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| 13 October 2015 | | ITEM: 7 |
| Health & Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee | | |
| Consultation on proposed changes to the way Social Care is provided in Thurrock | | |
| Wards and communities affected: All | Key Decision: Non-Key | |
| Report of: Councillor Barbara Rice, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care & Health | | |
| Accountable Head of Service: Les Billingham, Head of Adult Services | | |
| Accountable Director: Roger Harris, Director of Adults, Health and Commissioning | | |
| This report is public | | |

Executive Summary

This report provides further details on the proposed changes to the way social care is provided in Thurrock, and outlines the arrangements for consulting on the proposals through a range of channels.

A report on the consultation and the responses received, together with recommendations for any changes to the provision of social care, will be made in early 2016. It is likely that, subject to the views of the Committee and the decision of Cabinet, any changes could be introduced from April 2016.

1. Recommendation(s)

1.1 Committee are asked to note the arrangements for the consultation.

2. Introduction and Background

2.1 At its last meeting on 23 July Committee agreed that four savings proposals will be subject to consultation which will commence in mid to late August, and run for 12 weeks, working with the Thurrock Coalition.

2.2 This report gives further details of the proposals and outlines the arrangements for the consultation.

3. Issues, Options and Analysis of Options

3.1 The council has launched a consultation on its proposals to make savings in its Adult Social Care budget in the next financial year.

- 3.2 The consultation went live on the consultation portal on Monday 14 September asking for the views of local people and service users about the proposals.
- 3.3 The proposals centre around four areas: day care for older people and the Carers' Service; charges for adult social care services; equipment and adaptations costing less than £50; and the provision of Extra Care Housing.
- 3.4 The consultation is available through the council's website (thurrock.gov.uk) and clicking on 'Have my say' where more details are available.
- 3.5 The Director has written to all service users who may be affected by the proposals giving further details, and inviting them to respond on-line or to request a hardcopy of the consultation to be returned in a free post envelope. An easy read version of the consultation documents has been sent to people with learning difficulties. This is also available on-line.
- 3.6 A series of meetings throughout the next 12 weeks to let people know the impact the proposals may have, and the Thurrock Coalition and Healthwatch Thurrock will also contact service users and carers to enable them to discuss the changes with someone independent of the council.
- 3.7 A series of briefings for social care and health care staff are planned for late October to ensure they can contribute their ideas through the consultation. A briefing will also be offered to other public sector commissioners as well as public, private and voluntary sector providers and community organisations.
- 3.8 After the consultation ends on 7 December a report on the consultation and the responses received will be made to the Committee in early 2016. The report will also make recommendations for changes in the light of the responses. Subject to the views of the Committee, and the decision of Cabinet, it is likely that any changes could be introduced from April 2016.

4. Reasons for Recommendation

- 4.1 The report provides details of the consultation arrangements on proposed changes to the provision of social care in Thurrock in line with the decision of the Committee on 23 July 2015.

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

- 5.1 Details of consultation are contained in the body of the report.

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

- 6.1 An equality impact assessment will be undertaken following the completion of the consultation on 7 December 2015. This will be informed by the consultation responses, as well as by the work of Thurrock Coalition and Healthwatch Thurrock during the consultation.

7. Implications

7.1 Financial

Implications verified by: **Roger Harris**
Director of Adults, Health and Commissioning

The financial implications of the proposed changes will be reported to the Committee following the completion of the consultation on 7 December 2015.

7.2 Legal

Implications verified by: **Roger Harris**
Director of Adults, Health and Commissioning

The legal implications of the proposed changes will be reported to the Committee following the completion of the consultation on 7 December 2015.

7.3 Diversity and Equality

Implications verified by: **Roger Harris**
Director of Adults, Health and Commissioning

The consultation is being undertaken with due regard to diversity and equality issues. The Equality and Diversity implications of the proposed changes will be reported to the Committee following the completion of the consultation on 7 December 2015.

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

All other implications of the proposed changes will be reported to the Committee following the completion of the consultation on 7 December 2015.

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

- None

9. Appendices to the report

APPENDIX 1 - Consultation document and questionnaire

APPENDIX 2 - Easy read consultation document and questionnaire

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