## CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

1. The strategy outlines a care pathway (page 10).

(a) If you are a service user and/or carer, please tell us what difference you believe the implementation of the pathway will make to the services you experience.

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| Not applicable |

(b) How can we best ensure that services and support meet your needs?

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| Not applicable |

(c) If you are a care provider, what changes will you need to make to implement the pathway?

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| ADSW Members welcome the draft framework as it lays out the context for local areas to respond to the needs of people with a sensory loss within the familiar model of care pathways. Care pathways are a useful and well tested means by which specialist and non-specialist services can respond; specifically acknowledging that each person's needs will be different and the key to addressing their needs is the joint assessment process. All partners need to recognise the need for a range of all agencies to share information as part of the assessment and care management process including third and independent sector colleagues. |

(d) How will you make these changes?

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| ADSW members are keen that there is an acknowledgement that local areas already have custom and practice in place which already supports the needs of people with sensory loss. Acknowledging that no area is starting from a blank sheet then local good practice can be shared and developed to meet the specific needs of a local area i.e. tying into existing priorities as already agreed within for example local Change Plans, Self-Directed Services and Early Year Collaborative. |

2. The strategy identifies key factors that need to be in place to ensure the pathway is successful (Page 11 para 6.7).

(a) Which of the key factors are most important for a successful pathway?

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| ADSW members welcome the partnership approach as laid out, to ensure that each partner is signed up to and agreeing the local response to the needs of sensory impaired people. Therefore each area can identify their key priorities with partners to support local transformational change to meet the needs of their local community; much of the learning about how this is accomplished already exists from the Change Plan and the Early Years Collaborative. |

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(b) Which are the most challenging to put in place?

The challenge for ADSW members relates specifically to working effectively with national partners effectively whilst maintaining sensitivity to the needs of our local community. As stated above there is a need for national partners to recognise local arrangements and avoid a one size fits all approach e.g. one stop shops and encourages local responses to neighbourhood community planning.

(c) Do you think that any key factors have been missed?

ADSW members would seek assurance that any performance management framework is not overly onerous but rather is aligned to the already existing reporting and recording systems i.e. there is no need to create new “databases” but can be recorded and reported from existing social work systems e.g. Carefirst, SWIS or SWIFT.

3. The strategy identifies areas for action that should be addressed going forward (Page 13-16)

(a) Which of the areas for action will be the most challenging to implement?

ADSW members wished clarity around what is meant by mandatory training on sensory impairment, many areas will already provide training to staff from a range of services and teams however there is no agreed national standards/practice around what is included within sensory impairment training, thus will there be more detail about what is expected within a mandatory training session.

ADSW members seek clarity around the types of budget that would be included within a sensory impairment budget as with many agendas for example carers there are outcomes and outputs which are not reflected within what would be considered as a direct spend and as budgets and services become more integrated across agendas e.g. older people and early years, this type of audit becomes more challenging.

(b) Which of the areas for action will make the biggest difference and why?

There is an opportunity to develop the rehabilitation worker role and the development of standards. Mandatory sensory impairment training for all social care/health staff is not the only solution to the issue of training and raised awareness; there is a need for a whole systems approach.

Providing more connectivity at a national level, across agendas, supports integrated and joint up service delivery which in turn improves the experience and outcomes of the individual and their carers/family.

(c) Are there any other areas for action that you would like to see included within the strategy?

The rehabilitation workforce development has proved successful in the areas where staff have participated. ADSW members would seek further opportunities for worker training to ensure consistency of approach and equity of service provision for people with sensory impairment across the country. This could be linked to a Registration with professional body whereby membership is contingent on Continuous Professional Development as another means of raising standards of rehabilitation for people with sensory loss.

There is a need for dynamic workforce planning to ensure that key professionals are equipped to provide timeous and appropriate support. Workforce planning needs to reflect the range of specialists as well as generic staff working within our communities.

ADSW welcomed the work completed by Falkirk Council and the JIT to collate the range of telecare equipment for people with sensory loss. Telecare underpins social work's operational service delivery and supports people to maintain their independence. ADSW would be seeking the SG support for ensuring the use of technology and telecare and are committed to considering it as part of the implementation of this strategy.

4. Please comment on the current provision of sensory impairment services as either a service provider or service user. If you have any experience of sensory impairment services, please let us know what you think of them: this should include any experience of one-stop shops.

As noted earlier, there is a need to acknowledge local responses as based on local intelligence of communities and local priorities; one of the experiences for members is the tension between joint working with national strategic partners and the delivery of local services to meet the needs of communities.

5. What difference will the implementation of the strategy make to your life?

Not applicable

6. Does this strategy properly reflect the current climate and developments in policy and practice for children and young people particularly in relation to the Getting it Right for Every Child approach and the Doran Review?

The Strategy refers to GIRFEC, however if GIRFEC is to establish as the national umbrella approach to all services impacting and working with Children and Young people, then more emphasis is required in this framework on the whole child/ person approach to assessment and care planning.

The framework indicates that “It is expected that all adult services working with parents and carers take this approach into account”.

In order to achieve this, the framework requires more emphasis towards embedding GIRFEC into services. The current framework allows for layering GIRFEC on top of practice, instead of it being at the core.

This would require direct liaison with GIRFEC implementation processes across local authorities, CHPs and CHCPs, reflecting the different GIRFEC journeys currently on-going locally and nationally.

A “cradle to grave” framework cannot be homogenous and must reflect the differing needs of many different groups of clients, notable older people through the Reshaping Care agenda and young people via GIRFEC and the Early Years Collaborative agenda.

The framework does however establish good principles which link to Doran and GIRFEC:

- Early integrated assessment
- Involvement of parent/ carers
- Single point of access
- Information sharing
- Whole child aspect that all plans feed into a single child’s plan

Key aspects of those are reflected in this Sensory Impairment Strategy Consultation

7. Do you have anything you wish to add to the Sensory Impairment Strategy or any other general comments that have not been covered by the questions?

Explicit links to Reshaping Care for Older People, specifically given the expected numbers of older people and prevalence of older people affected by sensory loss and the impact on their ability to participate and achieve good outcomes within a reablement and rehabilitation setting.