

Northgate calls for a focus on prevention

Submitted by: Fellows Associates

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A radical shift in resources and priorities is needed if the adult social care system is to meet the fiscal and demographic pressures it faces, says Northgate Public Services in a submission to the government today.

Responding to the Department of Health's Transparency in outcomes consultation, Northgate argues that adult social care needs to adopt a firm focus on prevention and early support. This, it says, will be key to helping individuals stay healthier for longer, assisting them to live independently in their own communities and achieving better outcomes overall.

The organisation suggests that this change in focus should also be supported by a wider decentralisation of information. This would involve collating data from disparate systems and sources and transforming this into information which can be used to target the delivery of early support and personalised services.

As part of its response, Northgate makes a number of recommendations to government to support the vision of adult social care, these include:

- local social care accounts which can be challenged by the local community to support transparency and accountability
- closer alignment of information across adult social care, the NHS and public health to ensure a focus on low level care and prevention
- a greater focus on service-user generated information to measure satisfaction.

Iain McLachlan, Managing Director Northgate Public Services said today: "Adult social care currently faces a range of difficult challenges. It is essential that the quality of social care is improved to ensure better outcomes for individuals. If we are to enable individuals to have care built around their needs, it is essential that we break down information silos to ensure we can get a holistic view of well-being."

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For more information

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Notes to editors

1. Northgate Public Services is an innovative provider of transformation and improvement services to the

public sector. It is committed to high quality public services that place individuals and their communities at their heart. Its knowledge and understanding of people's needs are core to its business, as too, is its depth and breadth across public services.

2. Northgate's task is to enhance public value through the intelligent use of people and technology; to understand why and what change is necessary; to provide new thinking leading to improved performance; and to link company rewards with positive outcomes for the communities for whom it works. It supports transformation through sustainable performance partnerships.

3. In the UK, Northgate works with ninety five per cent of local authorities, every police force, and a large number of health organisations, housing associations, utilities and transport companies. Founded in 1969, the company has more than 12,000 employees.

4. A copy of the response can be found by clicking here (<http://www.northgate-ispublicservices.com/uploads/File/FINALoutcomesframework211.pdf>)