

**SOUTH EAST ENGLAND COUNCILS
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

Date: 13 November 2013

Subject: **Caring For Our Future: Consultation Response
and Integrated Care Workshop**



Report by: Heather Bolton, SEEC Director

Recommendations:

SEEC Executive members are asked to:

- i) note the final response to consultation on the future of social care
- ii) encourage attendance at a joint SEEC-SESL workshop on integrated health & care to be held on 11 December 2013

1. Introduction

- 1.1 At the SEEC Executive in September, members discussed key issues to include in a response to the Department of Health's consultation *Caring for our future: implementing funding reform*. In October a draft was circulated for comment before final submission of the joint response by SEEC, SESL and SECASC (South East Councils Adult Social Care group).
- 1.2 Building on members' interest and the challenge of delivering integrated care within shrinking budgets, SEEC and SESL are organising a free workshop on 11 December 2013 for South East members and officers.

2. Consultation response: Caring for our future

- 2.1 A copy of the South East's [final response to Caring for our future is now available on the SEEC website](#). Key points covered include:
 - The need to recognise the substantial, growing demand for care and assessments in the South East, given the UK's largest and fastest growing elderly population.
 - Extreme cost pressures in the South East arising from high numbers of self-funders transferring to the public purse, alongside the challenges of delivering services in a high cost area with a large dispersed, rural population.
 - The need for earlier transition funding to help local authorities prepare for care reform. Government also needs to recognise the significant costs that councils will face in training staff, upgrading IT systems and, potentially, recruiting new staff to handle increased workloads.
 - An increase in self-funders opting to pay lower local-authority-negotiated care fees could push providers to increase their costs.
 - Deferred care payments must not expose councils to financial risks and should avoid an increase in unoccupied housing.
 - The need for clarity on out of area placements and which council is responsible for an individual's care costs during their lifetime.
 - The importance of a national information campaign on care funding to support local authorities' own work.
 - The potential to use incentives to encourage councils to work across tiers of local government to ensure an integrated approach to care needs.

3. Workshop: All our Futures – Delivering Integrated Health and Care

- 3.1 Members are invited to attend a SEEC-SESL workshop on 11 December 2013 to share the challenges and opportunities in delivering integrated care. The workshop will be held at Church House in central London from 10.30am-3.30pm and is free for councillors and officers from SEEC and SESL member authorities. To reserve a place please RSVP to admin@secouncils.gov.uk
- 3.2 Chaired by Oxfordshire CC Chief Executive Joanna Simons, the workshop will address:
- Health challenges facing the South East
 - Striking the right balance between prevention and cure in healthcare
 - Government's care reform and the Integration Transformation Fund
 - Good practice case studies on how to deliver integrated care.
- 3.3 Confirmed speakers include Richard Humphries (King's Fund), Sebastian Habibi (Department of Health) and a senior representative from Public Health England. We have also invited a senior Parliamentarian to outline the Government's objectives.