



## **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD**

**24 AUGUST 2004**

### **SOCIAL CARE AND ADULT SERVICES SCRUTINY PANEL**

#### **PROGRESS REPORT**

#### **PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1. To provide Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Board with a position statement regarding the progress of the Social Care and Adult Services Scrutiny Panel.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

2. That the Overview and Scrutiny Board notes the content of the report.

#### **PROGRESS OF THE PANEL**

3. The Social Care and Adult Services Panel are continuing their investigation into the take up of direct payments.
4. Since my last progress report to this Board on 13 July, the Panel has received a presentation on direct payments from Janet Blott and Fred Taylor from Social Services. The presentation set the scene for the review and provided some useful background information for the panel.
5. As a result of the above meeting a series of further meetings of the panel have also been arranged for 17 August, 9 September and 28 September. The meetings will enable the Panel to receive and gather evidence from various sources including:
  - i) A presentation from the Chief Executive of the Independent Living Project;

- ii) A meeting at the Lansdowne Centre with service users and carers to discuss their experiences of direct payments; and
  - iii) To undertake some benchmarking and sharing of good practice through discussions and evidence gathering with officers from Durham County Council and Darlington Borough Council.
6. At its meeting on 17 August the Panel will receive the latest Performance Clinic information from Social Services from both the Executive Member for Social Services and Health and the Executive Director of Social Services. Any issues of note will be detailed in the next panel update report to OSB.
7. The Working Team that are looking at the topic of Home Care Standards are meeting with the Head of Adult Services on Wednesday 8 September to gain an insight into some of the pertinent issues and to establish the way forward for the team. The team will report any findings back to the Social Care and Adult Services Panel at an appropriate time.

**COUNCILLOR CHARLES ROONEY**  
**CHAIR OF THE SOCIAL CARE AND ADULT SERVICES SCRUTINY PANEL**