

Health & Social Services Committee

HSS(2)-14-04(p.11)

Date: Wednesday 24 November 2004

Venue: Committee Rooms 3 & 4, National Assembly for Wales

Title: Informing Social Care: A Programme and Action Plan for the Development of Social Care Information Systems in Wales

Purpose

This Report provides a brief summary of the principal areas that the programme and Action Plan 'Informing Social Care' will address.

Summary

The Consultation Document 'Informing Social Care' was issued in October 2003 to social care and health organisations across Wales. It is a key action in support of The Review of Health and Social Care (Wanless) which recommended that the Assembly should give a lead in social care ICT. The purpose then was to seek a coherent framework for the Performance Management Development Fund (PMDF), a Special Grant of £2.35m provided annually to local social services authorities. The focal point of the PMDF is on the information and information systems that now play such a major part in ensuring the provision of effective and efficient services to promote the well being of children and adults in receipt of social care across Wales.

The Informing Social Care Action Plan recognises that the development of performance management and information systems in social services authorities is a longer rather than shorter term commitment. The Programme for 2004/05 and 2005/06 concentrates on the four areas considered to be of the greatest priority. These are:

- Ensuring the provision and use of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) in social services authorities and partner agencies is coordinated both within and between local authorities. The actions in this are allocating resources in support of monitoring local project plans, encouraging social services authorities to work collaboratively, and assessing the implications of the implementation of 'Electronic Social Care Records' in Wales. Finally, it includes working with the Informing HealthCare Programme to develop a joint and convergent approach to the implementation of the Unified Assessment Programme in Wales and more specifically with the

local authorities to develop arrangements to support the implementation and operation of the Integrated Children's System.

- Enhancing the Performance Management capacity in social services authorities. This includes continuing the work to modernise information, develop relevant, consistent, reliable and valid performance and activity indicators not only for social services authorities but also for health care and other organisations whose services and activities are closely linked to the provision of social care to children and adults.
- Promoting information sharing arrangements between social care services, service users and those partner agencies who share in the provision of social care and wellbeing services. This is recognised as one of the cornerstones of practice to ensure that vulnerable people of all agencies are protected. The plans include the development of a Joint Health and Social Care Protocol on Confidentiality as well as Protocols and activities that are relevant to wider information sharing concerns in local government and beyond.
- Reviewing and Reporting on an annual basis the impact of the PMDF in social services authorities and the progress made with partner organisations on the implementation of Performance Management Initiatives and Information Governance arrangements.

The present Informing Social Care Programme and Action Plan is the outcome of an appraisal of progress made by social services authorities in the first three years of the PMDF. It recognises the requirement for close partnership with Informing HealthCare and the need for convergence. The Action Plan forms the basis of effort and investment over the next two years. The Action Plan will be reported and reviewed on an annual basis to assess progress and ensure that it remains relevant to the needs of the Welsh Assembly Government, social services authorities and vulnerable people in Wales.

Action

Members of the Health and Social Services Committee are asked to note this Report and the [Informing Social Care Programme](#) and [Action Plan](#).

Jane Hutt AM
Minister for Health and Social Services

Contact: Graham Williams, Ext 3196