

**By:** Graham Gibbens, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health  
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**To:** Social Care and Public Health Cabinet Committee - 12 June 2013

**Subject:** **KENT COUNTY COUNCIL'S LOCAL ACCOUNT FOR ADULT SOCIAL CARE FOR 2012-13**

**Classification:** Unrestricted

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**Summary:** This report updates Cabinet Committee on the progress in developing the 2012-13 Local Account document.

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.

The 2011-12 Local Account was agreed in January 2013, and the development of the 2012-13 has started.

**FOR COMMENT**

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## **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 the 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 a 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 second report, for 2011-12 was published in January 2013 after approval by the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care & Public Health following discussions at the Cabinet Committee.

### **Progress on the 2012-13 Local Account.**

3. (1) The Local Account is a new concept and has evolved over the last year as service users, carers and members were consulted.

(2) It was identified at the last Cabinet Committee that the process for developing the annual 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 was agreed that the process should start much earlier on, in January 2013, so that Cabinet Committee can be updated of progress in June 2013.

(4) To date, there have been two workshops for service users, carers and the voluntary sector to engage people to consult on the content and the format of the document, as well as various visits to local forums and Service/ user groups, which has enabled us to consult with over 200 people.

(5) The learning disability partnership board has actively been consulting with people with a learning disability on our behalf.

(6) An initial draft report has been produced which is being revised to take into account the feedback from all the consultation. This will include revising the format of the content, including more information about accessing services and be simpler in format. Importantly, the document will be renamed, as “Local Account” was not deemed to be very dynamic.

(7) The revised draft report will then be scrutinised by an editorial board, which consists of volunteers from the consultation.

(8) In addition, Members from this Cabinet Committee will be invited to take part in reviewing the revised draft document before it is finalised.

### **Publication and feedback**

4 (1) The final document will be ready for publication in July and will be circulated to Members prior to being published. The document will be signed off by the Cabinet Member and in taking this decision he will consider Members' comments and any recommendations made by this committee. It is also proposed that it is considered by the Cabinet Committee in September.

(2) There are already feedback mechanisms in place, including through the Kent County Council website, twitter, email, post and phone. These will be further publicised when the new report is released.

(3) Service users and carers will be encouraged to continue to play a part in the evaluation of the document.

### **Recommendations**

5. Members of the Cabinet Committee are asked to note and comment on the progress in the development of the 2012-13 report.

### **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.

KCC Annual Report (Local Account) 2011-12

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