

READING BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF ADULT CARE AND HEALTH SERVICES

TO:	ADULT CARE CHILDREN'S SERVICES & EDUCATION COMMITTEE		
DATE:	21 OCTOBER 2019	AGENDA ITEM:	12
TITLE:	'SUPPORTING OUR FUTURE' - ADULT CARE STRATEGY 2019-22		
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1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The Council's Adult Social Care Strategy for the period 2019-22 is presented here as revised and refined following a two month public consultation.
- 1.2 'Supporting Our Future' sets out a framework for developing the Council's Adult Social Care service, in partnership with other services and agencies, so as to meet the challenges of reduced budgets and rising demand for services. The strategy focuses on reducing the need for long term health and social care services, by putting in place more self-enabling support. This means developing a whole system approach which encourages people to take responsibility for their own health and wellbeing, so that healthier choices are accessible to everyone, and people get the support they need to stay active and feel they are part of a community. Family and unpaid carers are a vital part of this.

2. RECOMMENDED ACTION

- 2.1 That the Committee adopts 'Supporting Our Future' as Reading Borough Council's Adult Social Care Strategy for 2019-22.

3. POLICY CONTEXT

- 3.1 Adult Social Care has an increasing focus on personalised approaches which empower individuals to manage their own wellbeing and support. There is a need for the service to develop in partnership with health, in particular, in order to keep people at the centre of services and to eradicate the inefficiencies and delays associated with multiple hand-offs as people progress through the formal care system. Social care needs to be delivered in partnership with those who have care needs, their families, communities and other providers of formal care so that assets and strengths are used to their full. This underpins the shift towards a more sustainable health and care system with a focus on re-ablement to support people to live life to the full.
- 3.2 These principles are at the heart of the Care Act 2014 which now provides the legislative framework for all Adult Social Care functions. Responsibilities under the Care Act extend beyond meeting the needs of those who have care needs which meet

Care Act eligibility criteria. The local authority also has duties to support residents to help prevent the need for formal care.

- 3.3 The Care Act ‘prevention duties’ are closely aligned with the priorities articulated through the Public Health Outcomes Framework: maximising healthy life expectancy and reducing health inequalities. These priorities underpin the workings of local Health and Wellbeing Boards, bringing partners together to develop a system-wide understanding of local health needs - the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment - and a local plan to meet these needs - the Health and Wellbeing Strategy.
- 3.4 The Care Act also introduced a duty of co-operation to ensure that the Adult Social Care system is delivered in partnership with other agencies where this will promote and support wellbeing. Some health and care funding streams are now allocated locally as pooled budgets on the basis of Better Care Fund plans agreed between the local authority and clinical commissioning group. This encourages joint working to achieve nationally-set targets concerned with ensuring more people are supported at home and in the community rather than in hospital or residential care settings.

4. THE PROPOSAL

- 4.1 The Committee is invited to adopt ‘Supporting Our Future’ for the Council. Putting this strategy in place will provide the Council with a framework for placing prevention and early intervention at the core of care and support in Reading. This starts with Public Health’s role in analysing the local population and its health needs, and putting in place support to help people maximise their wellbeing. Across the health and social care system, we then need a strong focus on individual and community assets to improve outcomes and manage demand on the formal care system. When people need Adult Social Care support - on a short or long term basis - that support needs to be empowering, re-abling and good value as part of a sustainable care system.
- 4.2 ‘Supporting Our Future’ identifies five priority outcomes for the local care system:
- An approach which drives wellness and independence
 - Clear information and advice about local services, which facilitates access and self-care
 - A supportive and sustainable local market, offering choice and value
 - A skilled workforce which empowers and enables people
 - A sustainable system which offers good value

5. CONTRIBUTION TO STRATEGIC AIMS

- 5.1 Adopting ‘Supporting Our Future’ supports the corporate priorities set out in ‘Shaping Reading’s Future’, the Council’s corporate plan for 2018-21. In particular, it develops plans for how to deliver on the priority to ‘protect and enhance the lives of vulnerable adults and children’. However, as ‘Supporting Our Future’ very much promotes a holistic view, it supports stronger connections between vulnerable adults and the various assets the town has to offer, and ensures adults with care and support needs are part of building the future. In these ways, ‘Supporting Our Future’ will also support the corporate priorities to ‘promote great education, leisure and cultural opportunities for people in Reading’ and ‘ensure the Council is Fit for the Future’.
- 5.2 With its emphases on prevention, re-ablement and connecting people to community assets, ‘Supporting Our Future’ develops plans to ensure adults with care and support needs can benefit from the services and structures put in place to deliver on the priorities of Reading’s Health and Wellbeing Strategy, i.e.

- Supporting people to make healthy lifestyle choices (improving dental care, reducing obesity, increasing physical activity, reducing smoking)
- Reducing loneliness and social isolation
- Promoting positive mental health and wellbeing in children and young people
- Reducing deaths by suicide
- Reducing the amount of alcohol people drink to safe levels
- Making Reading a place where people can live well with dementia
- Increasing uptake of breast and bowel screening and prevention services
- Reducing the number of people with tuberculosis

‘Supporting Our Future’ also aligns with commitments in the Health and Wellbeing Strategy to identifying and supporting carers, keeping vulnerable adults and children safe, and promoting co-ordinated high quality information to support wellbeing.

- 5.3 ‘Supporting Our Future’ sits alongside Reading’s Better Care Fund Plan, which sets out the shared vision across the local authority and the Berkshire West Clinical Commissioning Group that: *‘Local people are supported to improve their own health and wellbeing, and that when people are ill or need support, that they receive the best possible joined up care.’*

6. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION

- 6.1 A draft version of ‘Supporting Our Future’ was put out to public consultation from 21st January to 31st March 2019 via an online survey and an open invitation to stakeholders to submit comments in the form which best suited them. The final strategy reflects and addresses feedback gathered during the consultation.

7. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 7.1 Under the Equality Act 2010, Section 149, a public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to–
- eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;
 - advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
 - foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
- 7.2 ‘Supporting Our Future’ is a plan to develop the local approach to adults with care and support needs, people who often possess ‘protected characteristics’ in Equality Act terms. With its references to addressing health inequalities and the commitment to promoting social inclusion, ‘Supporting Our Future’ is an explicit attempt to advance equality of opportunity. Adopting the strategy can be expected to have a differential impact on persons with protected characteristics, but in a positive way, and an Equality Impact Assessment is not needed at this stage. Equality Impact Assessments will be prepared in relation to any future proposed changes to policy or practice as the strategy is implemented where any potential for adverse impact is identified.

8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 The Council’s Adult Social Care functions are governed by the Care Act 2014. ‘Supporting Our Future’ reflects the responsibilities set out in this and other relevant legislation (e.g. the Equality Act as outlined above).

9. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 The actions proposed in support of 'Supporting Our Future' have been costed for 2019-20 and addressed within the Directorate of Adult Care and Health Services budgets for the current financial year. The action plans will be refreshed annually. The expectation is that proposed actions for 2020-21 and 2021-22 can be accommodated within directorate budgets for subsequent years, but the actions will be reviewed, fully costed and adjusted if necessary to ensure the Council operates within budget.

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 10.1 *Direction of Travel - Supporting Our Future* - report to Adult Care Children's Services and Education Committee - 14.02.2019
Direction of Travel - Supporting Our Future - report to Health and Wellbeing Board - 15.03.2019

11. APPENDICES

- 11.1 'Supporting Our Future - Adult Social Care Strategy 2019-22'