



## THE RAP PROJECT

### Referrals, Assessments and Packages of Care In Adult Personal Social Services

### June 2007 Newsletter

#### 1. RAP for 2006/07

We are pleased to announce that all 150 CSSRs have successfully authorised the RAP return for 2006/07; many thanks to all councils for achieving the deadline.

#### 2. RAP Analysis on the Supplementary Questions in the 2005/06 return

At the request of Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI), supplementary questions on joint working were included in the 2005/06 RAP return to facilitate the assessment of the impact of joint working on the data collected.

The questions were included in the RAP proformas A1, P1, C1 and C2 in the 2005/06 RAP return. Completion of these questions was voluntary for councils. The questions were included for one year only, and have been removed from the return for 2006/07.

The results of analysis carried out on the supplementary questions can be found at the following web link, in the papers for the 10<sup>th</sup> May 2007 Adult Review Group (ARG) meeting:

<http://www.ic.nhs.uk/our-services/improving-social-care-information/review-approval-and-development/adult-review-group>

### 3. Revised RAP Guidance regarding delegation of carers assessments

The guidance on the delegation of carers assessments to voluntary organisations has been revised as below:

#### **Carers Assessments carried out by other organisations**

The duty to carry out a carer's assessment lies with the local authority and cannot be delegated except to an NHS body as part of partnership arrangements under section 75 of the NHS Act 2006. However, a local authority may arrange for the actual process of carrying out the assessment to be undertaken by someone else, for example a voluntary organisation funded by the local authority for this purpose. A voluntary organisation's assessments can be counted in RAP only if the local authority funds the organisation to undertake assessments and checks the process and outcomes of each assessment. That process could include interviewing the carer, carrying out research on the assistance available and preparing a report for the local authority. That report could even include a recommendation as to what assistance should be provided to the carer.

The local authority remains responsible at all times for ensuring that each assessment process is valid, fair and comprehensive and for considering the implications of any resulting assessment for its provision of services. Local authorities must therefore have some means of checking the assessment process to ensure that it fulfils the above requirements. Regardless of who carries out the various parts of an assessment process, a local authority retains the statutory responsibility for the assessment itself. Authorities should therefore treat the results of all assessment processes in precisely the same way as they would treat those carried out by their own staff.

- **This revised definition is for implementation where possible from 2007/08 onwards.**

**Please note:** this matter was discussed at the 10<sup>th</sup> May Adult Review Group (ARG) meeting. It is recognised that more carers are getting services outside of the formal process. This issue is being looked at as part of the CSCI work on outcome indicators. In the meantime we will implement the revised definition above to in order to get consistent and comparable data within RAP.

#### 4. Update on Independent Mental Capacity Advocate Assessments

In response to the Act *Independent Mental Capacity Advocate Assessments*, the Department of Health has devised a form for collecting data direct from the advocacy services re: any clients which go through that system. The IC is developing a database for holding this data for the Department of Health. It concerns the client, the referral source, decisions made, etc. The IC does not currently have the details as to how the advocacy services will provide the information to the DH. It will be a separate process to the RAP and other collections the IC undertake direct from councils.

Please note there are no plans to change the RAP return specifically for this. On the basis that statutory MHA assessments are excluded, the IMCA assessments will also be excluded for the purposes of the RAP returns. It remains open to councils to decide if this information would be useful for their own case management purposes, however. If there are any future changes planned to the RAP with regard to this issue, the usual procedure will be followed and councils will be kept informed as necessary.

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**Useful Web links:**

RAP information for 2006/07 -  
 ARG -  
 SIGASC -

<http://www.ic.nhs.uk/pss/returns/2007>  
<http://www.ic.nhs.uk/sigasc/arg>  
<http://www.ic.nhs.uk/sigasc/>

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**June 2007**