

South Derbyshire Local Strategic Partnership

Report to the Board

Date of meeting: 12 June 2007

Agenda Item 11

SUPPORTING CITIZENS' ADVICE BUREAUX SERVICES IN PRIMARY CARE SETTINGS

Issue

Citizens Advice Bureaux (CAB) in primary care settings

Background

Derbyshire County Primary Care Trust has identified recurrent funding from the Dept of Health "Choosing Health" allocation to support partnership working at locality level. Key principles for the spending of this allocation are to improve health, address inequalities and foster partnership working with LSPs (South Derbyshire LSP boundary)

Details

CAB advisers in general practice settings will provide expert advice and support (including legal) to vulnerable people especially those who are sick, disabled or elderly. Partnership schemes between CAB and health practitioners give the additional resource of skilled, experienced advisers on hand to tackle some of the social and economic problems directly associated with ill-health. Many "frequent attenders" at GP surgeries are people whose health problems are inextricably linked with wider socio-economic issues. CAB experience and expertise in these areas extend to benefit claims, employment rights, housing and personal problems, advocacy and representation e.g. at social security tribunals.

CAB in primary care settings would fit the following Community Strategy priorities:

- **Healthier Communities:**
Better access for everyone to improve their health and well being
Better support to vulnerable people and families to improve health and well-being
- **Safer Communities:**
Research shows that debt/ benefits/ housing advice can reduce rates of reoffending
- **Opportunities for all:**

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Fair and equal access to all services for everybody

Recommendations

It is recommended that the Board: -

- Support the proposal to invest in the above scheme (approx £28k) with the “choosing health” funding
- Consider receiving further evidence via presentation on the above at a future LSP Board meeting

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