

**By:** Graham Gibbens, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health  
Andrew Ireland, Corporate Director, Families and Social Care

**To:** Social Care and Public Health Cabinet Committee  
11 January 2013

**Subject:** **KENT COUNTY COUNCIL'S ANNUAL REPORT (LOCAL ACCOUNT) ON ADULT SOCIAL CARE FOR APRIL 2011 TO MARCH 2012**

**Classification:** Unrestricted

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**Summary:** With the withdrawal of the Care Quality Commission (CQC) from assessing and rating Councils with Adult Social Care responsibility, there is now greater emphasis on Councils to work collaboratively to improve performance and outcomes for people. Sector Led Improvement is the national programme designed to do this, and one of the underpinning principles of the sector-led improvement programme in adult social care is a stronger accountability by using increased transparency to promote improvement in services. The publication of an annual Local Account is one means of achieving this.

Following Cabinet Committee in November, the KCC Annual Report (Local Account) has been further refined, incorporating comments from a variety of sources, including Cabinet Committee members.

The KCC Annual Report (Local Account) on Adult Social Care for 2012 is the start of an evolving process and the development of the 2013 account will begin much earlier, in January 2013.

**Recommendations:** The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care & Public Health will be asked to take a decision to approve the KCC Annual Report (Local Account) on Adult Social Care for April 2011 and March 2012.

Members of the Cabinet Committee are asked to:

- Note the contents of this report and the Local Account
- Consider and either endorse or make recommendations on the proposed decision to be taken by the Cabinet Member
- Note the revised timescale for the 2013 process.

## Introduction

1. (1) The Government's approach to the assessment of adult social care performance has changed in recent years. With the withdrawal of the Care Quality Commission (CQC) as the independent assessor of Council performance, there is now more emphasis on requirement for councils to manage their own performance, work collaboratively with the sector to improve performance and outcomes and explain how they have performed to local residents. The Local Account has emerged as standard feature of the new local accountability framework.

## Policy Context

2. (1) The Publication of the 'Transparency in outcomes for Social Care' and the 'Vision for Social Care; Capable Communities and Active Citizens' in 2010, set out a future for people receiving support from Social Care which focused on outcomes, transparency and Quality and outlined the seven principles for a modern system of Social Care; Prevention, Personalisation, Partnership, Plurality, Protection, Productivity and people.

(2) The publication of the "Think Local, Act Personal" in 2011, a partnership agreement developed and co-designed by a number of national and local social care organisations, including service users and carers, set out the shared ambitions for moving forward with personalisation and community based support.

(3) More recently, the publication of the White Paper, "Caring for our future; reforming care and support" reinforces these visions, placing emphasis on maintaining independence, choice and control, quality, dignity and respect and clear information advice and guidance.

(4) With accountability moving from being a relationship between Councils and CQC to being a relationship between Councils and their communities, there is an expectation that Councils will work with their local communities, transparently. In addition, a new national performance framework is evolving which will help councils to manage their own performance collectively, through 'Sector Led Improvement' as well as to help Government to monitor the progress with these key priorities. It is expected that Councils will publish a "**Local Account**" to enable their service users, carers and communities to be able to hold them to account.

(5) Kent County Council published its first ever KCC Annual Report (Local Account) on Adult Social Care in December 2011. The attached document (**Appendix 1**), is the latest version of this report, which is under consideration is to be taken forward under the KCC's Key Decision procedures and after due process it will be agreed by the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health.

## **Development and content of the KCC Annual Report (Local Account) on Adult Social Care**

3. (1) The first draft of the KCC Annual Report (Local Account) on Adult Social Care was presented to Cabinet Committee in November 2012 and was structured around the key themes in the White paper.

(2) Following Cabinet Committee, a briefing was held for Cabinet Committee members to look at the context and the development of the account in more depth.

(3) Amendments and corrections have been made to this account in light of that useful discussion.

## **KCC Annual Report (Local Account) for 2013**

4 (1) Although the development of the 2011/2012 KCC Annual Report (Local Account) has been informed by public engagement exercise and it involved service users, carers, representatives of the LiNK, there is more to do for 2013.

(2) In 2013, the KCC Annual Report (Local Account) needs to engage more service users and carers, including partnership boards and the voluntary sector, as well include more timely information and data.

(3) It is proposed that this process starts much earlier on, in January 2013, so that Cabinet Committee can see the draft 2013 KCC Annual Report (Local Account) in June 2013.

## **Recommendations**

5. (1) The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health will be asked to take a decision to approve the KCC Annual Report (Local Account) on Adult Social Care for April 2011 and March 2012.

(2) Members of the Cabinet Committee are asked to:

- i) Note the contents of this report and the Local Account
- ii) Consider and either endorse or make recommendations on the proposed decision to be taken by the Cabinet Member
- iii) Note the revised timescale for the 2013 process

## **Appendix**

Appendix 1: Kent County Council's Annual Report (Local Account) on Adult Social Care for April 2011 to March 2012.

### **Background Documents**

Transparency in outcomes for Social Care' 2010

Vision for Social Care; Capable Communities and Active Citizens' 2010

Think Local, Act Personal 2011

Caring for our future: reforming care and support White Paper, Department of Health, 11 July 2012.

### **Contact details**

Steph Abbott  
Head of Performance and Information Management  
Families and Social Care

[Steph.abbott@kent.gov.uk](mailto:Steph.abbott@kent.gov.uk)

01622 221796