**REPORT TO ADASS EXECUTIVE
22 APRIL 2009**

STANDARDS & PERFORMANCE NETWORK BRIEFING

1   JOINT HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE COMPLAINTS PROCESS (Making Experiences Count)

- The new, integrated complaints process has been established;

- ADASS establishing task group to support Local Authorities in the implementation;

- S&P Network leads are Veronica Jackson and Phill Sowter who will prepare summary guidance document to circulate to colleagues.

2   INFORMATION STRATEGY FOR ADULT SOCIAL CARE

This has been a year of progress on a number of fronts.

2.1 DH has established a **Strategic Information Board for Adult Social Care**

- to co-ordinate all adult social care information systems' matters under one governing body;
- to strengthen the position of adult social care in promoting integration of care records with Health and Children, and also in the corporate local authority context;
- the new Board will incorporate the responsibilities of the ESCR Board;
- the Board is jointly chaired by DH and ADASS.

2.2 DH is funding a **programme of work to develop consistency of information definitions and standards in adult social care.** This is a pre-requisite for information exchange and for comparability of data between local authorities. The work is being undertaken within the Information Centre and will be reported to and endorsed by the Information Standards Board for Health and Social care.

2.3 **The Social Care Record Guarantee** has been agreed by DH and the National Information Governance Board. Discussions are taking place with DH about making the Guarantee mandatory, as is the equivalent for the NHS. An implementation strategy has been developed and recommended to DH through the Strategic Information Board which will take on responsibility for implementation, supported by the National Information Governance Board.

2.4 **Use of NHS Number in Social Care** has been formally agreed, with Ministerial endorsement. Extension of its use in social care is a priority for NHS. We have established a 'virtual team' with volunteer local authority representatives to work with the NHS Number team on its roll out in social care.

3   INTEGRATION OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE RECORDS

3.1   Two important initiatives to pilot integration of health and social care records are now in progress:

   (a)   Health and Social Care Integration Programme which involves four local authorities testing how to link social care systems to the NHS Personal Demographics Service;
   (b)   Common Assessment Framework Pilots which will develop integration of health and social care assessment and care planning systems for all adults, with a policy emphasis on promotion of personalised and self-managed care.

3.2   The NHS National Programme for IT (NPfIT) has been undertaking a major review of its existing programmes and implementation strategy. We think this will put a greater emphasis on delivering electronic patient records to support front-line clinical practice.

   If this is the case, it will create a window of opportunity to raise the priority of integration of health and social care records within the CfH programme.

   Working with the Information Centre, we are preparing a briefing note for David Behan to discuss with Christine Connelly, Chief Information Officer for Health in DH.

4   INFORMATION GOVERNANCE STANDARDS IN SOCIAL CARE

   The IG standards in social care are advisory, whereas in the NHS the (virtually) identical standards are mandatory. In effect, these standards must be adopted by social care otherwise information exchange with NHS would not be allowed.

   It is recommended that ADASS Executive endorse the establishment of a time-limited task group to examine the issues around recommending to DH that these standards be made mandatory in social care, and that the Task Group report back to the next ADASS Executive.

5   NATIONAL ADULT SOCIAL CARE INFORMATION SYSTEM (NASCIS)

   Development of proposals for NASCIS based upon routinely-generated social care information is now well advanced. Led by the Information Centre, it is proposed to launch the first phase of NASCIS this summer.

6   NATIONAL INDICATOR SET AND CAA MONITORING

   Working in partnership with DH, we contribute to a work programme evolving the social care indicators in the National Indicator Set. This programme is also developing a standard set of performance indicators and definitions to support national policy initiatives such as PPF, which Local Authorities and LAA partners could elect to adopt if they thought relevant.

7 CSCI and CQC

We have worked actively with CSCI and CQC commenting on transitional arrangements and proposals for CQC development.

David Johnstone
Chair Standards & Performance Network
April 2009