



‘High Quality Care For All’ – Lord Darzi’s report

On Monday 30 June 2008 Health Minister Ara Darzi unveiled his ambitious plans to raise the quality of Healthcare for patient’s right across the NHS.

The changes will be not be driven by a top down approach but by local people and local staff influencing and taking responsibility for Health Improvement.

These plans will bring opportunities for the third sector in the areas of planning and delivery of services on behalf of NHS in local areas.

Throughout the report there is a clear emphasis on giving patients information and choice.

- Patient’s will have the legal right to choose a service provider. This will bring opportunity for Third sector to provide some of the NHS services. The Primary Care Trust (PCT) will be able to purchase service from the third sector for patients and public.
- 1.5 million patients with complex needs will have a care plan. This will place greater emphasis on the third sector to provide additional services as identified in the care plan e.g. a personal care and domestic care services while the patient is at home.
- 5,000 patients with complex medical conditions will pilot new personal budgets. This will encourage competitive market where an individual patient will be able to purchase health and social care services independently.
- The voluntary and community sector (VCS) will be given the opportunity to secure contracts for preventative work and health promotions.
- There will be greater responsibility on PCT to improve wellbeing and commission preventative services. Voluntary and community sector groups are well placed at grass root level to under take preventative work. The PCT will work closely in partnership with the third sector and possibly commission preventative services from voluntary and community organisations. On another note it also means the VCS will have to develop robust monitoring and evaluation systems and become more outcomes driven. The PCT will no longer be giving grants on goodwill but will become a purchaser of services and will hold supplier responsible and accountable for quality of services.

- New approaches will be piloted to help family doctors and other health professionals to work across traditional boundaries to provide more joined-up services and better health outcomes.
- Targets will be set in consultation with patients and public to improve quality of care. NHS will be accountable to local public so therefore the NHS will make every effort to engage with voluntary and community groups as a mechanism to work with hard to reach communities. There will be closer working relationships between NHS and third sector.
- Lord Darzi promises charities and social enterprises a greater role in providing some of the NHS services or additional services purchased by NHS for patients and the public. This will strengthen the third sector financially and professionally as providers of services on contracts. This will promote financial independence of the third sector instead of a grant dependent culture.
- All contracts to third sector will be for at least minimum three years.
- Third sector groups will have to meet minimum standards and show evidence on how they will meet better health outcomes.
- Ivan Lewis, Care Services Minister, has stated that social enterprise has the capacity to innovate and do things differently and shift the system to a more preventative approach. This clearly demonstrates a commitment of Government to encourage social enterprise models for healthcare delivery.

Finally Northwest Strategic Health Authorities have recently set out improvements in pathways of care. The most relevant and beneficial to third sector are the following areas:

- Staying Healthy (Preventative Services commissioned to third sector)
- Planned Care (Third sector providing individualised care locally)
- Mental Health (VCS providing preventative and community mental services)
- Long Term Conditions (personal budget holders can buy care from VCS)

More information:

If you would like more information on Darzi Report 'High Quality Care For All', please contact Hameed Khan Health and Social Care team Leader at T3SC, on 0161 339 4985 or email hameed.khan@t3sc.org