

# Adult Social Care Scrutiny Commission Report

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Adult Social Care Winter Plan and  
Self-Assessment Questionnaire - Service Continuity &  
Care Market Review 2020/21

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Date: 10.11.2020

Lead Member: Cllr Sarah Russell

Lead Director: Martin Samuels

## Useful information

- Ward(s) affected: All
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- Report version number: version v1

### 1. Purpose

- 1.1 To provide the Adult Social Care Scrutiny Commission with an overview of the winter planning requirements and the completion of a Self-Assessment Questionnaire regarding service continuity and care market review as required by the Department of Health & Social Care.

### 2. Summary

- 2.1 The Department of Health & Social Care (DHSC) has placed a requirement on all local authorities to develop a plan, which details how the Council will respond to winter pressures associated with Covid19, and to complete a self-assessment questionnaire, detailing the risk to the continuity of services in the provider market.
- 2.2 **Adult Social Care Winter Plan.** The City Council is required to develop a plan by 31.10.2020, to give assurance that the authority can respond to additional winter pressures associated with Covid19 for 2020/21.
- 2.3 A copy of the plan is attached at Appendix A (not available - still in draft). Although, there is no requirement to submit the plan to the DHSC, a letter of confirmation of its development must be submitted by 31.10.2020.
- 2.4 **Service Continuity and Care Market Review.** The self-assessment questionnaire was submitted on 21.10.2020 and is designed to provide an understanding of the risks to the continuity of services across the different provider care settings and consider how to mitigate risks. A copy of the questionnaire submission is attached at Appendix B.
- 2.5 Following a regional peer process, the submissions from each local authority will be passed to DHSC officials, along with a regional overview, bringing out the key issues in the care market at that level. A national assessment will be prepared, based on the 151 individual council responses and the nine regional overviews, which will be presented to Ministers before the end of the calendar year. The intention is that this will provide an assessment of the overall care market position, flag key risks, and outline areas where national intervention or support might be beneficial. A summary of the assessment will be published in due course.

### 3. Recommendations

3.1 The Adult Social Care Scrutiny Commission is recommended:

- a) to note the Council's response to the Winter Plan and to provide comment/feedback.
- b) to note the Council's response to the Service Continuity and Care Market Review self-assessment questionnaire.

### 4. Report

4.1 **Winter Plan.** The following information provides a summary of the information that is required by the Department for Health & Social Care to give assurance that the City Council can respond to additional winter pressures associated with Covid19.

- a) Local authorities should work with NHS colleagues to ensure primary and community services are supporting local providers, as well as social care services and voluntary organisations to ensure people can access the help and support they need to remain well.
- b) Local authorities should ensure providers are kept up to date with the local guidance and there is weekly communication from the Director of Adult Social Services and Director of Public Health.
- c) Local authorities should maintain oversight of the local care home sector, ensuring providers are well supported to prevent infection outbreaks in care settings. This includes distributing free Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to providers who cannot access the PPE portal; promoting the flu vaccination programme; supporting providers with staffing issues and working with the Care Quality Commission (CQC) on the designation scheme for premises for people discharged from hospital who cannot go straight into a care home.
- d) Local authority directors of public health should give a regular assessment of whether visiting care homes is likely to be appropriate within their local authority, taking into account the wider risk environment and immediately move to stop visiting if an area becomes an 'area of intervention', except in exceptional circumstances such as end of life.
- e) Local authorities should act as lead commissioners for those discharged from hospital using the Treasury/NHS money, unless otherwise agreed.
- f) No care home should be forced to admit an existing or new resident to the care home if they are unable to cope with the impact of the person's COVID-19 illness safely. Local authorities remain responsible for providing alternative accommodation.
- g) Local authorities must distribute funding made available through the extension of the Infection Control Fund to the sector as quickly as possible, and report on how funding is being used, in line with the grant conditions.
- h) CHC and Care Act Assessments have been restarted and local authorities

should work with CCG colleagues to ensure they are being completed, including any deferred assessments for 19 March to 31 August 2020.

- i) Local authorities and NHS organisations should continue to put co-production at the heart of decision-making, involving people who receive health and care services, their families, and carers.
- j) Direct Payments guidance should be followed to support people and their carers to use these flexibly and innovatively.
- k) Local authorities should ensure providers are aware of the suite of national offers available to support with staff recruitment, induction, training and wellbeing.

#### **4.2 Service Continuity and Care Market Review.**

The following information provides a summary of the information submitted to the Department for Health & Social Care on 21.10.2020.

- a) overview of the contingency planning currently being developed by the authority.
- b) understanding risk, in terms of the local care market to provide the capacity needed between now and the end of March 2021 and the council's ability to ensure service continuity and / or secure appropriate alternative provision where needed. This includes the provision for both council commissioned services and self-funded care.
- c) to understand the Council's view on the underlying causes of the risks that have been identified.
- d) to understand the tipping point that will determine the Council's inability to no longer reasonably expect to be able to access the type and level of provision needed to meet the social care needs of local people.
- e) to understand the specific steps the Council has taken to prepare providers for service change or closure.
- f) to understand the steps the Council has taken to develop their contingency plans and crucially partners involvement.
- g) to give the authority an opportunity to highlight the three issues of greatest concern and to understand what support would be needed to mitigate the situation.

### **5. Finance, Legal and other implications**

#### **5.1 Finance**

There are no direct financial implications associated with this report.

Martin Judson Head of Finance – adults and children's

#### **5.2 Legal**

There are no direct legal implications associated with this report.

#### **5.3 Equality Implications**

When making decisions, the Council must comply with the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) (Equality Act 2010) by paying due regard, when carrying out their functions, to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct prohibited by the Act, to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between people who share a 'protected characteristic' and those who do not.

In doing so, the council must consider the possible impact on those who are likely to be affected by the recommendation and their protected characteristics.

Protected Characteristics under the Equality Act 2010 are age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation.

Whilst there are no direct equality implications arising from this report as it is for noting, need to ensure that both the responses to the Winter Plan and to the Service Continuity and Care Market Review self-assessment questionnaire have embedded equality considerations across the relevant protected characteristics and put into place mitigating actions.

Sukhi Biring, Equality Officer, 454 4175

#### 5.4 Climate Change

There are no significant climate change implications directly associated with this report. Where delivery of the services detailed has implications for carbon emissions these should continue to be addressed as appropriate, such as through use of sustainable transport, efficient use of buildings and equipment and sustainable procurement processes.

Aidan Davis, Sustainability Officer, Ext 37 2284

#### **6. Background papers**

None

#### **7. Appendices**

- a) Winter Plan
- b) Service Continuity and Care Market Review