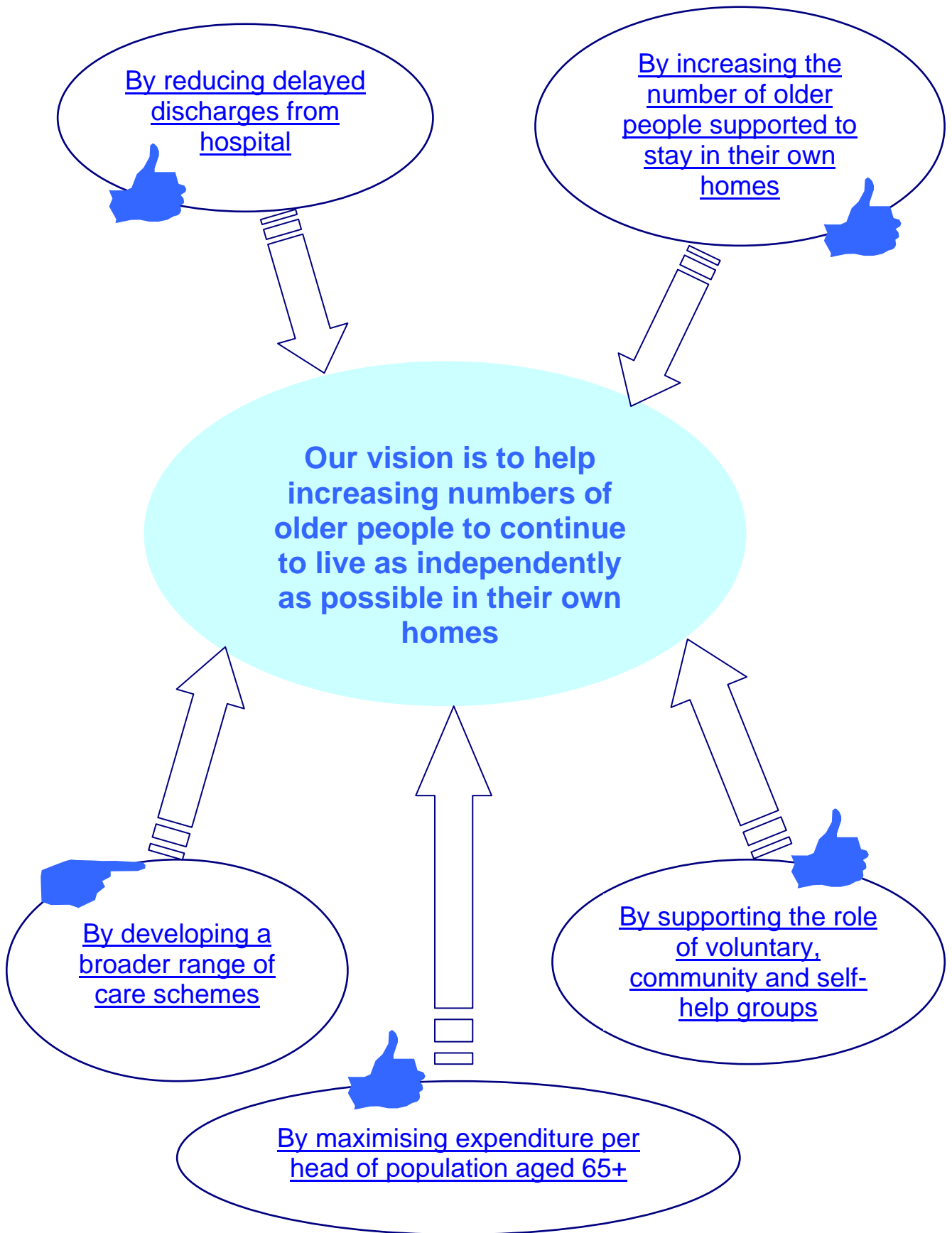





Improving Support for Older People



-  On target
-  Progress unclear
-  Not yet on target

Improving Support for Older People

Target 1: Reducing delayed discharges from hospital



What did we say we would achieve?

We said we would agree joint targets between Health and Adult Social Care to further reduce delayed discharges from hospital.

How does this target help achieve our vision?

Older people are sometimes unable to return to their own homes after treatment in hospital because they require support which is not available. This is not only distressing for the patient but can block beds for new patients needing treatment. By working with Health and Adult Social Care, we can find ways to provide more support, thus enabling more people to return home as soon as possible.

What did we achieve?

A "Whole Systems Action Plan" is now in place, a key aim of which is to reduce delayed discharges. New services aimed at improving community based services are being developed and additional resources are being directed towards ensuring that patients are in the right setting needed for their care, including reducing delayed transfers of care.

There still remains more to be done in this area and we will continue to lobby for a fairer share of funding on this issue for East Sussex.

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Target 2: Increasing the number of older people supported to stay in their own homes



What did we say we would achieve?

We said we would increase the number of older people supported to live in their own homes.

How does this target help achieve our vision?

By taking support to older people in their homes we can make sure that they can continue to live as independently as possible.

What did we achieve?

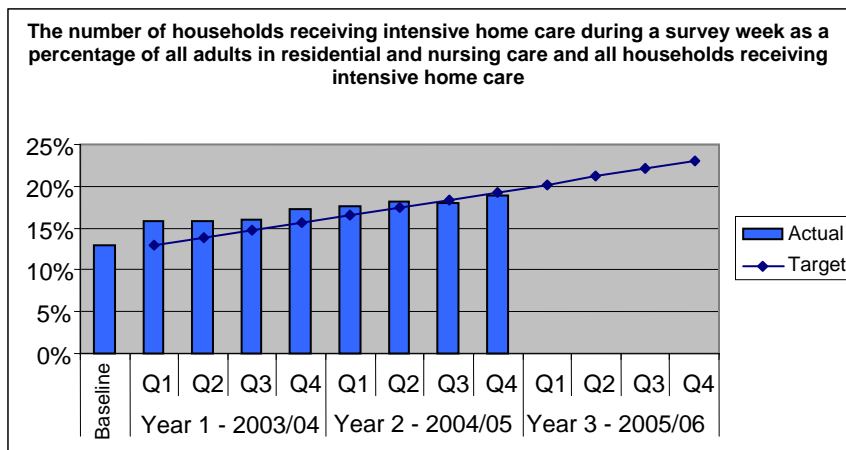
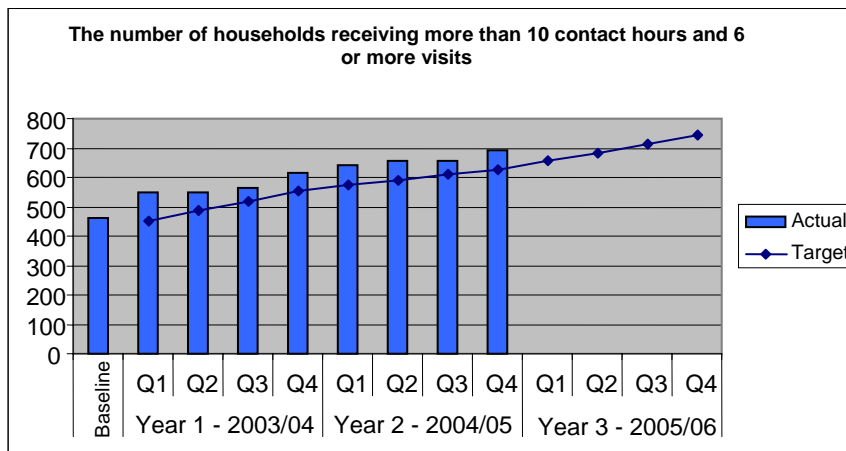
We increased the number of households receiving more than 10 contact hours and 6 or more visits by 74 (6%) during 2004/05, making a total of 690.



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In the last quarter of 2004, the number of households receiving intensive home care during a survey week was 18.8% of all adults in residential and nursing care and all households receiving intensive home care.



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Target 3: Developing a broader range of care schemes



What did we say we would achieve?

We said we would work with public sector partners to continue to develop intermediate care and joint hospital admission and discharge arrangements to prevent people going into hospital or help them to regain independence after a stay in hospital.

How does this target help achieve our vision?

Minimising the number of people who need to go into hospital and finding ways of supporting people in their own homes can prevent “bed blocking”, where beds are occupied by vulnerable people who cannot support themselves in their own homes during their recovery.

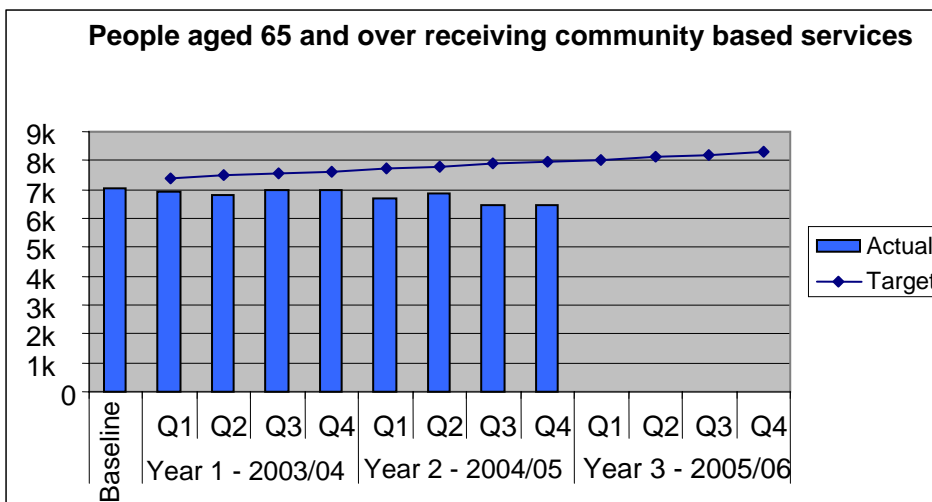
Improving Support for Older People

Providing support to help people remain at home not only reduces pressure on our local hospitals but improves well-being and speeds recovery for the patients.

What did we achieve?

In the last quarter of 2004/05, around 6,500 people aged over 65 were receiving community based services, which was somewhat below the target of 7,964 that was set.

While funding in this area has grown by 35% over the last four years, the demand for services is particularly high due to the large numbers of residents over 75 (12.1%) and over 85 (3.6%), significantly above the national averages of 7.6% and 2% respectively. We will continue to work with voluntary organisations such as Age Concern, Care for the Carers and the East Sussex Disability Association to support older people to make informed choices about their care but we recognise that we may have to reconsider this target for future years.



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Target 4: Maximising expenditure per head of population aged 65+

What did we say we would achieve?

We said we would maximise the expenditure per head of population aged 65+ on services for older people.

How does this target help achieve our vision?

In East Sussex a comparatively high proportion of the population is over 65. We recognise that, in later life people have the chance to enjoy what the county has to offer and engage in local life, helping bring communities together with their experience and energy. However, older people can also experience health or mobility problems, finances may be tighter once

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retired and some elderly people can become isolated. Thus, by ensuring that services are there when they are needed, we are doing our best to ensure that our residents aged over 65 can continue to enjoy a high quality of life as independently as possible.

What did we achieve?

Average gross weekly expenditure on supporting adults and older people in residential and nursing care in 2004 – 05 was £490 per person, £10 more than our original target of £480 per person.

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Target 5: Supporting and recognising the role of voluntary, community and self-help groups



What did we say we would achieve?

We said we would recognise and support the role of voluntary, community and self-help groups.

How does this target help achieve our vision?

While public agencies can provide a number of services for older people to help them remain as independent as possible, we are not the only solution. We recognise that voluntary, community and self-help groups can offer a great deal to local people. They have a great deal of experience, expertise and by working directly with the local community may be able to offer a more personalised service. Thus we wished to support groups such as these in their valuable work.

What did we achieve?

Key partners on the East Sussex Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) include Eastbourne Association of Voluntary Services, Hastings Voluntary Action, Action in Rural Sussex and Churches Together in Sussex. As a body, the LSP is committed to working with the Voluntary and Community Sector to deliver services.

We have allocated nearly £60,000 to local community and voluntary groups through our Making a Difference Grant Scheme, including:

- £1,890 to the Hastings and St Leonard's Senior Forum to produce and distribute a newsletter;
- £1,200 to Age Concern to help open a new facility including office and shop, in central Seaford;
- £5,000 to Rotherfield St Martin to set up a support network for older residents, including day care and social activities;



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- £2,000 to Playden W.I. Hall Management Committee to help fund the construction and landscaping of a car park to make the hall more accessible to the community; and
- £4,680 to the Eastbourne and District Multiple Sclerosis Society to set up a weekly luncheon club for MS sufferers.

Funding has also been contributed to Age Concern and East Sussex Disability Association for them to be able to provide benefits advice to older people with whom they have contact.

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