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To: Adult Social Care and Health Cabinet Committee

26 September 2014

Subject: **KENT COUNTY COUNCIL'S LOCAL ACCOUNT FOR ADULT SOCIAL CARE FOR 2014**

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: This report presents Cabinet Committee with the final draft of the Local Account for 2014, for endorsement.

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.

Recommendation: Members of the Cabinet Committee are asked to endorse the draft document 2014 Local Account document; "Here for you, how did we do?"

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 emphasise 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 commitment to the Care Act 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.

The 2013-14 Local Account.

2. (1) This is the third year that Kent has produced this document, with significant input and interest from Service users, carers, partner organisations and Members. The final draft can be found at **Appendix A**. Members were informed of the plan for its development at Cabinet Committee in December 2013.

(2) The content and the format of the report have been agreed by our users and carers, and updated through an editorial panel.

(3) Cabinet Committee members were invited to contribute to and agree the draft at an informal Member briefing on 2 September 2014.

Publication and feedback

4 (1) The final document will be ready for publication in October.

(2) An easy read version will also be developed with the Learning Disability partnership board. Additionally, a short video depicting the key messages from the account will be developed to encourage more people to access it and to feedback.

(3) There are already feedback mechanisms in place, including through the Kent County Council website, twitter, email, post and phone. Feedback from these will be used in the development of the next document.

(3) Service users and carers will be encouraged to continue to play a part in the evaluation of the document, and monthly Local Account bulletins will continue to be produced to ensure that all information is as up to date as possible

Recommendations

5. (1) Members of the Cabinet Committee are asked to endorse the draft document 2014 Local Account document; "Here for you, how did we do?"

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

Local Account "Here for You, How did we do?" 2012-13

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