

**REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND HEALTH
COMMITTEE****APPROVAL OF THE ADULT SOCIAL CARE STRATEGY****Purpose of the Report**

1. To seek approval from County Council for the introduction and implementation of the Adult Social Care Strategy.

Information and Advice

2. Over the last year the Council has been working on development of a new strategy for the delivery of adult social care services to the people of Nottinghamshire. This has been undertaken in response to further reductions to government funding for local authorities and increased demand for services particularly in relation to people over 65 and younger adults with complex disabilities.
3. It is also intended to prepare for the upcoming implementation of the Care Bill, which includes a number of new duties and responsibilities for local authorities which will have costs attached. Financial modelling is currently being undertaken to more accurately identify the additional costs that local authorities will incur. For example, as a result of the funding reform local authorities will be required to pay for social care services for people once they reach the cap of £72,000 (in 2016), and the requirement to have a care account to keep track of progress towards the cap will mean early assessments of people who currently arrange and fund their own services.
4. The strategy sets out guiding principles for the future. It identifies a number of areas where the Council will focus its activity:
 - Information, Advice and Early Intervention
 - Prevention
 - Short-term Support (re-ablement)
 - Assessment and Care Management
 - Personal Budgets
 - Review
 - Commissioning Services
 - Finance and Charging
 - Structures and Processes

5. The strategy puts further emphasis on the need to focus resources on social care support that prevents, delays and reduces the need for care, which is a significant element of the Care Bill. It also states that prevention and short-term support will be targeted at people who are at risk of losing their independence. Assessment will be provided on a proportionate basis according to the individual's situation, and more use will be made of phone, online and clinic assessments.
6. The strategy places greater emphasis on the achievement of outcomes and value for money when the Council is commissioning services for people. Although choice and individual preferences will be taken into account wherever possible, the Council will always have to consider the most cost effective option for meeting people's needs. The continued focus is on reducing the demand for residential and nursing home care and the need for long term care in the community.
7. The strategy acknowledges the need to seek more efficient systems and processes to support the provision of adult social care, to prepare for change in response to the Care Bill; and to integrate with Health and other agencies wherever it is feasible to do so. The strategy is attached as appendix 1.
8. On 9th September 2013, the Adult Social Care and Health Committee approved the decision to undertake a public consultation on a proposed model for adult social care and a supporting Use of Resources Policy. The proposed model was discussed with frontline staff at Senior Leadership Team road shows in September and October 2013.
9. The public consultation started on 22nd October 2013 and was intended to finish on the 20th December, but was subsequently extended until 17th January 2014 to align with the budget challenge consultation. A wide range of local organisations and groups were contacted, including all District, Borough and Parish Councils, the 6 Clinical Commissioning Groups, NAVO, Healthwatch and the Citizen's Panel. A sample of current service users were also sent a copy of the proposed model and survey questions, and copies of the consultation information were available in all libraries. The consultation received 133 responses.
10. The majority of responses had consistent themes and a number of the respondents were aware of the budget challenge facing the Council, and had responded to the budget challenge consultation as well.
11. The consultation highlighted concerns about:
 - the language used in the model and what this would mean in practice
 - the potential for loss of choice and control for people needing social care support
 - an anticipated increase in pressure on carers
 - the perceived loss of face to face assessments
 - the availability of preventative services, and
 - difficulties with assessing and monitoring the impact of the model.
12. In response to issues raised in the consultation, further work has been undertaken to ensure the Council's intentions are clearer, particularly in relation to:

- identifying how risk will be assessed and the circumstances in which telephone, clinic, online or face to face assessment will be offered
- how support will be targeted at people in order to prevent, reduce or delay need for services in future
- how the needs of individuals will be taken into account, whilst ensuring that the Council achieves best value for money

In order to assist with clarification for the public, and implementation with staff, it was agreed at the Adult Social Care and Health Committee that the proposed model be renamed the Adult Social Care Strategy. This will be supported by detailed staff guidance, which is currently being developed, and will be presented in a training programme for staff alongside information for the public.

Other options considered

13. As stated earlier in the report considerable work has been undertaken to produce a statement for the public and staff which will clarify what the Council can offer in terms of adult social care. The strategy will need to be reviewed and revised over time in order to respond to circumstances and the changing environment in social care. At this point in time the Council did not feel there was an alternative option to this work.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

14. It is important for the Council to produce clear information for service users and the public and clear guidance for staff, about how its resources will be prioritised and allocated, in the context of increasing demand, changes to legislation and reduced funding.

Statutory and Policy Implications

15. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, finance, human resources, human rights, the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children or vulnerable adults, service users, sustainability and the environment and ways of working and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required

Implications for service users

16. Once approved the strategy, and supporting guidance for staff, will clarify the adult social care support that the Council is able to provide for service users and carers.

Financial Implications and Human Resources Implications

17. The strategy and staff guidance will clarify how the Council will allocate its financial and human resources in the future, to meet identified priorities in the most cost effective way. In relation to charging for services, people are already financially assessed and asked to contribute to their care subject to national charging criteria and this will continue to be the case.

Equalities implications

18. The original Equality Impact Assessment has been reviewed and updated further to the consultation.

RECOMMENDATION/S

It is recommended that the County Council:

- 1) approves the introduction and implementation of the Adult Social Care Strategy.

Councillor Muriel Weisz
Chairman of the Adult Social Care and Health Committee

For any enquiries about this report please contact:
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Constitutional Comments (SLB 14/03/2014)

19. Full Council has authority to consider the content of the report.

Financial Comments (KAS 17/03/2014)

20. The financial implications are contained within paragraph 17 of the report.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

- Report to Adult Social Care and Health Committee 3rd March 2014

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All