

# Status of Social Care

Denise Platt

# The report

- Arose out of 'Opportunities for Excellence'
- Is complementary to the GSCC led project on the roles and tasks of social workers
- Only addressed issues of adult social care
- The whole sector

# The report

- The development of a Skills Academy to concentrate on leadership, management and commissioning.
- The creation of research centre(s) of excellence.
- The creation of a prestigious journal for social care that would emulate the status of The Lancet or the British Medical Journal.
- New awards for social care.

# Terms of Reference

- To review the current arrangements for promoting the contribution social care makes to the promotion of people's independence, inclusion, health and well being
- To consider whether any action is required to improve the status of social care services and the social care workforce
- To propose recommendations and timetable on any next steps which will be required.

# The report

- Published in April 2007
- Minister's response to the report outlined in his Five Point Plan announced at the ADSS Spring Seminar April 2007

# Findings

- The term 'social care' is not well understood by the public.
- Reputation: the services are perceived to be of poor quality and not to offer safety to the people who rely on them.

# Definition

The group of services that provide personal care and support to people in a social situation – such as family; the community; a communal setting; to help them achieve independence and to promote their positive contribution as citizens.

# Reputation

People are

- fearful because of reports about neglect and cruel treatment in the service;
- they cannot find the service they need;
- they are ineligible for a care managed service;
- the minimum standards are too low;

# Reputation

- charges are too high;
- the services are insufficiently responsive to their needs;
- they do not have sufficient control or choice of service;
- the pattern of services that people receive – the fifteen minute slot;
- the services are passive.

# Skills Academy

- Transform the lives of people who rely on social care services through excellent leadership of the service;
- To develop leadership across the public, private and voluntary sectors of social care;
- To identify and grow leaders in all parts of the sector;
- To create a 'fit for purpose' academy.

# Research Knowledge

- Models of personalised care – a concept which is recognised internationally and where such collaboration might be possible.
- Effective models of commissioning.
- Effective models of brokerage and advocacy
- The effective role of social work and relationship support in adult social care
- Effective models of user managed services

# Dissemination of Good Practice

- Enhanced role of SCIE
- Co-ordinate current initiatives
- Identify gaps in good practice networks
- Closer relationship with improvement resources (CSIP)
- Whole sector
- What the sector should not do

# Journal

- Whole sector
- Accessible language
- Commentary by practitioners and people who use services – does the research make sense, will it work in practice – i.e. the reality check.

# Awards

- Build on what is there
- Accolades
- Media partner
- Reception hosted by the PM!

# National Leadership

- National bodies speak with one voice
- Use CSR to raise the profile and explain in accessible language what social care is
- Further push to raise the qualification levels

# National Leadership

- Engage other professionals in social care work
- Bring forward new types of worker proposals
- Local improvement strategies in provided services

# And finally!

- Launch a national, co-ordinated improvement strategy for social care involving the national bodies for social care and representative organisations, including people who use the service, as part of the CSR announcement and the initiative to promote the importance of social care.