

Bath & North East Somerset Council				
MEETING/ DECISION MAKER:	Children's & Adults Health & Wellbeing Policy Development & Scrutiny Panel			
MEETING/ DECISION DATE:	7th June 2022	EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN REFERENCE:		
TITLE:	Adult Social Care Director's Update May 2022			
WARD:	All			
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM				
<p>List of attachments to this report:</p> <p>Attachment 1: Adult Social Care Performance Dashboard</p>				

1 THE ISSUE

- 1.1 This report provides an update on the national legislative, policy and regulatory context that the Adult Social Care service currently operates in.
- 1.2 It also describes key strategic activity taking place in 2022/23, alongside an overview of finance, performance and risks based on delivery in quarter four of 2021/22.

2 RECOMMENDATION

Panel is asked to:

- 2.1 Note the content of the report and identify any areas of focus for the next quarterly update report due to Panel.

3 THE REPORT

- 3.1 The report contains an overview of the following national and local context that Adult Social Care is operating in:

- **National picture:** progress of the national reform of Adult Social Care across several stands:
 - Build Back Better reforms that introduce new charging reforms for people who use social care and brings new statutory duties for local authorities

- Liberty Protection Safeguards – a framework that will replace the Deprivation of Liberty that has now finished parliamentary journey, with the new code of practice being consulted on
- Mental Health Act reform that has been mentioned in the Queens speech delivered this month
- Care Quality Commission inspection regime for Adult Social Care (also referred to as Assurance framework) that is expected to mirror the Ofsted inspection process and will begin in April 2023
- **Local picture:**
 - Health and Social Care Integration to join up care for people, place and population is continuing at pace nationally and locally. On 1st July 2022, the Banes, Swindon, and Wiltshire (BSW) CCG will be subsumed into the BSW Integrated Care System, with new governance arrangements emerging at system and locality level.
 - Continuing close working with the NHS and our wider community partners to promote, maintain, and enhance people's wellbeing and independence so that they are healthier, stronger, more resilient, and less reliant in the future on formal social care services.
 - Working with HCRG Care Group (previously Virgin Care Ltd) on continual improvement of the community health and social care services. A report is due in Cabinet on 26th May 2022 to discuss the options appraisal for the future of the HCRG Care Group contract.
- **Performance update:** Adult Social Care performance is measured routinely and compared annually between local authorities against a national set of indicators included in the Adult Social Care Outcomes Framework and the annual statutory Short and Long Term Support performance report. The service also routinely monitors its performance across a range of operational indicators, four of which form part of the strategic indicators reported to Cabinet monthly and are included in the report.

4 STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS

4.1 The key white papers released by the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) will continue to influence the approach to Adult Social Care reform in B&NES:

- In December 2021 white paper, **People are at the heart of care - Adult Social Care** sets out a 10-year vision for adult social care and provides information on funded proposals that will be required to be implemented over the next 3 year
- **Build Back Better Our Plan for Health and Social Care** - which was updated on the 5th of January 2022, now includes the new Adult Social Care charging reforms
- In February 2022 the DHSC released **Health and Social Care Integration**- joining up care for people, place, and population
- **The Health and Care Act** received royal ascent on 3rd May 2022 and laid down legislative foundations for an ambitious programme of national reform of Adult Social Care.

5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCE, PROPERTY, PEOPLE)

- 5.1 In the section Financial Update, the report details that the forecast position for Adult Social Care at the end of quarter three in 2021/22 is an underspend variance of £2.65m. The final outturn position for 2021/22 is being finalised and will be fully reported in July.
- 5.2 The report highlights the impact of the pandemic resulting in increased pressure on funding. Some of the pressure was mitigated by additional government funding but this ended in March 2022. However, some of the consequences of the pandemic have increased current financial pressures. Some of this increase may be temporary but underlying pressures are expected to build because of demographic changes, the long-term impact of COVID-19, rising care costs and the impact of Social Care Reforms.

6 RISK MANAGEMENT

- 6.1 In the section Risk, there is an overview of risks and mitigating measures being implemented in two areas:
 - (1) Local challenges in terms of the ability to attract, recruit, develop and sustain enough staff across a range of key roles, such as social workers, occupational therapists, Best Interest Assessors, financial assessors, and administrators. These skills shortages are one of the biggest challenges we face in providing a high quality and timely response across the health and social care system.
 - (2) A risk that the service won't have sufficient resources, time, and capability to prepare for and implement several strands of the Social Care Reforms simultaneously. This also includes risks associated with the ongoing requirement to develop operational processes and maintain systems; both of which are being mitigated through the work of several system and process improvement projects.

7 EQUALITIES

- 7.1 The report affirms that Adult Social Care transformation and reform are underpinned by the Build Back Better – Our Plan for Social Care principles to:
 - **Offer choice, control, and independence to care users** – so that individuals are empowered to make informed decisions and live happier, healthier, and more independent lives for longer.
 - **Provide an outstanding quality of care** – where individuals have a seamless experience of an integrated health, care and community system that works together and is delivered by a skilled and valued workforce; and
 - **Be fair and accessible to all who need it, when they need it** – ensuring that fees are more transparent, information and advice is user-friendly and easily accessible, and no one is subject to unpredictable and unlimited care costs

CLIMATE CHANGE

7.2 The Council has declared a climate emergency and has resolved to enable carbon neutrality in B&NES by 2030. B&NES Council work in partnership with HCRG Care Group to deliver Community Health and Adult Social Care for B&NES alongside a range of community partners. As part of the ongoing service improvement and development providers and commissioners are putting in place mechanisms to reduce their impact on climate change such as mobile working, increased usage of the integrated care record and web-based business intelligence tools.

8 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

8.1 N/A

9 CONSULTATION

9.1 There has been no public consultation for this report. This report has been written with information provided from national reports and guidance, accompanied by information from local finance and performance management systems and service delivery plans.

Contact person	Suzanne Westhead, Director of Adult Social Services
Background papers	N/A
Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format	