

READING BOROUGH COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL CARE & HEALTH

TO:	ADULT SOCIAL CARE, CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE		
DATE:	13 JULY 2022		
TITLE:	ADULT SOCIAL CARE REPORT - INTRODUCTION OF ASSURANCE SYSTEM IN ADULT SOCIAL CARE BY THE CARE QUALITY COMMISSION		
LEAD COUNCILLOR:	COUNCILLOR ENNIS	PORTFOLIO:	ADULT SOCIAL CARE
SERVICE:	ADULT SOCIAL CARE	WARDS:	BOROUGHWIDE
LEAD OFFICER:	JO LAPPIN	TEL:	Ext: 73976
JOB TITLE:	ASSISTANT DIRECTOR	E-MAIL:	Joanne.lappin@reading.gov.uk

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report outlines the introduction of a new assurance regime for Local Authority Adult Social Care Services which is due to be introduced from 2023. This will expand the remit of the Care Quality Commission (CQC) to oversee the quality and performance of both Local Authorities and Integrated Care Systems (ICS) alongside the existing inspection responsibilities they hold for providers of regulated activity.
- 1.2 As part of the wider reforms to health and social care the government announced in February 2021 that a new duty would be introduced through the Health and Care Bill, in which the CQC will become responsible for assessing the delivery of adult social care duties by Local Authorities.
- 1.3 The new system will now come into effect in April 2023 and will put Adult Social Care services on a similar basis to Children's Services, in which local authorities are subject to regular inspection by Ofsted and government intervention if they are deemed 'inadequate'.
- 1.4 CQC annual assessments of Local Authorities were ceased in 2010, since then Councils have worked together to support their own performance through sector-led improvement programmes, in partnership with bodies such as the Local Government Association (LGA) and the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS).

2. RECOMMENDED ACTION

- 2.1 That the Adult Social Care, Children's Services and Education Committee:
- a) Note the new system which will come into effect in April 2023
 - b) Endorse the preparation and planning underway in DACHs.

3. CONTEXT

- 3.1 Although full details are still emerging of the new system, CQC published their first iteration of the ICS/LA approaches and methodologies in January 2022. This has since been followed by co-production engagement workshops with key stakeholder groups including with Local Authorities.

- 3.2 There is now a period of detailed piloting of the methodologies underway with pilot sites, with an anticipated agreement of the approaches and methodologies by CQC Executives in July 2022. It is then expected that the Department for Health & Social Care (DHSC) will agree the final approach in August 2022.
- 3.3 CQC will commence their ICS/LA baselining in April 2023. It is expected that CQC will move away from inspections as being the only source of making judgements as they will rely on various data sources that measure quality, risk and performance. Physical visits will be used when they are the best means of gathering evidence.
- 3.4 Running alongside the CQC assessment responsibilities there are plans to introduce a new power for the Health and Social Care Secretary to intervene when it is considered that a Local Authority is failing to meet its duties.
- 3.5 The new CQC framework will assess providers, Local Authorities and Integrated Care Systems using a set of consistent themes.
- **How Local Authorities work with people** - this includes assessing needs (including for carers), supporting people to live healthier lives, prevention, wellbeing, information, and advice.
 - **How Local Authorities provide support** - this includes market shaping, commissioning, workforce equality, integration and partnership working
 - **How Local Authorities ensure safety within the system** - this includes safeguarding, safe system and continuity of care
 - **Leadership capability within Local Authorities** - this includes capable and compassionate leaders, learning, improvement, and innovation

4. PLANNING AND PREPARATION

4.1 DACHS is preparing for the new system in the following ways:

- Oversight will be by all members of DMT
- DMT have completed a self-assessment across all areas of commissioning and delivery to identify key areas of priority
- There continues to be strong engagement with regional and national events to keep abreast of developments and new information as it emerges
- An experienced Project Manager has been released from the Transformation Team to oversee all activity that will be required
- Workshops are being planned with managers to assess the service across the themes published by CQC which will result in the development a workplan
- Engagement events will follow with staff
- The monitoring of the workplan will be via the Care & Quality Board, which will report to DMT

5. CONTRIBUTION TO STRATEGIC AIMS

- 5.1 This work contributes to the Corporate Plan Priority 3: To protect and enhance the lives of vulnerable adults and children, by ensuring appropriate oversight of Adult Social Care performance.

6. ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no new environment or climate implications anticipated.

7 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION

- 7.1 Extensive engagement will need to be undertaken and information made available to a wide range of stakeholders who will need to be aware of the new system.

8. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

The contents of this report are for information only and is not considered to impact on equality as there are no service changes proposed at this time.

9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 There are no legal implications of this report at this time, though these will need to be monitored.

10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 There are no financial implications of this report at this time, as project resource has been secured from within the service, though any financial implications will need to be kept under review.