

**CITY OF SUNDERLAND PHYSICAL DISABILITIES MODERNISATION AND REFORM GROUP (MaRG) RESPONSE TO  
“IMPROVING THE LIFE CHANCES OF DISABLED PEOPLE”.**

<b>QUESTION POSED</b>	<b>RESPONSE</b>
1. Do you broadly agree with the analysis of the issues in the report?	The <i>Analysis of the Issues</i> section of the report is well broken down into the priority areas in which life chances are determined. The format of using the emerging element of the “vision for the future” makes the analysis of the priority areas easy to follow and is very comprehensive.
2. Are there parts of the report that you disagree with?	There are no areas of the report that have been disagreed with.
3. Are there any serious omissions in the report’s analysis?	No serious omissions. However whilst the analysis does cover Parent Carers, there is no analysis of Carers of Disabled People. For example this could include a young carer, and benefits they would receive from increasing the life chances of the person they care for.
4. There are a number of examples in the analysis report of good practice and a number of issues and gaps are highlighted. Which of these do you think, if addressed, would result in the greatest improvement in disabled people’s life chances? 4.1 Why? 4.2 How would you implement it?	<p>In response to this question rather say which is thought would result in the greatest improvement in life chances, what has been identified are those issues that the health and social care community would have a key role in addressing, and how they would (or are currently), implement it.</p> <p><b>Transitions-</b> <i>Raising the priority of the transition process in health and social services.</i> This is currently being addressed by the MaRG, and by the development of protocols by operational teams in Disabled Children’s and Adult Services.</p> <p><b>Preparation and Prevention</b> – <i>Doing more to ensure a “whole person” response to accident and illness – rehabilitation or restoration- which builds capability rather than treats medical factors alone.</i> Some measures already implemented are an integrated Occupational Therapy service between Social Services and City Hospitals, and a jointly provided Community Equipment Store for the provision of equipment via a pooled budget using Health Act Flexibilities. Other measures planned are developing joint services with health partners for a specialist intermediate care service for disabled people aged</p>

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	<p>under 65, and specialist services for people with acquired brain injury.</p> <p><b>Employment</b> – All of the key issues and challenges could be addressed by the health and social care community. The role the statutory agencies play as employers is one that could be used to begin to address this key issue. In Sunderland a key stakeholders including the Local Authority, Health Agencies, Job Centre Plus, and Voluntary Sector have begun to examine the issues of those people regarded as benefit inactive in the city.</p> <p><b>Wider Roles</b> – Social Services clearly has a responsibility to address the issues highlighted regarding Direct Payments. Sunderland, working as a partner with a Consortium of Voluntary Sector agencies, has recently been successful in receiving funding from the DoH Direct Payments Development Fund, to provide support in a number of ways to people using the scheme.</p> <p><b>Over 50s</b> – the health and social care community have role in addressing all the key issues and challenges regarding the over50’s. Ensuring effective services are in place such as Occupational Therapy and Rehabilitation will help to address the issue enabling people over 50 achieve their maximum capacity.</p>
<p>5. We would like your views on what key policy option(s) should be taken forward.</p> <p>5.1 Why is this option(s) important?</p> <p>5.2 How would you like to see it implemented?</p>	<p>An overall vision by Government would be welcomed. A framework would provide strategic direction to the public sector. Similar to Valuing People, and other National Service Frameworks this is an important policy option. Consideration should be given as to hoe the implementation of the new NSF for Long Term Conditions will improve life chances.</p> <p>A National Service Framework for disabled people could be used to implement policy options.</p>