

By: Graham Gibbens, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health
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To: Adult Social Care and Health Cabinet Committee – 3 December 2015

Subject: **KENT COUNTY COUNCIL'S LOCAL ACCOUNT FOR ADULT SOCIAL CARE FOR 2014/15**

Previous Pathway Adult Social Care and Health Cabinet Committee – 11 September 2015
Informal Member Briefing – 20 October 2015

Future Pathway N/A

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: This report updates the Adult Social Care and Health Cabinet Committee with the final version of the Local Account for Adult Social Care for 2014/ 2015.

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 Adult Social Care and Health Cabinet Committee are asked to **NOTE** the attached final version of the Local Account 2014/15, which was published in mid-November.

1. Introduction

1.1 The Government's approach to the assessment of adult social care performance has changed in recent years. 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.

2. 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.
- 2.2 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.
- 2.3 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.
- 2.4 The Council’s priorities set out in “Increasing Opportunities, Improving outcomes” also emphasises the importance of customer engagement.
- 2.5 With accountability moving to being a strong 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 has been developed 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.

3. The 2014-15 Local Account

- 3.1 This is the fourth year that Kent has produced this document, and has included input from users and carers, as well as building on learning from previous years.
- 3.2 A report to the Adult Social Care and Health Cabinet Committee in September 2015 detailed the work undertaken this year to build a more robust way to engage users and carers on a regular basis.
- 3.3 As in previous years, a Member informal briefing was held on 20 October 2015 to both go through the draft, make necessary changes, and to agree the publication of the document in Mid-November.

4. Publication and feedback

- 4.1 The final document (Appendix 1) was published in mid-November and will be shortly accompanied by an easy read version and a short video depicting the key messages from the account.
- 4.2 There are already feedback mechanisms in place, including through the Kent County Council website, twitter, email, post and phone. This will be further

emphasised as well as engagement with our Healthwatch colleagues to help promote the document and gather feedback.

- 4.3 Lastly, 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.

5. Recommendations

5.1 Members of the Adult Social Care and Health Cabinet Committee are asked to **NOTE** the attached final version of the Local Account for 2014/15, which was published in mid-November.

6. Background Documents

Transparency in outcomes for Social Care 2010

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/141641/ASCOF_2012_to_2013.pdf

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

http://www.cpa.org.uk/cpa_documents/vision_for_social_care2010.pdf

Think Local, Act Personal 2011

<http://www.thinklocalactpersonal.org.uk//Browse/ThinkLocalActPersonal/>

Care Act 2014

http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2014/23/pdfs/ukpga_20140023_en.pdf

Increasing Opportunities, Improving outcomes

<http://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/strategies-and-policies/corporate-policies/increasing-opportunities-improving-outcomes>

Local Account "Here for You, How did we do?" 2013-14

<http://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/strategies-and-policies/adult-social-care-policies/local-account-for-adult-social-care>

7. Contact details

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