

CABINET

14 DECEMBER 2023

ADULT SOCIAL CARE STRATEGY

Relevant Cabinet Member

Councillor Adrian Hardman, Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Adult Social Care
Councillor Karen May, Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Health and Wellbeing

Relevant Chief Officer

Mark Fitton- Strategic Director for People

Local Member(s)

Not applicable

Recommendation

- 1. The Cabinet Members with Responsibility for Adult Social Care and Responsibility for Health and Wellbeing recommend that Cabinet:**
 - a) Notes and endorses the new Adult Social Care Strategy 2023-2028 (final draft attached as an appendix)**
 - b) Approves commencement of the implementation of the proposed Adult Social Care Strategy from January 2024.**

Background

Strategic context

2. The Adult Social Care Strategy provides a five-year plan which sets out how Worcestershire County Council will deliver Adult Social Care (ASC) with the right support for residents, at the right place and at the right time, whilst working in partnership with local people and being future focussed to ensure sustainable and high-quality services. The strategy sets out how we will achieve our statutory duties whilst enabling our residents to achieve the best possible outcomes regarding care and support needs. The strategy has been developed, and takes direction, from the following key documents and partnerships.
3. The County Council Corporate Plan: [Shaping Worcestershire's Future](#) sets a clear ambition to “*support Worcestershire residents to become more active, healthy and self-reliant in managing their health for as long as they can*”, as well as to “*tackle loneliness and isolation and ensure people feel connected and involved in their local area*”. The ambitions in the Corporate Plan underpin our aspirations to deliver three key areas of priority.
4. The [Joint Local Health and Wellbeing Strategy](#) reinforces this ambition through a commitment to improve mental health and wellbeing, supporting people to live well and in good health for as long as possible, particularly those who have poorer health

outcomes. The strategy champions the collective action required across the health and care system to ensure residents live longer, more independent lives in good health, with fewer people going on to need care and support.

5. The Herefordshire and Worcestershire Integrated Care Partnership Assembly brought together a wide range of representatives supporting Worcestershire residents to develop the Integrated Care Strategy. The proposed Strategy presents eight commitments which builds upon existing strategies and plans to enable improvement in health and healthcare outcomes for all.

6. Our work with the NHS and other care partners through the Integrated Care System will help co-ordinate our services to ensure good Health and Wellbeing for our residents. We need to work more closely with residents and communities to encourage active lifestyles, enabling people to live longer, healthier, and happier lives.

The challenges facing Adult Social Care

7. Demand for Adult Social Care is growing. The number of adults (aged 18-64) requiring care is forecast to increase by 29% by 2038. For people over 65 years predictions are even higher with a forecast 57% increase in people who may require care and support over this period.

8. More people are living longer with long-term conditions. People's needs are becoming more complex as they age, making care and support more difficult to deliver in later life, often requiring more specialist care.

9. The costs of delivering care and support are rising. Currently £16.5bn is spent by Local Authorities across the Country and all are seeing increasing demand and complexity of needs of their population. Worcestershire County Council currently spends £270m on ASC services.

10. Nationally, there are significant staffing challenges across social care. In 2023, the national social care vacancy rate is reported as 9.9% (approximately 152,000 vacancies) particularly regarding specialist roles such as Approved Mental Health Professionals, Social Workers, and Occupational Therapists. In Worcestershire, we have experienced challenges recruiting and retaining the people that are needed to deliver the services we provide.

Our legal responsibilities

11. As a local authority, we have a legal responsibility to meet assessed eligible care and support needs in accordance with the statutory duties prescribed in the Care Act 2014, associated Regulations and the Mental Health Act 1983. Our specific duties relate, but are not limited, to:

- Provision of social care (assessment of individuals' and carers presenting needs, to establish eligible needs).
- A duty to meet assessed eligible needs.
- Establishing an indicative personal budget
- Provision of care and support plans (to meet the needs of adults assessed as eligible for care and support in accordance with their personal budget).

- Promoting wellbeing.
- Preventing the need for care and support - providing information and advice.
- Protecting adults from abuse and neglect (safeguarding).
- Promoting health and care integration, and
- Market shaping (quality, choice, ensuring we have enough resources to provide services).
- Assessment of patients presenting with mental illness leading to compulsory detention in hospital for assessment and/or treatment
- Meeting aftercare needs when eligible mental health patients are discharged from hospital.

Involving people

12. At the heart of this strategy are the voices of people who access care and support or may require information and advice. Together with their carers and the organisations who support them, their experience and knowledge has shaped what we do and how we do it, developing a collective vision of our aspirations for Worcestershire.

13. We have listened to the voices of people who have experience of receiving adult social care and support, or of being a carer. Our recently developed 'Building Together' forum brought Worcestershire residents together over a 6-month period to help us understand and hear what they want and need from us to achieve 'a good life'. Their voices are integral to this strategy and are presented as 'I' statements.

14. This strategy has three areas of focus which will enable us to meet our statutory duties, provide the best outcomes for Worcestershire residents and look to the future to ensure sustainable, best value and safe services. These are: -

- 'Right support, right place, right time'. We are committed to ensuring residents have access to services which are personalised, local and available when they need it.
- 'Working in partnership with local people'. We are committed to working in partnership with local people and communities to provide better experiences and outcomes for people.
- 'Future Focussed'. We are committed to responding to the many changes and challenges of social care to ensure sustainable and safe outcomes for people within the resources available to us.

15. Adult Social Care recognises and embraces the fact that the strategy is ambitious. We have therefore identified specific actions which we will focus on for the first year of our strategy.

16. The strategy will be reviewed and monitored both internally via the Quality Assurance and Performance Board for Adult Social Care in addition to externally through our partners and the Building Together Forum.

Overview and Scrutiny

17. This strategy has been subjected to scrutiny and overview from key partners across Place, this includes NHS colleagues, Primary Care, District Councils and Healthwatch. We have engaged widely with people who use services through our Building Together Forum and subject to approval at Cabinet will be reviewed regularly by the Adult Care and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Panel..

Legal, Financial and HR Implications

Legal

18. The implementation of the strategy is in line with the council's adult social care responsibilities, set out in relevant legislation such as the Care Act 2014, the Mental Capacity Act 2002 and the Mental Health Act 1983, as well as associated regulations and Statutory Guidance.

Financial

19. The aspirations of this strategy are to prevent, reduce and delay need. If implemented correctly, it is anticipated that this will provide efficiencies across the service whilst balancing the rising demand and complexity of need.

HR Implications

20. There are no identifiable HR implications in relation to this strategy. The strategy describes different ways of working in terms of practice and process but does not require a change in staffing resources.

Risk Implications

21. Regarding risks to health and wellbeing of residents, the highest risk relates to doing nothing which is likely to lead to an adverse impact on the long-term health and well-being of residents and an increased dependency on adult social care services.

22. In terms of risk of underperformance, key deliverables will be outlined in the work plan and performance monitored in regular review meetings (ASC Quality Assurance Board).

Joint Equality, Public Health, Data Protection and Sustainability Impact Assessments

23. Joint Impact Assessment screening in respect of these recommendations identified that no further impact analysis was required requiring further assessment during implementation.

Supporting Information

Appendix 1- Adult Social Care Strategy

Appendix 2 – Equality and Public Health Impact Assessment (Available online)

Contact Points

Specific Contact Points for this report

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Background Papers

In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Strategic Director for People) there are no relevant or required background papers relating to the subject matter of this report.