

Preparing for the challenges ahead



Key Elements of Adult Social Care Reform

The "People at the Heart of Care" White Paper sets out the Government's 10-year vision for Social Care. The proposals can be summarised as follows:

- Introduction of a cap on personal care costs;
- provide financial assistance to those without substantial assets;
- self-funders can ask their Local Authority to arrange their care for them;
- wider support for the social care workforce;
- CQC having power to assure the quality of Local Authority Social Care
- improve integration of health and social care systems;
- Emphasis on the duty of a Local Authority to shape healthy and diverse social care markets.



Issues and risks

- Indications from bodies such as the County Council's network that additional funding from Government will not cover the full cost of delivering social care reform.
- Significant change is required to data and financial systems to tight timescales.
- Companies developing solutions to meet the digital changes are struggling to meet demand in time for October 2023 start.
- The identification of revised fees via Fair cost of care exercises and the Government's desire to reduce differential between council & self funders rates will lead to increased demand to raise fees over and above inflationary pressures.
- Managing the expectations of self funders regarding what counts towards the care cap & their contributions to care costs even after cap is reached.
- Increased demand for assessments and services by self funders (care assessments and financial assessments) and the subsequent pressure on staffing to meet the additional need.
- Current service user and carer feedback suggests the authority may not receive a favourable CQC assurance rating which could have a reputational and service impact.
- Uncertainty regarding the timescales for delivering Social Care Reform. In Autumn Statement, Charging Reforms have been delayed until 2025. Work is underway, awaiting further details from DHSC, on the impact on the wider Social Care Reform Programme and how the funding for Social Care which was also announced in the statement, will be allocated to Local Authorities.

Delivering Social Care Reform

- Social Care Reform has areas of significant risk for the council and strong processes for risk management and governance are in place
- A robust programme management approach has been adopted, a Programme Manager has been appointed and the programme board meets monthly.
- Programme reports are regularly presented to the Adults Overview and Scrutiny Committee and to Lead Members
- Monitoring of the financial implications of the Social Care Reforms is underway, a model of the financial impact being constantly refined.
- Fair cost of Care analysis and Market Sustainability Plan produced and submitted to Government in October.
- Developed an action plan to meet the workforce implications and training required to deliver the programme operationally.
- Communications Plan produced to ensure staff, stakeholders and local residents are kept informed.
- Work is underway to prepare for a future CQC assurance visit.

