

To all Chief Executives

October 2003

Dear chief executive

CJC CIRCULAR No 2 of 2003

This Circular is to update you and the authority about the work of the CJC. It would be helpful if on this occasion you could copy it to officers and members with responsibilities for

- ¥ · commissioning social care
- ¥ · the commissioning and procurement of work and services generally.

GUIDE TO COMMISSIONING SOCIAL CARE

The CJC, the Association of Directors of Social Services (in England & Wales) and the Association of Directors of Work (in Scotland) have completed a joint guide to what they believe are the most critical aspects of commissioning social work.

The Guide sums up, in plain English, all the **statutory provisions** for budget pooling, the delegation of care functions, joint assessment, and joint commissioning; and the main **pros and cons of the different methods** to be used for these purposes, where legislation gives care agencies any choice.

It also sets out the key practical factors, many not covered in other guidance, involved in **packaging, specifying, advertising, ordering, valuing and paying for** social care; and in **monitoring and managing** the contracts then placed.

The Guide does its best to point out what practitioners can do to deal with the ever-increasing gap between service demands and funding; and the remorseless attrition in many areas of the stock of willing and able service providers.

A table of the contents of the guide can be found on the CJC's website at <http://www.ipf.co.uk/bestvalue/bvq/CJC/DOCUMENTS>

An order form can be found on <http://www.cipfa.org/shop>

CONFERENCE ON THE COMMISSIONING OF SOCIAL CARE

The subject for this year's CJC Annual Conference is the commissioning of social care, the major legislative changes which have recently been made for it in all parts of Great Britain, and how practitioners should address some of the most pressing problems which now arise in delivering the service.

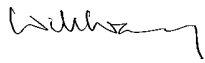
The conference will be on Thursday 27 November, in central London.

Leading speakers will address the acute shortages of both funds and service providers in many parts of the country, and which (budget pooling or budget alignment) would best help with them; the ultimate purposes and immediate practicalities of joint commissioning and joint assessment; the role of auditors and inspectors, and how they can help; and the opportunity still open in many areas for a greater contribution to service provision from co-operatives, social enterprise and the voluntary sector.

places can be booked now on

<http://secure.cipfa.org.uk/cgi-bin/CIPFA.storefront/3f65d6220053fbae273fc39d619906e2/Product/View/SS63&2D11>

Sincerely



Will Werry, chair, CJC