

Bath & North East Somerset Council

MEETING/ DECISION MAKER:	Cabinet	
MEETING/ DECISION DATE:	12 February 2014	EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN REFERENCE:
		E 2607
TITLE:	Advice & Information Strategy 2014-2017	
WARD:	All	
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM		
List of attachments to this report: Appendix 1: Summary of Feedback from Consultation Appendix 2: Care Bill 2013-14 Summary		

1 THE ISSUE

1.1 At its meeting on 4 December 2013 Cabinet agreed to consult for a period of 6 weeks from 9th December 2013 to 24th January 2014 on the draft Advice & Information Strategy 2014-17 and to receive a report on the outcome of the consultation at its February 2014 meeting. This report presents the outcome of the consultation and recommends next steps towards the adoption of an Advice & Information Strategy 2014-17 in fulfilment of the resolution of full Council on 14th November 2013.

2 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That the Cabinet note the outcome of the consultation on the draft Advice & Information Strategy 2014-17, which is attached at Appendix 1.
- 2.2 That the Cabinet receive a further draft of the Advice & Information Strategy at its July 2014 meeting, which takes account of: i) feedback from the consultation; ii) the redesign of the adult social care pathway; iii) the detailed implications and requirements of the Care Bill 2013-14; and iv) the February 2014 full Council decision on the 2014-15 budget, which will determine the resources available to respond to the priorities set out in the revised draft Advice & Information Strategy.

3 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCE, PROPERTY, PEOPLE)

- 3.1 There are no direct resource implications associated with this report, which simply reports on the outcome of the consultation.

4 STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS AND BASIS FOR PROPOSAL

- 4.1 The Strategy will reflect the learning from people's feedback about current and future provision of advice and information services in Bath and North East Somerset.
- 4.2 The Council is committed to promoting and enhancing the quality of local people's lives through the commitments set out in the joint Health & Wellbeing Strategy, under the themes: i) helping people to stay healthy; ii) improving the quality of people's lives; and iii) creating fairer life changes. The principles set out by Think Local Act Personal have been used in the development of the Strategy.
- 4.3 The Advice & Information Strategy, when finalised and adopted, will support the implementation of the Council's new statutory responsibilities under the Care Bill 2013-14 once it becomes law.

5 THE REPORT

- 5.1 The context for the development and agreement of an Advice & Information Strategy 2014-17 was detailed in the report to Cabinet in December 2013 at which a 6-week consultation on the draft Strategy was agreed.
- 5.2 Feedback from the consultation will be very helpful in further developing the Strategy to reflect the views of a wide range of stakeholders, including current service providers and service users on both current provision and future priorities.
- 5.3 The development of a comprehensive Advice & Information Strategy offers the opportunity to reflect the work in progress to redesign the adult social care pathway to place greater emphasis on prevention and early-intervention and, in particular, to improve access to specialist advice, information and advocacy in relation to adult social care, including for those funding their own adult social care.
- 5.4 Finally, it would be a missed opportunity not to reflect the requirements of the Care Bill 2013-14 as it proceeds through parliament and becomes law, which is likely to be in the Autumn of 2015. A summary of the Care Bill proposals is attached at Appendix 2. The proposals in relation to advice and information are particular relevance. The report published in support of public consultation on the Care Bill indicated that around 40 percent of people are unaware that they may need to pay for care and may only discover this in a crisis. The Government's response to the consultation, which closed in October 2013, is yet to be published. However, it is clear that people will need advice on financial planning for the future and on decision-making when care is needed

6 RATIONALE

- 6.1 Feedback from the consultation, summarised at Appendix 1 will assist in the development and enhancement of the draft Advice & Information Strategy;
- 6.2 It makes sense as the Advice & Information Strategy is being developed to take account, not only of the specific consultation feedback but also of the redesign of the adult social care pathway and the implications and requirements of the Care Bill summarised at Appendix 2.

7 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 7.1 No other options were considered in light of the agreement that the outcome of the consultation would be reported to Cabinet in February 2014.

8 CONSULTATION

- 8.1 As set out in the December 2013 report, the consultation included: on-line public consultation; facilitated service user engagement events; engagement with current advice and information providers; and specific consultation with Wellbeing PDS Panel at its 17th January 2014 meeting.

9 RISK MANAGEMENT

- 9.1 A risk assessment related to the issue and recommendations has been undertaken, in compliance with the Council's decision making risk management guidance.

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Background papers	Report to Cabinet, 4 th December 2013, "Advice & Information Strategy 2014-2017"
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