

13 OCTOBER 1999

This report may be of interest to: Neighbourhood Services and Policy and Resources Committees

PROMOTING INDEPENDENCE: PREVENTION SPECIAL GRANT

Accountable Officer: David Jones (Strategic Director Neighbourhood Services)

Author: Philip Wareham (Policy Development Officer) - MK253405

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To advise the scope and purpose of the Prevention Special Grant.
- 1.2 To advise that the Council is required at the initial stage to prepare a 3-Year Prevention Strategy for Milton Keynes (ending March 2002) in consultation with other agencies, particularly Health, and provide it to the Department of Health by 29 October 1999.
- 1.3 To report on the process to identify and fund eligible schemes for an initial period ending March 2000, but possibly ranging up to the end of March 2002 subject to further allocations of funds and scheme suitability.
- 1.4 To invite the Assembly to receive at their meeting on Wednesday 13 October 1999 a proposed prevention strategy for Milton Keynes entitled *Saves Dependence!*

2. Summary

- 2.1 The Government has allocated nearly £60,000 to Milton Keynes this year to fund qualifying additional prevention services for eligible vulnerable adults who need help to preserve or restore their independence. It is expected that greater amounts will be allocated for each of the next two years. Consultation with voluntary sector partners has identified some schemes for additional services which will be funded and incorporated in *Saves Dependence!* - A Prevention Strategy for Milton Keynes.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 To note the report.

4. **Background**

4.1 Throughout this report, prevention is defined as “action intended to prevent or delay loss of independence and to improve quality of life”. In particular, prevention is an approach which:

- (a) helps individual adults with social care needs to undertake as many tasks for themselves for as long as possible, and to live in their own homes for as long as possible;
- (b) encourages self-determination, choice and dignity amongst all age groups, and economic participation among individuals of working age;
- (c) seeks to offer training in mobility or daily living skills for people with visual impairment;
- (d) diminishes the risk of injuries;
- (e) reduces social isolation; and
- (f) helps individuals with social care needs of working age to take up, or remain in, and return to work for as long as possible.

4.2 The White Paper *Modernising Social Services* sets out the Government’s determination to put a new emphasis on helping people achieve and maintain independence wherever possible. Their aim is that local authorities should establish an approach and target services to provide the necessary help. In line with the spirit of the White Paper, *Promoting Independence* has been identified as one of the priorities for both health and social services in the National Priorities Guidance which was issued in September 1998.

4.3 The White Paper also announced a new special grant on *Prevention* as one of three parts of its Social Services Modernisation Fund. Nationally, the *Promoting Independence: Prevention* grant totals £100m over 3 years. Authorities are required to draw up an action plan (jointly agreed with their health authority) during 1999/2000 setting out their proposals for a preventive strategy and effective risk assessment which:

- (a) targets some low level support for people most at risk of losing their independence;
- (b) encourages an approach which helps people do things for themselves for as long as possible, in their own home; and helps people of working age take up, remain in or return to work for as long as possible; and
- (c) targets expenditure on lower intensity services (i.e. any services provided using the grant, other than the provision of adaptations and equipment, should not exceed 10 hours a week or more than 6 visits per week). However, a prevention strategy will also need to look at how higher intensity services can also be used to promote independence.

- 4.4 The ***Promoting Independence: Prevention*** grant allocation for Milton Keynes for 1999/2000 is £59,944. Estimates for the next two years, for which detailed plans must be contained in Joint Investment Plans (JIPs), are £89,916 for 2000/2001 and £149,860 for 2001/2002. These estimates assume that the allocation methods for years two and three are similar to the first year, but the actual amounts await Parliamentary approval. The ***Promoting Independence: Prevention*** grant restricts spending to lower intensity services only. However, in developing our prevention strategy, we are not bound by that restriction and are encouraged to look at whether and how higher intensity services can be used in a preventative way. A further restriction is that the grant is used to provide only additional services, defined as services which are either new to the authority or are being provided to more people than previously.
- 4.5 For planning purposes it is assumed that the Council will be able to fund eligible Prevention schemes to an estimated maximum of £300k over the three year period 1999/00 to 2001/02. A minimum of 75% of the grant must be allocated to the delivery of services to target groups leaving no more than 25% available for the provision of essential development and support work.
- 4.6 For the 1999/2000 allocations the first milestone is to provide a 3-Year Strategic Plan, prepared in consultation with other agencies, particularly health, to the Department of Health by 29 October 1999. During 2000 progress reports and audit information will also be required.

5. **Issues and Choices**

- 5.1 In the stages leading up to the formation of Milton Keynes Council as a unitary authority in 1997 the preservation of independent living emerged in the policy formation process as the expressed wish of consultees who were at risk of losing their independence. Accordingly, the Council adopted, and continues to maintain, a policy of making available support to these members of the community so they can, if they wish, remain independent for as long they wish.
- 5.2 The national call for prevention initiatives is therefore very welcome and recognises a widespread desire amongst those at risk of losing their independence, to preserve it for as long as possible.
- 5.3 The Government has supported authorities in their development of prevention strategies through a series of workshops to identify examples of good practice in prevention services.
- 5.4 The Council has given wide distribution to information on ***Promoting Independence: Prevention Special Grant*** to internal staff and partner care organisations and invited suggestions for suitable schemes. On 22 June the Council ran a one day workshop at Saxon Court to develop the results of the initial consultation mentioned above and to identify a pool of viable schemes from which to select those to embody in our strategy. These schemes will be launched and promoted as they become ready.

5.5 The Council is seeking schemes for inclusion in a strategy which are consistent with an ongoing process of population needs assessment, and reflect needs expressed by individuals who approach us for help. The Council is working with partners offering schemes to identify key indicators which will help determine how best to target and track the prevention work. Reviews of services will focus on outcomes and effective responses to individuals' needs.

5.6 More details of the proposed action plan will be provided at the meeting.

6. **Implications**

6.1 Environmental

None.

6.2 Equalities

The Council intends to adopt schemes which will reach individual adult members of the community who are vulnerable by virtue of age, physical or learning ability and need help to maintain or restore their independence.

6.3 Financial

There is a requirement that most of the *Prevention* grant monies go on actual services. As the grant must also fund only *additional* services it will not contribute to the cost of providing existing services. However, the cost of preparing and administering a prevention strategy and plan may be met from no more than 25% of the grant.

6.4 Legal

None.

6.5 Staff and Accommodation

There will be a need to provide staff and accommodation to prepare and administer a prevention strategy and plan. The cost will be met from the *Prevention* grant as defined previously.

7. **Conclusions**

7.1 The Milton Keynes Community Care Plan states the council's policy to enable people to live independently as long as possible. One example are those considering residential or nursing care, either directly from their own home or from hospital, but would prefer to continue to live independently in their own home. The *Promoting Independence: Prevention* grant provides a timely opportunity to share with other agencies the task of developing and implementing a strategy for these and other adults at risk of becoming dependent. The grant will give them access to services that help them to maintain their independence for as long as their circumstances will permit.

Background Papers: Department of Health Local Authority Circular LAC(99)13 - Promoting Independence; Partnership, Prevention and Carers Grants - Conditions and Allocations 1999/2000

Department of Health Local Authority Circular LAC(99)14 - Promoting Independence: Prevention Strategies and Support for Adults