



**ADULTS AND COMMUNITIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE:**  
**26 NOVEMBER 2013**

**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF ADULTS AND COMMUNITIES**

**ASSOCIATION OF DIRECTORS OF ADULT SOCIAL SERVICES**  
**SECTOR-LED IMPROVEMENT AND PEER CHALLENGE REVIEW**  
**NOVEMBER 2013**

**Purpose of report**

1. To provide members of the Adults and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee with an update on the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS) Sector-Led Improvement approach in the East Midlands, with specific detail about the self-assessment and peer review elements of the process.

**Policy Framework and Previous Decisions**

2. Adult social care departments are now subject to peer review to drive improvement. In the East Midlands the Peer Review is known as 'Sector-Led Improvement in the East Midlands'. It is sponsored by ADASS and will cover the ten local authorities in the region. Sector-led improvement is based on the principle that stronger accountability through increased transparency drives further improvement. It is a process that allows local authorities to be open to challenge from their peers and to get support from them in order to inform improvement and drive change.
3. The sector led improvement process has three main elements: preparation of a self-assessment document; attendance at a peer challenge summit (where the self-assessment documents are discussed); and, a Peer Challenge Review (where individual authorities are scrutinised and feedback is provided).

**Background**

4. The Adults and Communities Department completed its self-assessment in May 2013. The assessment comprised of a number of key areas:
  - Enabling maximum choice and control;
  - Helping people to stay well and independent;
  - Enabling accessible information and positive advice and support;
  - Keeping people safe;
  - Leadership;
  - Use of resources;
  - Strengths and weaknesses.
5. It required the Department to rate itself (on a scale of 1 to 4) against these areas and provide a commentary with evidence to justify each rating. The self-assessment was

developed through consultation with key staff, reviewed and signed off by the Senior Leadership Team and the Director of Adults and Communities.

6. The Peer Challenge Summit took place in June 2013 and general feedback on the self-assessments and the peer review process was provided by ADASS. A copy of this feedback can be found in Appendix A.
7. The Department's Peer Challenge Review took place between the 6 and 8 November 2013. A Peer Review Panel visited the County Council during this time and talked to members of staff across the department and the Council, including the Adult Social Care Lead Member and Cabinet Support Member, as well as key partners and external agencies, to further scrutinise evidence and documentation. It is intended as a supportive and developmental process with consideration given to both departmental strengths and areas for improvement. In preparation for the Peer Challenge Review, the Department updated its self-assessment with the latest performance data and any new or updated evidence. A copy of the revised self-assessment is attached as Appendix B.
8. For the Peer Challenge Review, the panel was asked to pay particular attention to three key lines of enquiry:
  - Personalisation;
  - Home-Based Support;
  - Safeguarding.
9. An evidence file covering key areas for consideration has also been prepared to provide the Peer Review Panel with relevant background information for the key lines of enquiry and was made available prior to the Peer Challenge Review. Additional information was also made available during the visit.
10. During the Peer Challenge Review a series of interviews and workshops were set up to give the panel the opportunity to get a general understanding of the work of the Adults and Communities Department, key challenges and strengths, from both internal staff and external partners. Specific interviews with key staff and workshops with personnel drawn from across the Department (and where appropriate external organisations/customers) around each of the key lines of enquiry also took place.
11. At the end of the Peer Challenge Review informal feedback was provided. The feedback provided an opportunity for the Department to consider the way in which it is facing challenges of delivering adult social care in the current social and economic climate. It provides the Department with the opportunity to gain an objective opinion from 'critical friends' concerning strengths and weaknesses who bring with them an understanding of how other local authorities are meeting current demands in adult social care. A verbal update regarding the high level feedback received will be provided to members of the Adults and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
12. The Peer Review Panel will also provide a formal feedback letter capturing the main points and issues identified. This will be issued within four weeks of the review date and will be circulated to members of the Committee as soon as it is available.

## **Conclusion**

13. The Adults and Communities Department considers the sector-led improvement process as an integral part to its continued development. Feedback from the Peer

Review Panel will form a critical part of the decision making process for future direction of travel for some key areas of the department's work and its role within the wider Council. The self-assessment has also provided an evidence base for the Adults and Communities Local Account 2012/13.

### **Circulation under the Local Alert Issues Procedure**

None.

### **Officers to Contact**

Sandy McMillan, Assistant Director (Strategy and Commissioning)  
Adults and Communities Department

Tel: 0116 305 7320 Email: [sandy.mcmillan@leics.gov.uk](mailto:sandy.mcmillan@leics.gov.uk)

Amanda Price, Strategic Planning and Commissioning Manager  
Adults and Communities Department

Tel: 0116 305 7427 Email: [amanda.price@leics.gov.uk](mailto:amanda.price@leics.gov.uk)

### **List of Appendices**

Appendix A – Feedback From Peer Challenge Summit

Appendix B - Self-Assessment

### **Relevant Impact Assessment**

#### **Equal Opportunities Implications**

14. There are no specific equal opportunities implications to note in relation to the ADASS Sector-Led Improvement in the East Midlands. The overall approach will support the equalities agenda by promoting openness, transparency and external challenge.

This page is intentionally left blank