

A new organisation to check health and social care



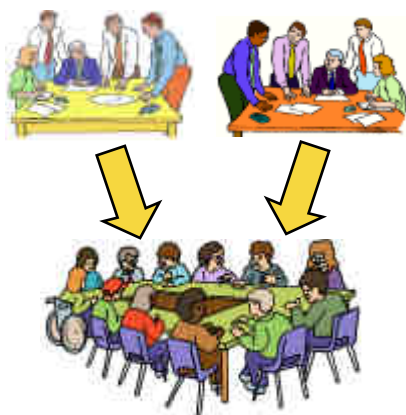
What we think of the Government's ideas



At the Commission for Social Care Inspection we check all adult social care in England.



At the moment the Healthcare and the Mental Health Act Commissions check health services.



Government would like to bring us together to make one organisation to check health and adult social care.



This is a paper about what we, the Commission for Social Care, think about the Government's ideas.

The new organisation



We think that the new organisation will have a lot of work to do. It will check over 30,000 services.



The new organisation needs to put people who use services first in all its work. We also think they should have a say in how it is set up.



We agree with the Government, that the new organisation should take on all the work that we already do, checking services and the way councils buy services.



People can see how well councils are doing using the 'star ratings' we give them. This is a good way of pushing councils to get better.



It is also useful for people to be able to look at how well services are doing, to help them choose which service to use.



We are happy that the new organisation will look at how councils choose and buy services for local people. This is an important part of making sure people's needs are met.

Social care and healthcare



We are pleased that the Government sees healthcare and social care as different. The new organisation needs to do checks in a way that fits different types of service and the way they are run.



We think that checks need to be well organised but may need to be different in healthcare and social care.



We do think that all checks should look at how a service makes a difference to the people who use it.

Money



We are very worried that there will not be enough money for the new organisation to do all the work it is set up to do. We are working with the Department of Health and the other Commissions on this.



We do not think that the new organisation should have to take on extra jobs like giving licences to all healthcare services, if there is no money to do them.

Working together



The Audit Commission will be working to make sure that councils and services do not have to go through too many checks. We think that the organisations need to work together on this.



We want to carry on working with the Department of Health and other organisations that check services to make sure that the new organisation works well.

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