2008 to April 2009.
3. This will provide the basis for implementing new tendering arrangements, where appropriate, during Summer / Autumn 2009 with a view to 2010 implementation.

CORPORATE OBJECTIVES:
This Strategy will meet corporate objectives across Social Care & Health, both Primary Care Trusts and the Third Sector.

IMPLICATIONS:
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<th>Legal and/or Risk</th>
<th>There will be an impact on contracting/procurement processes</th>
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<tr>
<td>Financial and performance</td>
<td>As above.</td>
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<td>Training and organisational development</td>
<td>None.</td>
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<tr>
<td>PBC and Districts</td>
<td>The Review will seek to clarify respective strategic and PBC/District roles</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>None</td>
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RECOMMENDATIONS / ACTION REQUIRED:
- To approve the proposals outlined in the scoping paper.
- To decide whether or not to roll over existing contracts with the Third Sector for 2009/10.
Developing a Commissioning Strategy for the Third Sector

1. The JCE (November 6th) and Adult Care Board (November 11th) are asked to consider and comment on this scoping paper for Developing a Commissioning Strategy for the Third Sector. Commissioning will play a significant part in the place shaping agenda, in supporting the local economy and creating ‘An Environment for a Thriving Third Sector’, a priority within Staffordshire's Local Area Agreement 2008 -2011. The JCU needs to be increasingly working in partnership with the Third Sector in terms of both strategic planning and development of services and contracting and procurement with the sector as a deliverer of services.

Why develop a Commissioning Strategy for the Third Sector?

2. The Commissioning strategy will cover both the future strategic commissioning relationship – how commissioners work together with the sector to anticipate develop capacity to respond to future needs – and the future of the contracting relationship.

3. Commissioning in the future will increasingly be about the whole person with agencies taking a more preventative approach and moving towards commissioning what Lord Darzi refers to as ‘upstream’ services. The Third Sector is well placed to support the health and well-being agenda in being community-based, offering specialist services and has the ability to offer choice and promote independence. This means the best possible outcomes for the people of Staffordshire, making the best use of available resources.

4. The Strategy will also seek to align and streamline the County Council’s and two Primary Care Trusts' approach to procurement with the Third Sector. Staffordshire County Council’s Social Care and Health Directorate, NHS North Staffordshire and South Staffordshire Primary Care Trust all provide funding for Third Sector organisations, but the processes for applying and accessing this funding has been inconsistent and is often confusing for the Third Sector. Through the delivery of this Strategy we aim to make accessing service level agreements, contracts and grants less complicated, for it to become a more transparent process and for services to be commissioned on a fairer basis for the Third Sector, in line with Compact principles.

5. A greater emphasis needs to be placed on the development and promotion of our commissioning and procurement plans, to potential providers some of whom will be from the Third Sector. This will then give organisations a very clear idea of the services that we would like to buy and when and how they can compete to secure business in a fair and transparent manner.

6. The NI 7 Delivery Group is at the same time developing a “Commissioning Framework”. This will provide a high level set of operating principles. The Strategy proposed here will need to be set within the wider commissioning framework and will complement it by provider a more detailed articulation of the commissioning relationship for health and Social care services.

Timescales

7. The Strategy will be developed over the period from November 2008 to April 2009. This will provide the basis for implementing new tendering arrangements, where appropriate, during Summer / Autumn 2009 with a view to 2010 implementation. This has the implication that decisions will need to be made whether to roll over existing contracts for 2009/10.
How will we go about developing the Strategy?

- liaise with SCIO for initial discussions
- set up six-weekly meetings of a working group with membership suggested as comprising of:
  - County Commissioner as Chair (possibly Vanessa Pugh?)
  - Staffordshire Consortium of Infrastructure Organisations (SCIO)
  - Commissioning Manager (Partnerships)
  - JCU Procurement
  - PCT Contracts Officer
  - District Manager
  - Head of Health Improvement (SC&H)
  - Chief Executive’s Office
- consider good practice examples from IDEA website
- look at other Local Authorities’ best practice e.g. Sandwell, Worcestershire etc,
- link in to the developing Staffordshire County Council Commissioning Framework via the LAA N.I.7 Environment for a Thriving Third Sector Strategic Group
- link in with the National Programme for Third Sector Commissioning

What will need to be included in the Strategy?

Strategy supports the delivery of two Local Area Agreement priorities, specifically: N.I. 6 ‘Participation in Regular Volunteering’, and N.I. 7 ‘Environment for a Thriving Third Sector’.

What do we mean by the Third Sector?

- voluntary and community sector including registered charities, voluntary organisations, community groups, faith groups engaged in voluntary social action, not for profit organisations, community interest companies and social enterprises

What are the benefits to working with and supporting the Third Sector?

- community focus
- specialist services
- choice
- independence

Compact compliance and principles

- Compact aims are to improve working relationships between Statutory and Third Sector organisations at a local level
- Staffordshire’s Compact is currently being reviewed
- outline the benefits to all partners
- Compact Champions within partner agencies

What is the commissioning process?

- the process of assessing needs, defining priorities, determining how they are best delivered, allocating resources, procurement, implementation and delivery, evaluating
outcomes and learning from and reviewing the process

• include principles of World Class Commissioning

What would a thriving Third Sector look like in Staffordshire?

Needs / gap analysis on the Third Sector

• needs to include assessing the range and value of current SC&H and PCT Third Sector contracts

Development of a model for funding

• Market Place - service delivery, open competition
• Investing in Infrastructure - capacity building to support competitiveness and representative role
• Grants - supporting engagement, pump-priming, development and innovation, community grants

• Review the procurement process in relation to the Third Sector. Procurement needs to have less bureaucracy and be proportionate to the size of the contract.

• Assess how best to bring clarity to strategic and local commissioning and procurement relations.

• Develop a model to support future joint procurement

• specific training on tendering via SCIO will need to be developed and funded, perhaps with a focus on the smaller and local voluntary and community organisations. This will help to strengthen the market locally.

Marketing and Promotion

• need to develop greater marketing and promotion of commissioning strategies so the Third Sector know what we want to purchase, and when, and are offered some support through the process.

• promotion of concept of Third Sector organisations partnering and working together, possibly as consortia.

Harriet Summerfield
Commissioning Manager (Partnerships)
Staffordshire Joint Commissioning Unit October 2008