

**Briefing note for Scrutiny Call-In Meeting 18 May 2009 – Southwark Circle -**  
Strategic Director of Health and Community Services

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

1. The 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2009 IDM report of the Executive Member for Health and Adult Care summarises the background to the development of Southwark Council's partnership with Participle, the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) and BSKyB to undertake an innovative research and pilot project redesigning the way that social care for older people is delivered, particularly focusing on how to create and maintain the social relations that generate a good quality of life and wellbeing for older people who do not live close to their families.
2. The 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2009 report noted the unsustainable national and local budgetary pressures on the current adult social care system and proposed that, in addition to continuing to make savings within the existing social care system, an innovative approach be taken to developing a sustainable model that would utilise the skills of older people and enhance the network of preventative services. This model had been developed by Participle leading to the formation of Southwark Circle as an innovative new service for older people and their families that bridges the gap between the lives they want to live and the lives they are able to live.
3. The purpose of this report is to respond to specific concerns raised by members in the call-in request. Hilary Cottam and Daniel Dickens, from Participle and Southwark Circle, will be available to give information about the background and current stage of the project.

**KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION**

**Concerns and responses**

4. A lack of clarity of how the organisation is to be run:

Southwark Circle has been established as a Community Interest Company, i.e. a not-for-profit limited liability company with the specific aim of providing benefit to a community. Southwark Circle will be governed on a day-to-day basis by its board of directors and will be expected to achieve the objectives set out in the IDM report, the Business Plan and the Conditions of Grant Aid. Its performance and strategic decisions will be monitored and evaluated by a steering group, membership of which will include the Chief Executive (Southwark Council), the interim Assistant Director, Adult Social Care (Southwark Health and Social Care), the Head of Adult Social Care Commissioning and the directors of Southwark Circle. Other key people will be nominated to join the Steering Group as required to add strategic value and direction to the work of Southwark Circle.

5. How the interface with mainstream social care and existing voluntary and community sector groups will work:

The work of Southwark Circle will be in addition and complementary to the work of mainstream social care and existing voluntary and community sector groups. As a

membership organisation, Southwark Circle will generate additional social capital by helping older people to make contact with existing groups and services in order to find solutions to their presenting problems, identifying new and additional sources of help and support that can be made available to its members and unlocking the resources within local communities so that more individual people can help each other. Southwark Circle will be expected to work closely with existing groups and services and to take part in local partnership arrangements.

6. The lack of evidence of outputs from the pilot:

In their presentation Hilary Cottam and Daniel Dickens will speak about the evidence from the pilot, i.e. the 18 month project; Ageing: A Life Less Ordinary, and from other case studies.

7. A lack of evidence that this organisation is more qualified than others to deliver the desired outcomes:

Since September 2007 Participle has been working in partnership with Southwark Council, the Department of Work and Pensions and BSkyB to develop innovative new services to improve the quality of life and well-being of older people in Britain, through an 18 month project; Ageing: A Life Less Ordinary. This partnership, which is being closely observed by Central Government, has generated an additional £1 million from the Department for Work and Pensions and BSkyB to assist in the development of this innovative approach in Southwark. The project methodology, the intellectual property rights to which are held by Participle, included talking with older people and their families about their hopes, fears, needs and aspirations, identifying opportunities and ideas for new services, prototyping new services and trialling them with older people.

8. There is no evidence of due consultation with interested parties such as older people's groups or existing voluntary and community sector groups:

Council officers have discussed the work of Participle, and more recently Southwark Circle, in a number of meetings with voluntary and community sector groups. The November 2008 meeting of the Older People's Partnership Board received a presentation from Daniel Dickens and had an extensive discussion about the project and the proposals. Daniel also presented to the February 2009 meeting of the Independence and Wellbeing Strategic Board and has attended the Personalisation Programme Board. Southwark Circle has met either individually or in groups with approximately 40 voluntary and community organisations.

## **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

9. The publication in December 2007 of "Putting People First: A shared vision and commitment to the transformation of Adult Social Care", set out the shared commitment of central and local government to system-wide transformation of adult social care. This concordat stated that "ultimately, every locality should seek to have a single community based support system focussed on the health and wellbeing of the local population", including the need for organisations to come together to re-design local systems around the needs of citizens. The development of Southwark Circle will further enhance the range of services and groups available for local residents, will assist more older people to remain independent and active members of

their communities for longer and will contribute to the personalisation of adult social care services in Southwark.