



North Lanarkshire Voluntary Sector Briefing Reshaping Care for Older People/Change Plan December 2011

Introduction

VANL in its capacity as North Lanarkshire's Third Sector Interface, has been actively involved in recent months with a major Scottish Government initiative around Reshaping Care for Older People (RCOP). Our main role is to ensure the engagement of the third sector in this initiative and to research the contribution (historic, current and potential) of the sector to this agenda. Earlier this year, we signed off a Change Plan for North Lanarkshire (along with NLC, NHS & Independent Sector Partners) which aims to shift the balance of care from acute and institutional settings to more community based, preventative approaches over the next four years.

In an attempt to ensure that the sector is appropriately represented within the planning and delivery processes a series of events have been held to maximise the sectors involvement in shaping future plans.

Background

Across Scotland, People are living longer, and remaining healthier into their old age. A generation ago, the average Scottish Life expectancy was 60 years for men and 75 years for women, but by 2033 it is projected to rise to 81 years for men and 85 years for women.

Overall, this is good news of course and it is recognized that many older people are an asset and make a considerable contribution to their local community. However, an ageing population can also bring its share of issues. We need to plan ahead, to ensure that we have the health services and the infrastructure in place to meet the needs of an ageing population.

The Scottish Government recognizes that this is the case, and they have stated that: "We all need to recognize that the way the population is changing means we cannot simply stand still." (and so) "Scotland needs to make sure we can provide services that work for older people and that the country can afford."

Over the past few years, the Government consulted widely and has looked at how health and care services can continue to be delivered – and improved – for Scotland's older people over the next twenty years.

The Consensus that emerged is that any new approach to care for our older people should focus on preventative care and community involvement; that people need to learn how to look after their health and lessen dependence upon institutional care; and that ways need to be explored to let people stay active and engaged within their own communities.

This is a key opportunity for North Lanarkshire's Third Sector to contribute.

Structures

Within North Lanarkshire development of plans relating to the Reshaping Care for Older People and Change Plan agendas has been taking place within existing structures related to the Health & Care Partnership and Older People's Partnership Board. A Reshaping Care for Older People Steering Group has been established with a Community Capacity Building Sub Group remitted to undertake a focused overview of developments relating to both Community Capacity and Carer supports.

A key consideration for VANL has been to ensure, as far as possible, appropriate and meaningful representation within these structures. All of the planning groups listed above are attended by representatives from key sectoral agencies with coordinated feedback through existing mechanisms including the Voluntary Sector Partnership Group (VSPG).

In an attempt to further strengthen opportunities to engage with the sector at large a Reshaping Care/Change Plan Voluntary Sector Reference Group has been established to facilitate bottom-up communication and two-way feedback. The Reference Group allows any voluntary sector group – local or national – an opportunity to engage in dialogue relating to ongoing planning around Reshaping Care and the Change Plan specifically. Following an initial meeting early in December 2011, a schedule of Voluntary Sector Reference Group meeting dates for 2012 is currently being developed and will be circulated early in 2012.

Key Messages

Priorities

Within the Community Capacity Building Group discussion has focused upon clarifying priorities to guide and direct the work of the group. Headline priorities have been agreed as

- Community Capacity Building
- Support for Carers
- Public Information/Engagement

Further to identification of these priorities an element of desktop mapping has been undertaken by all partners to identify service and provision gaps on a thematic and

locality basis. The outcome of this work is currently being collated and should be available early in 2012 to inform service planning and resource allocation moving forward.

Available resources

Across Scotland there are different approaches being taken in each NHS Board/Local Authority Partnership area to planning and development of services as well as to funding allocations. Within North Lanarkshire the message is clear - that there is a clear desire and commitment to resource voluntary sector provision of services that will deliver on the Change Plan priorities that have been agreed across the partnership.

Any funded activity whether within the statutory, independent or voluntary sector will require to evidence clear connectivity to local and North Lanarkshire-wide activity that supports the Reshaping Care for Older People (specifically Change Plan) objectives. Funds will only be allocated to initiate, support or enable changes to supports and services for older people where there is a clear link to the agreed NL Reshaping Care Delivery Plan and where there is a clear link to future disinvestment to ensure sustainability.

Any activity resourced through Change Plan funds will be required to address the following:

- How it will improve outcomes for older people
- How it will lead to a shift in resources from acute care to community based support
- Whether the proposal is sustainable in the long term (beyond the life of the Change Plan)
- Consistency with the Partnership's vision for older people
- How it demonstrates whole system coherence

Mechanisms are currently being developed by NHS Lanarkshire – who are responsible for management and dispersal of funds – to allow organisations with an interest in delivering services to submit ideas and project outlines for consideration. These submissions would be sought by the North Lanarkshire Partners, in response to the steering group's assessment of the pathway of support and care for older people and to address any identified gaps in current supports and services.

It is hoped that detailed information will be published and available early in the New Year. Alongside this information will come guidance around monitoring and evaluation approaches and requirements.

Local Capacity and Connectivity

There is a Significant lack of information and evidence available to strategic planning partners involved in this agenda about the nature, reach, quality or cost of most locally based services being provided across North Lanarkshire to older people by the Third

Sector. At present data sources (local or national) capable of providing the required range and depth of information are limited.

Plans are currently under consideration to resource the sector on a locality basis to contribute in a meaningful way to gathering and providing evidence of the contribution of the third sector to this agenda in North Lanarkshire and to make this more visible and better understood by partners in North Lanarkshire.

Contacts

Further information about the Reshaping Care for Older People agenda within North Lanarkshire is available from

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Or	
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In addition the following organisations are represented at one or more of the partnership tables in respect of Reshaping Care and Change Plan:

North Lanarkshire Carers Together	(01698) 404055
Voice of Experience Forum	(01236) 758855
Princess Royal Carers Trust	(01698) 428090
Age Scotland	0845 833 0200
Alzheimer Scotland	0131 243 1453

This briefing and additional information that becomes available can be accessed online through the VANL website at www.voluntaryactionnorthlanarkshire.org.uk.