To clarify for all third sector colleagues, please note that the Change Fund is not a grant making fund nor is it a fund to which bids or applications should be made. We realise that an email was circulated from another source which may have given this impression but this is not the case. At no point have third sector organisations been invited to apply – this was set out in our original notice earlier this year.

As explained previously this is a transition fund which will underpin services to reshape the care of older people in Argyll and Bute and which is expected to produce a disinvestment resulting from the services being supported in new ways.

Services relevant to this fund include palliative care, falls prevention, polypharmacy, long term conditions, self management and re-enablement – providers may be drawn from the private sector, public sector or third sector and of course, some services sit entirely within the remits of Health and A&B Council.

As yet the implementation is still some distance away although work is continuing at high level notably between Health and Council for whom the financial implications and organisational objectives are key to taking this forward.

The provision of services requires predominantly to be across Argyll and Bute so, for example, an organisation such as Marie Curie might deliver palliative care across the area. Those working to deliver against the stringent requirements set are committed to achieving equality of access as far as is possible.

There has not been a meeting of all the partners involved for some time as the responsible and key public sector services have much to achieve in bringing this to a position where plans can begin to be implemented. Once further developments take place – and this can only be after consultation and accord with Chief Executives of our public sector colleagues – then a further update will be issued.

Third Sector Partnership. 22.07.2011