

17 February 2015	ITEM 6
Health and Well-Being Overview and Scrutiny Committee	
Adult Social Care Local Account 2014	
Report of: Roger Harris – Director of Adults, Health and Commissioning	
Wards and communities affected: All	Key Decision: No
Accountable Head of Service: Les Billingham – Head of Adult Social Care	
Accountable Director: Roger Harris – Director Adults, Health and Commissioning	
This report is Public	

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2014 adult social care local account is our second such report. The report describes how adult social care is performing in delivering our key priorities and the progress we have made on the actions and things we said we would do in our 2012/13 local account.

The local account includes examples of the achievements and positive progress made over the past 12 months. We have also included examples of the things we need to do better. We also summarise our main plans and priorities for the coming years. This includes, for example, the work we are doing with partners and the wider community to prepare for, and implement the Care Act 2014.

A summary of Thurrock's performance on the performance indicators in the national adult social care outcomes framework is also provided.

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

1.1 That Scrutiny Committee consider and note the report

2. Introduction and Background

- 2.1 Since 2011 and the abolition of the Care Quality Commission (CQC) Annual Performance Assessment, there have been a number of changes made to the performance framework for adult social care. The key elements of the new approach to assessing and reporting on adult social care performance are set out in the Department of Health publication: 'Transparency in Outcomes: A Framework for Quality in Adult Social Care' (March 2011).

- 2.2 At the heart of this change is a strong emphasis on the development of effective sector-led improvement. The sector-led approach is led by a national 'Towards Excellence in Adult Social Care Programme' (TEASC) that includes the Department of Health, Care Quality Commission (CQC), Local Government Association (LGA) and the Association of Directors of Social Services (ADASS). Local accounts are seen as a central element of this model.
- 2.3 The Department of Health have asked all local authorities who provide adult social care services to produce an annual report (known as a local account). This is a best practice requirement for all local authorities to do by March 2015.
- 2.4 Local accounts are intended to be self-assessed and published by Councils. However, there is no National Government role in assurance and there has been no specific guidance produced to cover the content of a local account.
- 2.5 Local Accounts are expected to provide a report of the quality and outcome priorities which the council has agreed, in consultation with its partners, and the progress it has made in achieving them during the past year. In short it aims to inform the public of what adult social care does, who it is for, and what the progress and priorities are.

3. Issues, Options and Analysis of Options

- 3.1 This report is Thurrock Council's second local account. The first report was published in March 2013. The key principles we used to produce the Local Account were for it to be:
 - Aimed at the general public and service users and as short as possible
 - Focussed on outcomes rather than outputs or excessive data
 - Focussed on our vision for the transformation of adult social care services
 - Based around the four themes of the Adult Social Care Outcomes Framework (ASCOF)
 - Have case study examples throughout
 - Not restricted to a financial or calendar year – to support the vision for regular and ongoing updating in future
- 3.2 The local account aims to tell people how we help adults who may require care and support in Thurrock. The report describes:
 - How we spent our money
 - Our achievements and the things we need to improve
 - What service users and carers tell us about our services and support
 - Our future plans and priorities
 - How you can be involved
- 3.3 The draft report has been developed and reviewed by adult social care management team and includes the contribution of other services and partners where appropriate.

What we are doing next

- Run an online consultation to seek feedback and views
- Share with adult social care partnership boards e.g. Thurrock Diversity Network and community organisations e.g. Thurrock Coalition
- Working with the Thurrock Coalition and other community networks - run a series of focus groups in the community to obtain further feedback and views of people to inform future versions of the local account

4. Reason for Recommendation

- 4.1 It is recognised as a best practice to produce and publish a local account for adult social care and for this to be widely consulted and commented on, including by overview and scrutiny committee.

5. Consultation (including Overview and Scrutiny, if applicable)

- 5.1 This report has been agreed with the adult social care senior management team. The local account includes examples and case studies that demonstrate how adult social care has engaged with and worked in partnership with, a wide range of stakeholders. This includes regular discussion with service user, carer and community and voluntary sector organisation representatives such as Thurrock Coalition.
- 5.2 Further consultation on this version of the local account is planned. This will include an online survey and a series of community-led focus groups to discuss the local account and identify areas for consideration in future versions.

6. Impact on corporate policies, priorities, performance and community impact

- 6.1 The adult social care local account directly contributes to the delivery and achievement of the Council's strategic priorities. In particular it provides a means of reporting back to local people on how the Council is performing in delivering priority 4 – 'Improve health and well-being'.

7. Implications

7.1 Financial

Implications verified by: **Mike Jones**
Telephone and email: **01375.652772**
mjones @thurrock.gov.uk

There are no specific financial implications arising from this report

7.2 Legal

Implications verified by: **Roger Harris**
Telephone and email: **01375.652192**
[**rharris@thurrock.gov.uk**](mailto:rharris@thurrock.gov.uk)

There are no specific legal issues arising from the report as this is just for members information and so no formal legal referral was felt necessary

7.3 Diversity and Equality

Implications verified by: **Teresa Evans**
Telephone and email: [**tevans@thurrock.gov.uk**](mailto:tevans@thurrock.gov.uk)

There are no specific diversity issues arising from this report as this is just for members information.

7.4 Other implications (where significant) – i.e. Staff, Health, Sustainability, Crime and Disorder

None.

8. Background papers used in preparing the report (including their location on the council's website or identification whether they are exempt or protected by copyright)

9. Appendices to the report

- Adult Social Care Local Account 2014

Report Author:

Name: Rhodri Rowlands
Telephone: 01375.654873
E-mail: rrowlands@thurrock.gov.uk