



ADASS Business Plan 2008

1. Introduction

The Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS) represents Directors of Adult Social Services in Local Authorities in England and Northern Ireland. As well as having statutory responsibilities for the commissioning and provision of social care, ADASS members often also share a number of responsibilities for the commissioning and provision of housing, leisure, library, culture, arts and community services within their Councils.

The Association is able to bring together tremendous breadth, depth and accumulated experience on all issues covering managerial policy and professional activities of Adult Social Care departments and cross cutting issues with Children's Services departments and NHS organisations.

ADASS members are jointly responsible through the activities of their departments for the well-being, protection and care of thousands of vulnerable people, and for the promotion of that well-being and protection through the use of direct services as well as the co-ordination of and liaison with the NHS, voluntary agencies, private companies and other public authorities.

Members have leadership responsibilities in Local Authorities to promote local access to services and to drive partnership working to deliver better outcomes for local populations. They participate in the planning of the full range of council services and influence Health Service planning through formal and informal Local Strategic Partnership arrangements and close partnership work with Directors of Public Health.

ADASS is a registered charity. The charitable objects that govern the work of the Association are as follows:

- To promote the education of the public in matters of social policy, social organisation and social problems
- To promote the relief of poverty
- To promote the relief of aged, sick and disabled and the prevention and protection of physical and mental health for the benefit of the public
- To promote the preservation of family life for the benefit of the public

The governing body of the Association is its Trustees. The Association has nine geographical regions following the same boundaries as government regional offices. In addition there are eight policy networks focusing on broad policy areas. Representatives from the policy networks

and regions, in addition to the Trustees sit on the Executive Council, which is responsible for agreeing and coordinating policy. ADASS also has an active Associates Network for ex serving directors.

2. Achievements in 2007

In March 2007, the new Association of Directors of Adults Social Services (ADASS) was launched. ADASS along with the Association of Directors of Children's Services (ADCS) are the successor organisations to ADSS. The successful launch of both ADASS and ADCS represented the culmination of months of careful planning by the officers, staff and membership of ADSS, to ensure that both new associations would be fit for purpose to take the adults and children's agendas forward into the future.

Throughout the year the ADASS President's Team, Policy and Associates Networks, and Regions have been engaged in a huge variety and quantity of work, some examples of which are outlined below.

The Resources Network in partnership with the LGA contributed to the CSR 2007 development process, putting forward the business case for investment in social care. The Resources Network with support from the Associates Network also undertook preliminary work to support analysis of the funding transfer for learning disability services from the NHS to LAs.

The Older People's Network provided the lead on Safeguarding, working with key stakeholders to develop a new protocol for safeguarding vulnerable adults and serious case reviews. The Association has been working to develop its position on the need for new safeguarding legislation.

Through the Mental Health, Drugs and Alcohol Network, ADASS have contributed to the development and implementation of the Mental Capacity Act, including implementation of the Mental Capacity Advocate Service. The Network along with other stakeholders has continued to work with Government to influence the debate around the Mental Health Act to ensure that it is fit for purpose.

The Department of Health published the *National framework for NHS continuing healthcare* this year and the Disabilities HIV and Sensory Impairment Network have worked hard not only to influence the content of the framework but also to monitor its use across the country and support LAs with issues around its implementation.

Work on implementation of the electronic social care record has been ongoing. The Standards and Performance Network has been involved in monitoring the progress of its implementation and ensuring the linkages are made with health via the NHS National Programme Board for Information Technology (NPfIT).

Throughout the year the Association has, in partnership with other stakeholders, been involved in the *Caring Choices* initiative, promoting public debate on the future shape and funding of care.

Late in 2007 the Concordat *Putting People First* was published, having been agreed across local and central government, ADASS, provider organisations and regulators. The Concordat is a major achievement, providing a vision, and agreed aims and values for the future social care.

In the autumn of 2007 ADASS, through the Workforce Development Network, published *Commissioning the Social Care Workforce*. The document examines how commissioning can be used to generate and develop a workforce equipped to implement the new policies for adults and children's services.

During the year ADASS gave written and oral evidence to the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Human Rights inquiry into older people's human rights in healthcare. The ADASS Standards and Performance Network provided written evidence to the Health Committee inquiry into the electronic patient record and the Workforce Development Committee provided both written and oral evidence to the All Party Parliamentary Group on the social care workforce.

In addition, throughout the year the Association responded in writing to 26 formal consultations.

ADASS has been active in publishing its messages to the public. The President and Policy Network Chairs have participated in radio programmes and spoken at a variety of conferences throughout the year, in addition 27 press releases have been issued to national media.

3. Aims and Objectives 2008

ADASS fully supports the outcomes for health and social care set out in the White Paper *Our Health Our Care Our Say*, and the vision, aims and values agreed in the Concordat *Putting People First*. ADASS is committed to playing a lead role in the reform of social care described in the Concordat.

We believe that the NHS and Local Government should work together to promote health, well-being, independence, inclusion and recovery within the local community. Those in need of health and social care services, including people able to fund their own services, should have choice and control over the services they use and be able to shape services to meet their individual needs. We believe that the allocation of care services should be fair and transparent, that services should be of a high quality, efficient and safe.

ADASS is committed to working in partnership with all stakeholders including the government, the NHS, user groups, and independent sector organisations to make this vision a reality, making a real difference to the lives of individuals using social care services.

The objectives the Association will work towards in 2008 are:

- To encourage the development of locally based resources and services that promote recovery, independence, health and wellbeing.
- To provide leadership for the development of personalised care services that will promote choice and control for people in need of care.
- To work towards a fair and transparent system for the allocation of care services.
- To work with government, the regulators, the NHS and providers to promote quality and safety in care services.
- To evidence the need for adequate funding for social care and to support members to deliver effective and efficient services.

4. Key Activities for 2008

The table overleaf outlines the high priority, key activities that the Association's Trustees, Policy Networks, Associates and Regions will be engaged in during 2008. The table also identifies which of the above objectives will be influenced by each activity. Activities 1-4 on the table in particular will require input from the President's Team and the Association's Coordinating Group as well as specific input from Policy Networks, Associates and Regions. Items 5 – 16 will be led by Policy Networks, Single Leads and Regions.

	Key Areas of Activity	To encourage the development of locally based resources and services that promote recovery, independence, health and wellbeing	To provide leadership for the development of personalised care services that will promote choice and control for people in need of care.	To work towards a fair and transparent system for the allocation of care services	To work with government, the regulators, the NHS and providers to promote quality and safety in care services.	To evidence the need for adequate funding for social care and to support members to deliver effective and efficient services
1	NHS Review ADASS, through regional input, the President's role on the Primary and Community Care Advisory Board, and formal consultation responses, will work to ensure that the NHS Review led by Lord Darzi addresses issues around the interface between health and social care.	•	•	•	•	•
2	Green Paper for Reform of Adult Care and Support The Association is committed to work with Government to inform and influence the proposals on the reform of care services and how they are funded. The ADASS President's Team and Resources Network will lead this work for the Association.	•	•	•	•	•
3	Putting People First The transformation of the way in which care services are commissioned and delivered is a priority for the whole Association. Recruiting to the post of paid director for personalisation is a priority. The Association through the President's team, personlisation leads, policy networks and regions will work with the signatories to the Concordat and other stakeholders to take this agenda forward.	•	•	•	•	•
4	National Dementia Strategy ADASS jointly chair the Project Group for the National Dementia Strategy and will ensure that the strategy is holistic and takes account of the full range of support that is required for people with dementia and their families. ADASS will be involved throughout the development and implementation of the strategy.	•	•	•	•	•
5	Safeguarding Safeguarding Adults is a priority for the Association and two of the key objectives for 2008 include: engaging with partners, the DH and ministers on the requirement to introduce legislation to improve safeguards to vulnerable people; and continuing work with the DH regarding their proposals to review "No Secrets". This work will be lead by the Older People's Network		•		•	•
6	CSED programme ADASS Resources Network will continue to head up the Association's input into the CSED programme, ensuring that efficiency gain calculations are well informed.			•	•	•

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7	<p>Commissioning the social care workforce ADASS Workforce Development Network will work with GSCC and other key stakeholders to ensure the availability of a future workforce fit for purpose to deliver the vision in <i>Putting People First</i>. The Network will also be engaged in work to ensure that JSNAs include the National Minimum Dataset for social care, and will work with our partners ADCS on the future role of social work, 'Social Work at Its Best', and joint children's and adults workforce issues.</p>	•	•		•	
8	<p>Implementation of the Mental Health Act 2007 The Mental Health, Drugs and Alcohol Network will work closely with DH on the implementation of the Act and to develop guidance for DASS. ADASS will contribute to the consultation on secondary legislation and the revised code of practice for the Mental Health Act 2007. The Network will also work with key partners to call for a new ten year cross government national strategy for mental health and wellbeing.</p>	•	•	•	•	
9	<p>Housing Green Paper ADASS Housing Network will focus on how Supporting People programmes and affordable housing strategies can underpin the broader work on well being, independence and personalisation. Priorities will be shaping the need for affordable housing to meet the needs of older people and people with disabilities and the impact of locating Supporting People funding within Local Area Agreements. The Network will also be involved in work on homelessness and rough sleepers' strategies.</p>	•	•			
10	<p>National Carers Strategy ADASS Carers Reference Group will coordinate our input into the revision of the National Carers Strategy and provide leadership for councils as the strategy is implemented. The Group are developing a young carers protocol to disseminate to Local Authorities and working to ensure that the outcomes for carers are included as a measure in all Local Area Agreements</p>	•	•	•	•	
11	<p>National Framework for NHS Continuing Healthcare and NHS funded Nursing Care ADASS Physical Disability, HIV and Sensory Impairment Network, is monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the new framework across the regions and will take forward issues arising with DH. ADASS will continue to work to ensure a fair and transparent system is in place for the provision of continuing health care.</p>			•		•

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12	Valuing People Now ADASS Learning Disabilities Network will lead on the associations input into this review looking at the priorities for the learning disability agenda over the next three years. The Learning Disabilities with input from Resources Networks will take the lead working with DH to ensure the transfer of adequate funding and smooth transition in 2009/10.	•	•	•	•	•
13	Performance Framework / National Information Set ADASS will continue to work with DH and other stakeholders to further develop the Performance Framework for health and social care to move towards personalisation, self directed care and the identification of outcomes. Work on a National Information and Intelligence Service providing information on demand, activities, outcomes and costs for use at local, regional and national level, will be a priority in 2008. Through our involvement in the ESCR Implementation Board, ADASS will assist in overseeing the pilot sites project and also in developing an action learning network to support implementation. Standards and Performance Network will lead these work streams		•		•	
14	Civil contingencies The Civil Contingencies lead within ADASS will ensure that members are up to date with their responsibilities under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 and assist in developing members ability to respond to civil emergencies					
15	International Issues ADASS is represented on the European Social Network. The ADASS lead on international issues will keep the Association informed of ongoing EU requirements and action plans regarding wellbeing, social inclusion and migration.					
16	ADASS / ADCS issues ADASS will work with ADCS to develop strong links with it as a sister organisation, and on a common focus on children in families and whose welfare is dependent on adults.					