

CHANGE FUND - RESHAPING CARE FOR OLDER PEOPLE

Introduction

The 2011/12 Scottish budget announced £70m finance for a Change Fund to implement the *Reshaping Care for Older People Programme*. The money will come from an uplift arising from the UK Spending Review and will be distributed through NHS Boards.

The Ministerial Strategic Group (MSG) for Health and Community Care require local partnerships to prepare Change Plans to set out how the funding could be used to achieve a shift in the balance of care for elderly people in advance of further integration of health and social care for older people. The policy would be implemented by the Joint Improvement Teams in each council area.

Purpose of the Policy

The principal policy goal of the Reshaping Care for Older People programme is to increase independence and wellbeing for older people at home or in a homely setting. This is a challenging task - seeking improved services for an increasing number of people using diminishing resources due to cutbacks in spending.

Key Issues

Scotland is facing a declining and ageing population. The ageing demographic in Scotland means that the current pathways of care are becoming unsustainable. The *Reshaping Care for Older People Change Fund* aims to improve services for older people by shifting care from hospitals and care homes and enable them to stay in their homes longer.

All health and social care partners, including the third sector, had to draw up and implement plans for making better use of their combined resources for older people's services to be based on local authority areas

Local health, housing and social care Partnerships had to submit Change Plans to access the £70m available in the 2011/12 financial year. All 32 Partnerships produced and submitted plans which were considered by the Ministerial Strategic Group (MSG). Change Fund monies were then released to all Partnerships, based on their plans.

KEY POINTS:

- Scotland is facing a declining and ageing population
- The *Reshaping Care for Older People Change Fund* aims to shift care from hospitals and care homes into the home
- Challenging task, due to diminishing resources
- 2012/13 plans had to include support for carers
- Branches must examine plans for their areas, seek progress reports and other updates from employers
- Branches must meet with their counterparts in other branches to discuss the plans and devise strategies to counter problems.



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Following the 2012 Spending review, a further £80m Health and Social Care Change Fund monies were made available for 2012/13, £80m for 2013/14 and £70m for 2014/15. However, the 2012/13 plans had to allocate 20% of the funding to support carers; and the Funds had to be used to rebalance services to support people to stay in their own homes.

Examples of proposed outcomes:

- Reduction in unplanned acute bed-days in the over 75 population;
- Reduction in bed-days lost to delayed discharge;
- Remodelled care home use;
- Increase in proportion of older people living at home;
- Improved support for unpaid carers;
- Increased personalisation/SDS care; and
- Increases in housing related support.

Examples of Change Plans

Types of projects using change fund monies are:

- Increased opportunities for independent living.
- Models of sheltered housing to provide intensive home care.
- Introduction of Community Care night teams
- Enhanced support and well being for people with Dementia.
- Increased application of assistive technology
- Development of greater understanding of the capacity of the third sector to participate in reshaping care for older people.
- Older people's exercise classes

UNISON View

UNISON is supportive of greater effectiveness in delivering services and believes that co-operation between different public bodies can assist this, particularly when it is carried out to suit the needs of local people, rather than by centrally directed, structural reorganisation.

Used in this way, the Change Fund can be seen to improve services for older people as a move towards greater efficiency and integration of the services provided. However, we are concerned that it can also be seen as a diversionary tactic to avoid criticism about current cuts to local authority budgets which are adversely affecting social care provision.

Action for Branches

- Branches should talk to management about change fund plans for their areas and what they mean for the staff involved. The original bids sent to the Scottish Government ensured that progress would be reported back. Branches should ask to see copies of the progress reports and any other updates.
- Branches should seek meetings with their counterparts in either Local Government or Health so that they can co-operate and devise strategies for countering any difficulties which may arise.

Further info

Ministerial letter and guidance

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resour ce/Doc/924/0111884.pdf>

Change Fund guidance 2012/13

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Health/care/reshaping/changefund>

Joint Improvement Team – Change Fund Plans for each council area for 2011/12

<http://www.jitscotland.org.uk/action-areas/reshaping-care-for-older-people/change-fund-plans/>

Reshaping Care for Older People

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Health/care/reshaping>



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