

## **ADULT CARE AND WELL BEING OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL**

**16 MARCH 2017**

### **SOCIAL WORK WITH ADULTS: STRENGTHS-BASED APPROACH**

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#### **Summary**

1. The Adult Care and Well-being Overview and Scrutiny Panel is to receive an overview of the Council's plans to use a strengths-based approach in social work with adults.
2. Representatives from the Council's Directorate of Adult Services have been invited to the meeting.

#### **Background**

3. A key message from the Care Act 2014 is the requirement for local authorities to 'consider the person's own strengths and capabilities, and what support might be available from their wider support network or within the community to help'.
4. A strengths-based approach builds on the resources and resilience that an individual already has, including family, friends and the wider community. The approach aims to turn on its head the custom and practice of current social work assessment models which start with the question: what can't you do? This will invariably lead to a focus on deficits and how the Council can provide services to meet those, rather than a conversation about how the individual and their wider networks can support and increase their own independence.
5. The Council is working with an innovative model called 'The Three Conversations Model' and plans to trial this from April 2017. This model involved a radical change in social work approach, putting empowerment and independence at the heart of our interactions with people. The model has evidenced in other areas better outcomes for residents, greater and sustained independence, and a reduction in spend on services.

#### **Purpose of the meeting**

6. Following the information provided and discussion of the strengths-based approach in social work with adults, the Scrutiny Panel is asked to:
  - determine whether any further information or scrutiny work is required at this stage
  - agree any comments to highlight to the cabinet member/s.

## Supporting Information

- Further information on 'The Three Conversations Model' , and other Council's experiences of implementing it, are available on the Partners4Change website, which can be accessed here:

<http://partners4change.co.uk/tag/the-3-conversation-model/>

## Contact Points

### County Council Contact Points

Worcestershire County Council; 01905 763763

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### Specific Contact Points for this report

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## Background Papers

In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Head of Legal and Democratic Services) the following are the background papers relating to the subject matter of this report:

- Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCiE) 'Strengths-based approaches for assessment and eligibility under the Care Act 2014 – the guide and other information is available on the Institute's website at:  
<http://www.scie.org.uk/search?sq=%27Strengths-based+approaches+for+assessment+and+eligibility+under+the+Care+Act+2014+>
- Minutes and Agenda of the Adult Care and Well-being Overview and Scrutiny panel on 20 October 2016 – available on the Council's website at: [here](#)