



ADULTS AND COMMUNITIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
6 JUNE 2022

UPDATE ON THE SOCIAL CARE REFORM PROGRAMME

REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF ADULTS AND COMMUNITIES

Purpose of the report

1. The purpose of this report is to inform Committee members on the work underway to prepare for the Social Care Reforms set out in a previous report to this Committee on 24 January 2022.

Policy Framework and Previous Decisions

2. The Care Act 2014 places a duty on local authorities to promote an individual's well-being, including unpaid carers when making decisions. The Act emphasises the right of individuals to have choice and control and as much independence as possible. The Act also stipulates that Local Authorities should also work with local care market to ensure it is healthy, sufficient to meet local needs and is diverse.
3. The Adults and Communities Ambitions and Strategy for 2020-2024 set out in "Delivering Wellbeing and Opportunity in Leicestershire", sets out the Department's direction of travel in its provision of care and the reforms will impact on future reviews of the Strategy.
4. Social Care Reform and the policy framework underpinning it was previously discussed at this Committee's meeting held on 24 January 2022.

Background

5. The "People at the Heart of Care" White Paper sets out the Government's 10-year vision of how it proposes to transform support and care in England (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/people-at-the-heart-of-care-adult-social-care-reform-white-paper/people-at-the-heart-of-care-adult-social-care-reform>). The vision revolves around three objectives:
 - People have choice, control, and support to live independent lives
 - People can access outstanding quality and tailored care and support
 - People can find social care fair and accessible.
6. There are a number of key ambitions outlined as part of the White Paper. These include:
 - Shaping healthy and diverse social care markets
 - Reducing variation in quality and promoting safety of care

- Supporting the social care workforce
 - Enabling individuals to navigate the system and finding the right care and support
 - Accelerating adoption of Technology in Social Care
 - Expanding the choice of housing options
 - Driving integration of health and care services
 - Supporting local authorities to deliver reform.
7. A further white paper, “Joining up care for people, places and populations” released in February 2022 sets out plans to make integrated health and social care a reality for everyone across England and to level up access, experience and outcomes across the country (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-and-social-care-integration-joining-up-care-for-people-places-and-populations>).
 8. In order to meet the proposals contained within the White Papers, together with the requirements of the Health and Care Act 2022, and the Building Back Better Charging Reforms, a Social Care Reform Programme has been established. The Programme and its governance are described in the presentation appended to this covering report.
 9. The presentation also provides the Committee with the Assurance of Local Authority Social Care as enacted in the Health and Care Act 2022.
 10. The Government has introduced a duty for the Care Quality Commission (CQC) to independently review and assess local authority performance in delivering their adult social care duties under Part 1 of the Care Act 2014. This includes putting in place new legal powers for the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care to intervene to ensure improvement where there are significant local authority failings in undertaking their duties.

Consultation

11. The Government has set out details of the engagement it has undertaken to shape the content of the People at the Heart of Care White Paper (Annex A of the Policy paper refers). This included local authorities, providers, workforce representatives and professional bodies, voluntary and community sector organisations, and people with lived experience including unpaid carers.
12. The County Council has engaged with a wider range of partners and stakeholders as part of the consultation and engagement on the Adults and Communities Department Strategy 2020–2024 from December 2019 to June 2020.
13. As the programme progresses, local stakeholders and the public will be consulted on any significant changes which will be made to services as a result of the programme workstreams.

Resource Implications

14. The impact of the Programme and cost of reform are still being scoped.
15. The Director of Corporate Resources and the Director of Law and Governance have been consulted on the content of this report.

Timetable for Decisions

16. Further reports will be presented to the Cabinet and this Committee on the Social Care Reform Programme over the course of the next 12 months.

Background papers

People at the Heart of Care: Adult Social Care Reform White Paper

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/people-at-the-heart-of-care-adult-social-care-reform-white-paper/people-at-the-heart-of-care-adult-social-care-reform>

Build Back Better: Our Plan for Health and Social Care

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/build-back-better-our-plan-for-health-and-social-care>

Joining up care for people, places and populations” health integration white paper

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-and-social-care-integration-joining-up-care-for-people-places-and-populations>)

Reports to the Adults and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 11 November 2019 and 7 September 2020 - Adults and Communities Ambitions and Strategy for 2020-2024 “Delivering Wellbeing and Opportunity in Leicestershire”:

<https://politics.leics.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=1040&MID=5690>

<https://politics.leics.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=1040&MID=6170>

Reports to the Cabinet on 22 November 2019 and 18 September 2020 - Adults and Communities Ambitions and Strategy for 2020-2024 “Delivering Wellbeing and Opportunity in Leicestershire”:

<https://politics.leics.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=135&MID=5608#AI61396>

<https://politics.leics.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=135&MID=5997#AI64121>

Delivering Wellbeing and opportunity in Leicestershire – Adults and Communities Department Ambitions and Strategy for 2020-24

Report to the Adults and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee: 24 January 2022 – Adult Social Care Reform and Charging

<https://politics.leics.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=1040&MId=6838&Ver=4>

Circulation under the Local Issues Alert Procedure

17. None.

Equality and Human Rights Implications

18. This report is a briefing document, and as such is not subject to an Equalities and Human Rights Impact Assessment (EHRIA). Any subsequent changes in policies arising from the reform will be subject to appropriate assessments. Individual workstreams will be examining the equality or human rights implications arising from their work programme and will be completing EHRIA’s accordingly.

Appendix

Presentation describing the Social Care Reform Programme governance and focus on the proposed Assurance of Social Care by the Care Quality Commission.

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