West Midlands

2011 was without parallel in terms of the pace and scale of challenge. ADASS West Midlands have continued to approach the transformation of adult social care and adapting to decreasing resources collectively. The region has been at the forefront of a number of high profile pieces of national work ranging from alternatives to treatment and assessment centres for people with a learning disability to communicating with the public about the transition of care from Southern Cross. We expected a lively year with Peter Hay as President and 2011 certainly delivered!

A brief summary of the year’s highlights follows; you can also subscribe to our blog for more details: http://wwwjipwestmidlands.blogspot.com

Governance
The Joint Improvement Partnership (JIP) membership and objectives were reviewed at the start of 2011; both to rationalise the number of members and reposition the function of the JIP as the primary interface between decision-makers in the NHS and local authorities.

ADASS and JIP functions
ADASS in the West Midlands will focus on delivering sector-led improvement focused on quality and the issues that matter most to those with care and support needs as well as maintaining momentum for greater choice and control for people receiving social care services. This is manifested in the form of the following strategic priorities:

1) Think Local Act Personal
2) Sector-led improvement
3) Safeguarding and risk
4) Workforce
5) Valuing People Now
6) Autism strategy
7) Smarter commissioning (close links to the JIP agenda)
8) Carers
9) Continuing care
10) Mental health
The JIP’s remit is simply to avoid the need for hospital admissions by accelerating QIPP priorities and avoiding complex and intensive social care services via preventative services.

ADASS/JIP Activities and Outcomes – edited highlights
ADASS and Improvement and Efficiency West Midlands hosted a telecare austerity event in March. Over 100 people were in attendance throughout the day, with representation from all 14 local authorities within the region, as well as representatives from voluntary organisations, NHS bodies and authorities/organisations within the South West, East Midlands and North East regions and Wales.

A range of best practice examples were showcased with a significant amount of evidence of the role assistive technology can play in promoting independence and delivering efficiency. The afternoon saw the launch of the Regional Assistive Technology web portal – AskTARA a consumer based website that to enable any member of the public to understand more about and access assistive technology.

In April we made the long but worthwhile trip north to the ADASS spring seminar in Newcastle. Peter Hay was formally welcomed as ADASS President and challenged us to think about a new model for public health and the strength and value social care offers to enable this.

May saw the launch of the integrated care development programme. The work includes seven locality teams across the region. Teams consist of local authority providers and commissioners alongside health providers from the community and acute sectors, GPs and PCT cluster commissioners. The teams are currently developing business plans to implement the QIPP agenda in respect of the following areas:

- Community intervention services
- Frail elderly services
- Mental health for 14-24 year olds
- Integrated locality community teams
- Reablement for people with dementia
- Early intervention and screening for people with dementia
- Delayed hospital discharges.

The response to the collapse of Southern Cross commenced in August. The region co-ordinated data from every single local authority in England and worked in close partnership with colleagues in Northern Ireland, Wales and Scotland.

The net result was a partnership with the Guardian and an online tool that tracked the transfer of care on a daily basis to help allay concerns for residents, Carers and staff at Southern Cross. We estimate over 25,000 people accessed the database. The work has been referenced as an example of best practice by both Paul Burstow and Andrew Lansley.

Work on understanding pathways to treatment and assessment centres and the appropriateness of care in those environments was kicked off in tandem – a national event will be held in Birmingham in January to roll-out key findings and agree next steps.

In September savings derived from the care funding calculator project in the region exceeded the £7m mark. The vast majority of local authorities in the region have implemented the tools as standard and Improvement and Efficiency West Midlands are providing hands-on support to implement and negotiate on placement costs where required.

ADASS have worked closely with a local community interest company called Community Gateway on reablement and assistive technology.

Walsall has successfully implemented the EAble tool to drive up the productivity and improve outcomes for people receiving a reablement service. We captured all of the learning in October and hosted a webinar. 60 delegates from across the UK participated – a very cost effective means of cascading best practice.

November saw a rolling up of the sleeves as sector-led improvement gathered momentum. Coventry, Sandwell and Wolverhampton will be undertaking peer challenge exercises in relation to personalisation. Self-assessments are in based on ‘Making it Real’ domains. Changing Our Lives- a charity run by and for disabled people with now work with local communities to work through the I Statements. Oliver Mills from the national improvement programme will be providing some much welcomed external challenge.
In December our mobilising community capital programme produced its final evaluation report. There are key messages about managing provider risk, shaping the social care marketplace and innovation that we would like to share with colleagues at the ADASS spring seminar.

ADASS West Midlands would like to record thanks to Matt Bowsher (head of adult social care at Improvement and Efficiency, West Midlands) for his excellent support, co-ordination and development of our complex work programme.