

READING BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF ADULT CARE AND HEALTH SERVICES

TO:	ADULT SOCIAL CARE, CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE		
DATE:	3 OCTOBER 2016	AGENDA ITEM:	11
TITLE:	CARE ACT IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE		
LEAD COUNCILLOR:	COUNCILLOR EDEN	PORTFOLIO:	ADULT SOCIAL CARE
SERVICE:	ADULT CARE	WARDS:	BOROUGHWIDE
LEAD OFFICER:	WENDY FABBRO	TEL:	0118 937 2094
JOB TITLE:	DIRECTOR OF ADULT CARE & HEALTH SERVICES	E-MAIL:	Wendy.Fabbro@reading.gov.uk

1. PURPOSE AND SUMMARY OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report provides an overview of the Council's performance against the duties set out in the Care Act 2014 ("the Act") which came into effect from April 2015.
- 1.2 At quarterly intervals Local Authorities are asked to submit their performance in a 'Stocktake' exercise and in June we submitted our response to the sixth and final request. The information is collated and analysed in a South East Regional Summary (appendix 1).

2. RECOMMENDED ACTION

- 2.1 That the Adult Social Care, Children's Services and Education Committee notes the Council's performance against the duties of the Act as reported in the final 'stocktake'.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 A series of Care Act 'Stocktakes' have been completed, three prior to the implementation of the Act and three subsequently. The main purpose of the exercise was to develop a collective overview across the country and use that information to support local strategic discussions, map progress and identify support needs and opportunities for shared learning.

4. CARE ACT STOCKTAKE 6 - RESULTS

- 4.1 The regional summary (appendix 1) gives headline findings for the South East, the report show aggregated responses from 7 county councils and 11 unitary authorities.
- 4.2 Our responses have been highlighted against the South East results which provide an indication to how Reading have compared with other respondents.
- 4.3 Full and final results are expected to be available in October 2016, once they are available they will be reported back to members.

5. ISSUES AND NEXT STEPS

- 5.1 The regional survey shows that all Local Authorities report they have embedded the necessary changes to be compliant with the Act, and believe the Act has had a positive impact on practice. However, there are some factors where Reading appears to be doing less well that need to be explained eg

- Some slight decrease in overall demand for adult social care appears to have been recorded. In parallel with implementing the Care Act DACHS have undertaken a major transformation programme which includes review of existing cases and a new practice model previously reported to Members as Right 4U. In this model people who may previously been offered state funded care are helped to connect to support already available in their own communities. The total number of people who have had a response is therefore not reducing, but the demand for state funded support has seen a slight decrease, though an overall increase in customer satisfaction.
- Carers support has been refined and information and advice is now jointly commissioned with Health partners and West Berks council.
- In Reading, levels of safeguarding activity have greatly increased, a feature heavily influenced by the massive escalation in Deprivation of Liberty referrals and assessments.
- Preparation for adulthood/ managing transitions has led to a major increase in expenditure, and officers are now working on plans to improve the early notification of adolescents who may need Adult social care, and to help their families prepare for the support that may be available
- Commissioning with CCGs is identified as an area that requires further development. This is a topic overseen by the Health and Wellbeing Board, and a recent workshop facilitated the identification of a number of areas where joint commissioning would be beneficial.

In conclusion, Reading can be confident that we have a robust monitoring of performance and plans in place to promote delivery of targets.

6. CONTRIBUTION TO STRATEGIC AIMS

6.1 Adopting the policies which are proposed to govern Care Act implementation in Reading contribute to meeting a number of priorities set out in the Council's Corporate Plan 2015-18, in particular:

- Ensuring that all vulnerable residents are protected and cared for;
- Enabling people to live independently, and also providing support when needed to families;
- Ensuring care and support provision is effective and of good quality;

7. COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

7.1 There is no requirement to involve the community in relation to this report.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

8.1 The provisions of the Care Act which came into effect in April 2015 are regulated by Statutory Guidance published in October 2014. The local policies and frameworks prepared for Reading are aligned with that guidance.

9. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

9.1 Members are under a legal duty to comply with the public sector equality duties set out in the Equality Act 2010. In order to comply with these duties, Members must seek to prevent discrimination, and protect and promote the interests of 'protected' groups. There are no equality implications associated with this report.

10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

10.1 There are no financial implications associated with this report

11. RISKS

11.1 There are no known risks associated with this report.

Association of Directors of Adult Social Services

Care Act Stocktake 6

South East Regional Summary

1.0 Introduction

This is the sixth and final Care Act stocktake. Three stocktakes were completed in advance of the introduction of the new legislation and three further stocktakes have been carried out following the Care Act changes which came into effect in April 2015. The response from South East councils is analysed in this regional summary.

The purpose of these stocktakes was to develop a collective picture of progress across the country in a way that was useful both nationally and locally, providing information to facilitate local strategic discussions, map progress and identify support needs and opportunities for shared learning.

The format of each stocktake has developed with input from DH, the LGA and ADASS, as well as a number of local authorities. Key features of this stocktake are the removal of questions requesting volume or activity metrics. Also there has been an opportunity for councils to reflect on progress 'one year on' and provide examples of innovative practice to be shared.

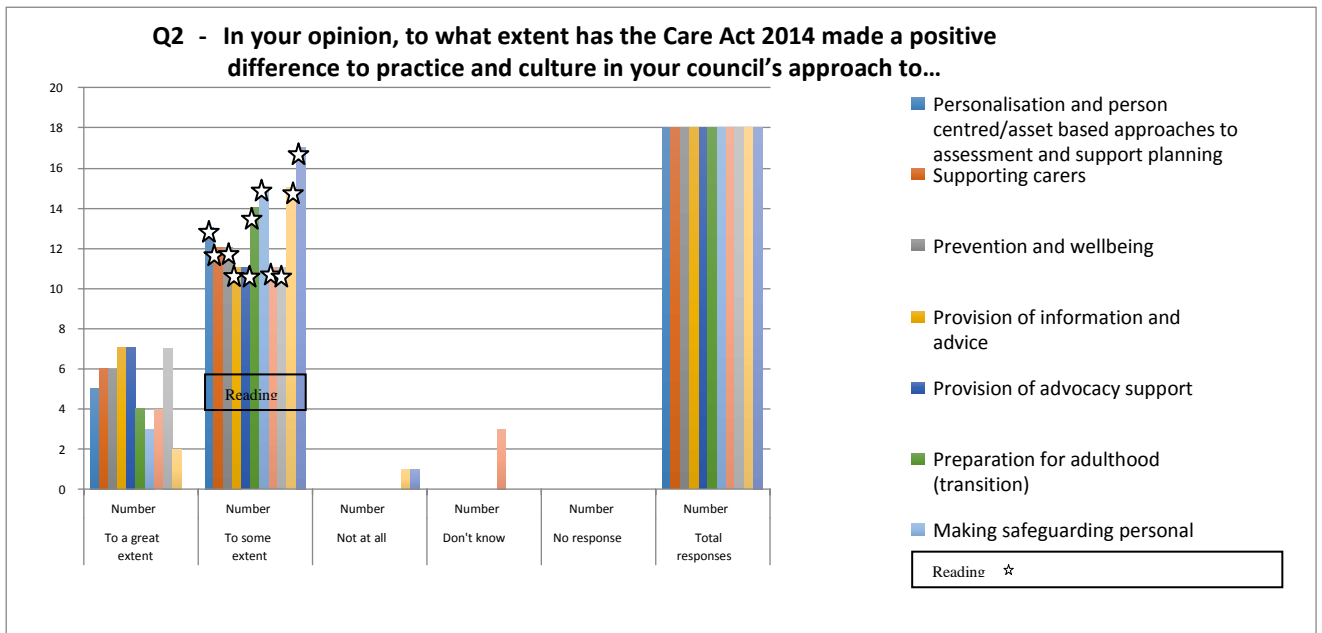
Final results will be available nationally from early October following the meeting of the Care and Support Reform Programme Board. This regional summary gives headline findings for the South East to inform the ADASS South East branch on 16 September 2016. 18 stocktake returns were made from seven County Councils (counties) and eleven Unitary Authorities (UAs). Analysis is given in aggregate form only.

DASSs completed the final sign off of this stocktake. Four councils in the region report the stocktake had been seen by their portfolio holder.

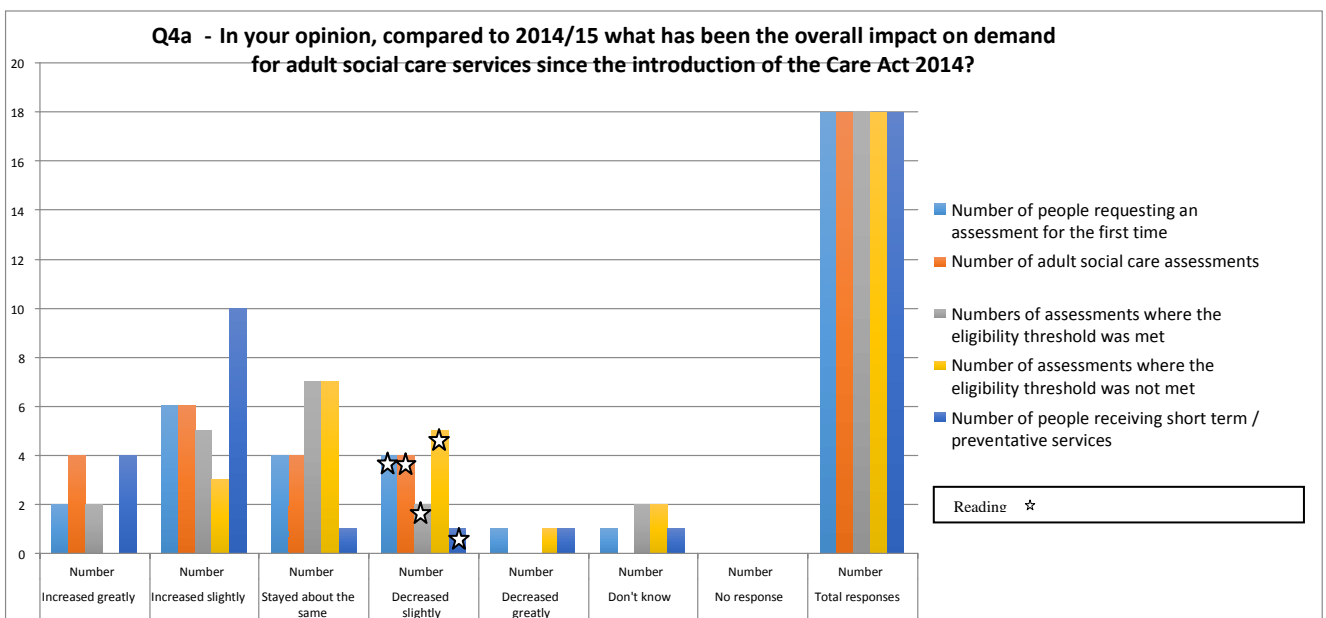
2.0 Summary

- All councils report they have been successful in **embedding the necessary changes** resulting from the Care Act 2014

- 17 councils report the Care Act 2014 has made a **positive difference to practice and culture**, although one council reports that the Care Act has not made a difference to its approach to market shaping or sustainability – see the chart below

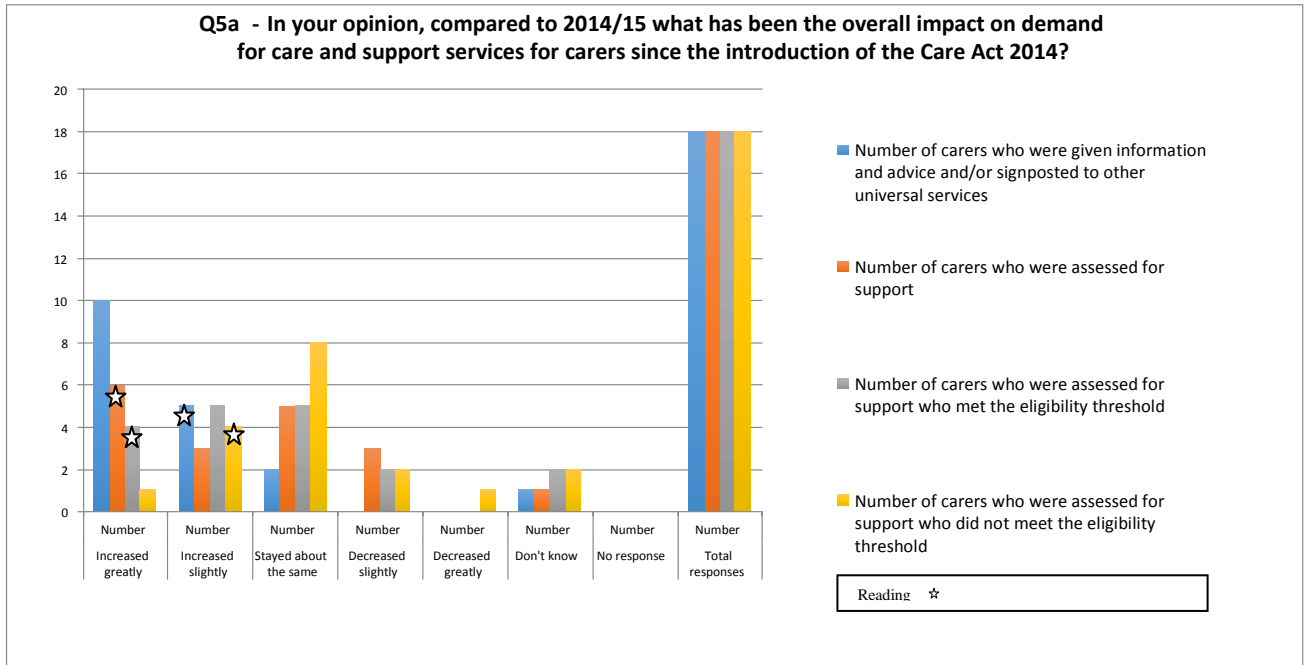


- There was a wide range of response to questions about the overall **impact on demand** for adult social care services since the introduction of the Care Act 2014 – see the chart below



- number of people requesting an assessment for the first time – eight councils report an increase, four the same and five report a decrease
- number of adult social care assessments – 10 councils report an increase, four the same and four report a decrease
- number of assessments where the eligibility threshold was met – seven councils report an increase, seven the same, two report a decrease and two don't know
- number of assessments where the eligibility threshold was not met – three councils report an increase, seven the same, six report a decrease and two report don't know
- number of people receiving short term / preventative services – 14 councils report an increase, one the same, two a decrease, one reports don't know

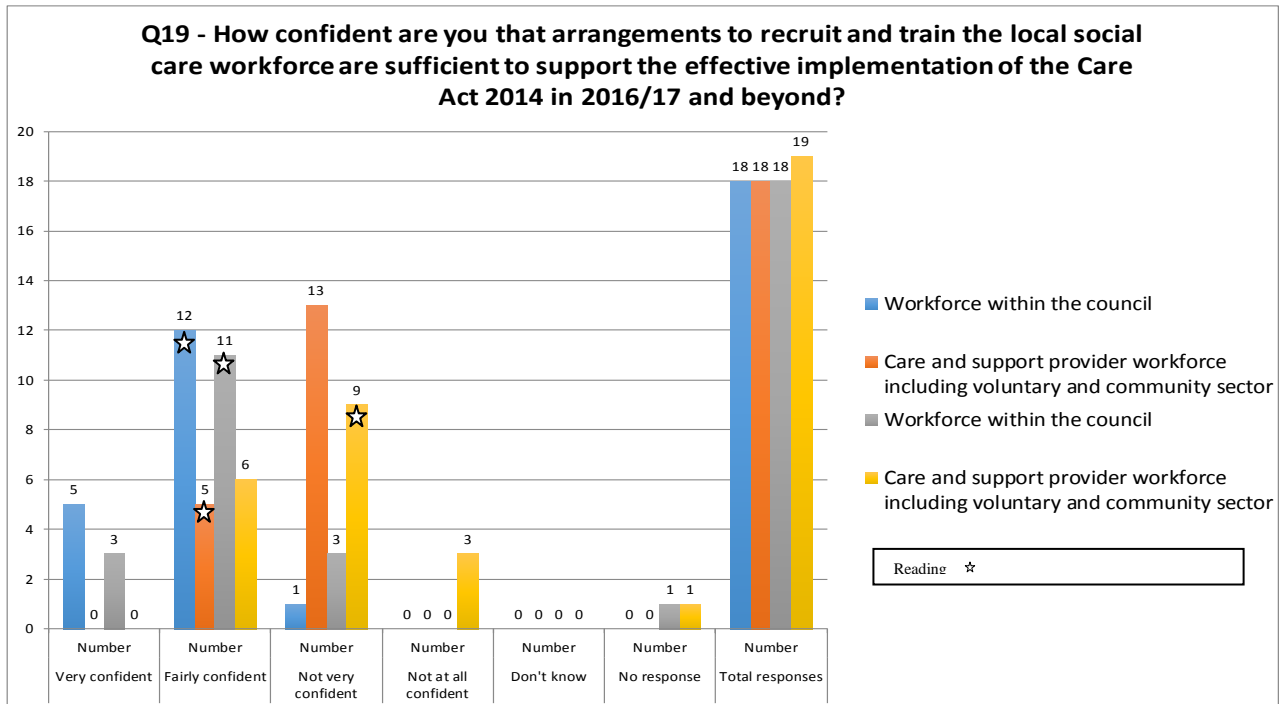
- There was also a range of response to questions about the overall impact on demand for care and support services for **carers** since the introduction of the Care Act 2014 – see the chart below



- number of carers who were given information and advice and/or signposted to other universal services – 15 councils report an increase, two the same, one reports don't know
- number of carers who were assessed for support – nine councils report an increase, five the same, three report a decrease, one reports don't know
- number of carers who were assessed for support who met the eligibility threshold – nine councils report an increase, five the same, two report a decrease, two report don't know
- number of carers who were assessed for support who did not meet the eligibility threshold – five councils report an increase, eight the same, three a decrease, two report don't know

- Reading was one of the 16 councils report that arrangements are generally effective for services that **help prevent, reduce or delay the development of care and support needs** for individuals, two councils report their arrangements are developing
- 17 councils report that arrangements are generally effective to ensure comprehensive **information and advice** about care and support services is available, this included Reading, one council reports their arrangements are developing
- 17 report confidence they are meeting their new responsibilities to provide **advocacy** services. This increases to all councils for 2016/17. Readings response was fairly confident for both 15/16 and 16/17.
- 15 councils report that the level of **safeguarding** activity has increased since the Care Act 2014, two report that the level has stayed the same and one council reports the level has decreased greatly. Reading reported levels of safeguarding had increased greatly.

- 17 councils report confidence about their arrangements to recruit and train the **internal social care workforce** to support effective implementation of the Care Act, one council reports it is not very confident. Beyond 2016/17 this reduces to 14 councils reporting confidence and three report not very confident. Reading responded with fairly confident for both these questions.
- For the **provider workforce** only five councils report confidence about arrangements, one of which was Reading, and 13 councils report they are not very confident. Beyond 2016/17 only six councils report any confidence. 12 councils, including Reading, report they are not very or not at all confident – see the chart below



- Reading was one of 15 councils report confidence that they are actively **shaping a diverse and sustainable market** providing quality services that will meet the care and support needs of the local population, three councils report they are not very confident which reduces to two councils for beyond 2017/18
- All 18 councils in the region report they have effective arrangements to anticipate and mitigate **provider failure** in ensuring sustainability in the local market
- Councils reported on whether **costs to overall council budgets** were in line with expectations during the first year of implementing the requirements of the Care Act 2014:
 - Safeguarding – 10 councils reported costs were more than expected, including Reading.
 - Information and advice – four councils reported costs were more than expected, this was as expected in Reading.
 - Preparation for adulthood (Transition) – four councils reported costs were more than expected, one of which was Reading.
- Seven councils report confidence that there is **sufficient money within budgets for implementation** in 2016/17, 11 councils report they are not confident or don't know. For beyond 2016/17 only three councils report any confidence. Reading reported not very confident to both elements of this question.

- **Commissioning arrangements** with partners and providers –
 - 10 councils, including Reading report that working arrangements with primary care providers are developing but not fully established or effective
 - seven councils report that arrangements with other councils are developing but not fully established or effective. Reading however reported that arrangements with other councils were generally effective.

*Alison Blight
Raj Chauhan
ADASS South East Region
8 September 2016*

*Reading specific inclusions by Wendy Everett
23 September 2016.*