

Adult Social Care Scrutiny Commission  
7<sup>th</sup> November 2013

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# **Draft ASC Local Account 2012-13**

Lead director: Tracie Rees

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## Useful information

- Ward(s) affected: All
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- Report version number: 2

### 1. Summary and recommendations

This report puts forward a draft ASC Local Account for 2012-13.

It is intended to share the draft version informally with some stakeholders during November before finalising the report in December.

The report will then be designed and published during 2014, seeking ongoing feedback which will be used to inform the future development of the report in future years.

The Scrutiny Commission is requested to feedback on the draft, and this feedback will be used to inform the production of the final report in December.

### 2. Main report

#### Background to Local Accounts

2.1 The coalition government replaced the previous regime of inspections and indicators for ASC with a new regime, set out in *Transparency in outcomes: a framework for quality in adult social care*. As part of this framework, the publication of 'local accounts' was put forward as one way of supporting a more detailed and meaningful dialogue between councils and communities. Local accounts were seen as replacing previous annual publications by the Care Quality Commission, offering the opportunity for councils to share a common approach with a more tailored local focus, responsive to the needs of citizens.

2.2 The government does not see local accounts as sitting on their own. They are viewed as part of the wider principle of making local areas responsible for their own performance, and therefore complementary to self assessment and sector-led improvement.

2.3 Guidance on producing local accounts: *Developing a good local account methodology and using the internet to engage with citizens* and users was published in June 2011 by the Association of Directors of Adult Social Care (ADASS).

2.4 The guidance sees local accounts as a catalyst for the process of:

- Opening up information in adult social care;
- Fostering a conversation between service providers, commissioners and users/citizens; and

- Empowering citizens to challenge or commend local services.

2.5 It is not mandatory to publish a local account; however the majority of ASC councils do so, and it is considered good practice.

2.6 Because the guidance is not mandatory or prescriptive, the style of councils' local accounts varies considerably. However, there has been some national and regional examination of and discussion about local accounts, drawing on the benefits of having now developed them for two years.

2.7 Three particular challenges have emerged from these examinations:

- the importance of writing them in a clear and accessible style;
- the problem of writing for a diverse audience – which includes service users on the one hand and professionals on the other; and
- the challenge of being courageous enough to present an honest account.

### **Leicester's Local Account**

2.8 In Leicester, we have published local accounts for 2010-11 and for 2011-12.

2.9 This report puts forward a draft local account for 2012-13 (Appendix).

2.10 It is intended to:

- Carry out some informal consultation with stakeholders to get some feedback on the draft (see Appendix) during November,
- Bring back a proposed final version for final sign off by the Executive in December;
- Publish in December /January;
- Publicise it widely both at the point of publication, and throughout 2014, seeking ongoing feedback through the year that can inform the development of the next local account (for 2013-14).

2.11 Communication for the Local Account will include:

- A designed clear print version using a colourful design and photos to make it attractive and easy to read;
- Assistance for people who need help to read the report, and it will be available in different formats;
- A leaflet advertising the report – placed in council and health service facilities and waiting areas;
- A news release;
- Publicity in Leicester LINK, FACE and Just ASC; and
- Mailshots to various stakeholder groups.

#### **4. Financial, legal and other implications**

##### 4.1 Financial implications

There are no financial implications.

*Rod Pearson, Head of Finance (Health and Wellbeing)*

##### 4.2 Legal implications

There are no particular legal implications arising from this report.

*Carolyn Howard, Solicitor*

##### 4.3 Climate Change and Carbon Reduction implications

Whilst there are no direct climate change implications associated with adopting the Local Account approach as part of a participatory process for involving stakeholders, there could be some implications associated with the actions in the future plans that relate to property. These will be considered separately as appropriate.

*Mark Jeffcote, Environment Team*

##### 4.4 Equality Impact Assessment

An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) has been completed is available if required.

##### 4.5 Other Implications (You will need to have considered other implications in preparing this report. Please indicate which ones apply?)

None.

#### **5. Background information and other papers:**

#### **6. Summary of appendices:**

Appendix A: Draft Local Account 2012-13

Appendix B: List of changes made as requested at agenda meeting 23<sup>rd</sup> Oct.