

Adult Services Cabinet Member Report - October 2022

This scrutiny panel was delayed by the death of Queen Elizabeth II and I am regrettably not available for the re-convened meeting. I will answer any questions arising from this report after I return on October 24th.

The key areas of activity in adult services are, as follows:

1. Build Back Better

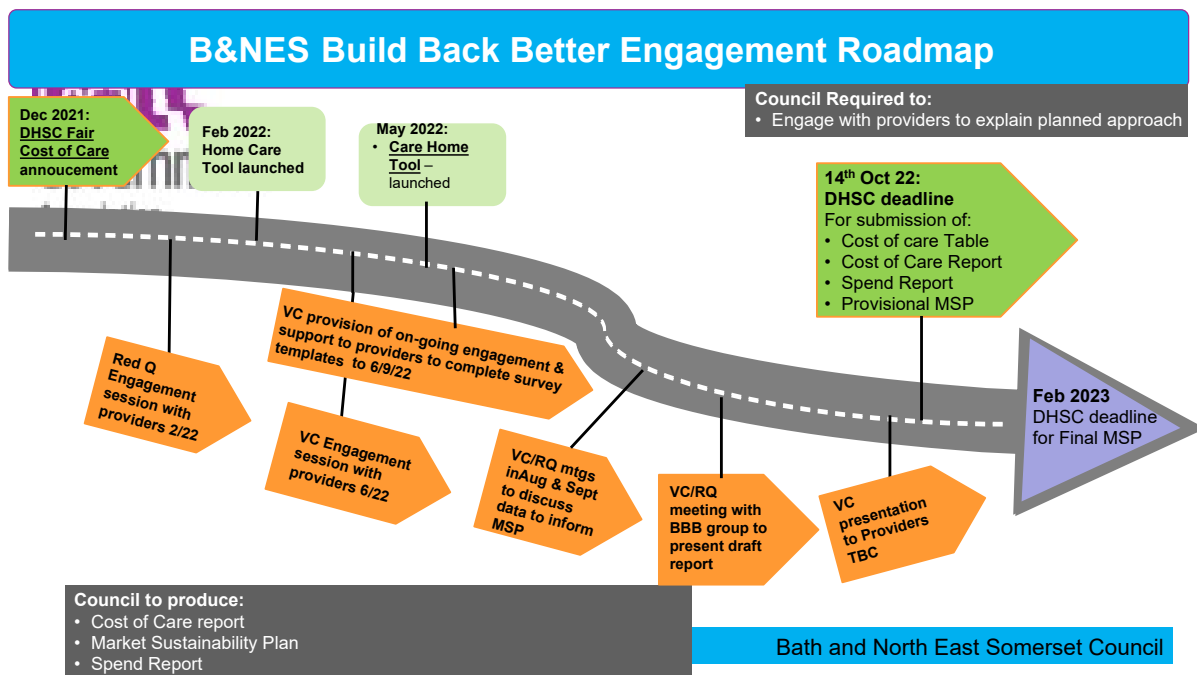
Build Back Better is the name of the government’s adult social care reform programme. B&NES, along with all other English councils is currently engaged in mandated processes to prepare for implementation of the reforms in October '23.

The following activities are underway:

- A) **A cost of care exercise** – produced by surveying local providers for 65+ residential and nursing care homes and 18 years+ homecare to determine a sustainable fee rate for different care settings. The exercises need to accurately reflect local costs such as staff pay and travel time and provide for an appropriate return on capital or return on operations. Local authorities are expected to publish the exercises

To assist with the process, the Council Commissioned Valuing Care to support the Cost of Care exercise. This information had to be submitted to the DHSC by the 14th of October 2022.

Officers in B&NES engaged effectively with local providers, resulting in a response rate on the fair price of care (FPoC) of 46% from home care providers and 57% from Care homes (significantly higher than in most areas). The engagement process is shown below:



The outcome of the cost of care exercise showed the median cost for home care to be close to our current FPoC rate but there was greater disparity in relation to residential services. These findings are important and will help identify the likely costs of the Build Back better strategy and its impact on council budgets.

- B) Production of a **provisional market sustainability plan** setting out the local strategy for the next 3 years (2022 to 2025) – using the cost of care exercise as a key input, this provisional plan will demonstrate the pace at which local authorities intend to move towards a sustainable fee rate, taking account of the impact of section 18(3) as well as other pressures they have identified.

Red Quadrant has been commissioned to support development of the Market Sustainability Plan which will be submitted in February '23.

2. CQC Inspection Process

Another strand of the adult social care reform programme is the re-introduction of an adult care inspection framework for Local Authorities. The previous inspection process was suspended in 2010 so this is an additional area of work for councils.

Details of the new inspection process are still being developed but it will be operated by the Care Quality Commission (CQC) which currently inspects health and care providers and inspections will commence in April '23. "Test and Learn" pilots are taking place in Manchester and Hampshire and we are keeping a close eye on these to help inform our preparation for this new regime.

3. Community Services Transformation Programme

Another significant area of work is the community services transformation programme which was prompted by the decisions taken by Cabinet and Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) Governing Body to not extend the Community Services contract between B&NES Council, Integrated Care Board (ICB) and HCRG Care Group. The current contract will cease on 31st March 2024 and a new model of service delivery is required as of 1st April 2024.

The transformation programme has been developed jointly with health partners and includes three workstreams for the ICB and the Council to oversee, to deliver the safe transition of existing services to the new delivery model:

1. **Programme 1** will cover Adult Social Care (ASC) redesign to make a recommendation on the future ASC operating model. In addition, this programme will develop a model for the future commissioning of the community partners. The Senior responsible officer for this programme is the Director of Adult Social Care
2. **Programme 2** will cover the future of commissioning Public Health services and review service specifications/performance. The Senior responsible officer

for this programme is the Director of Public Health who will work closely with the Director of Children's Services to ensure service interdependencies are taken into consideration for adults and children

- 3. Programme 3** will develop the model of Community Based Integrated Care Services for adults and children and will take into consideration the BSW Care Model. Programme 3

Additional programme and project management support has been secured to ensure that all three workstreams are delivered. The Assistant Director for Strategy, Transformation and Governance started in post as of 1st September 2022 and is working with the Director Adult Social Services, Assistant Director for Commissioning and Assistant Director Operations to deliver Programme One – ASC Redesign and commissioning through Community Partners. An experienced ASC project manager has been appointed to support this workstream.

Additional capacity is also being identified for programme management and the subject matter expertise required to deliver the three programmes. This is being met through a mixed model of procurement of professional services, investment in interim project roles, and back filling current roles to release capacity. A supplier engagement event took place at the end of September.

A report will be going to the November Cabinet on the new operating model for Adult Social Care and Adult Social Care commissioned services. We will keep this scrutiny panel updated on progress

4. Service Visits

I have continued my programme of visits to local services. Recent visits have included Carrswood Day Centre in Twerton where Mandy Bishop and I enjoyed meeting with staff and service users and were impressed by the services provided for adults with complex needs and learning disabilities.

Suzanne Westhead and I also met with some of the Approved Mental Health Practitioner (AMPH) team based at Hill View Lodge. We heard about the vital work they do, ensuring the correct application of the mental health act and were impressed by the dedication and professionalism of the team. However, we were also concerned to hear about the increasing pressures that mental health services are facing with rapidly escalating demand and significant staff shortages.

Alison Born – Cabinet lead for Adult Services