

Report to the Adult Social Care Scrutiny Commission

Date: 26 June 2014

Implementation of the Adult Social Care Commission

Councillor Rita Patel

1. Summary

- 1.1 This report provides an update on the implementation of the Adult Social Care Commission and provides an overview of the objectives as detailed at Appendix 1.

Appendix 1

Leicester's Independent Adult Social Care Commission on Aging Well

Background

The concept of an independent Adult Social Care Commission in Leicester stemmed from a range of discussions that took place towards the end of 2013 as the Council consulted on and considered the future of its elderly persons' homes.

As the Council approached the decision to close and sell its elderly persons' homes, the issues that were debated included the nature of personalised social care, independence and empowerment of older people, the quality of social care services provided by private and other independent organisations, issues of loneliness of isolation of older people, the possibilities of partnership approaches to both the provision of care services and work to maintain wellbeing and prevent the deterioration of older people's health.

As a result of these discussions it was proposed that Leicester would establish an Independent Adult Social Care Commission to consider a range of the issues outlined above, particularly in relation to social care for older people and ageing well.

Purpose

The overarching role of Leicester's Independent Adult Social Care Commission on Ageing Well is to provide expert advice on national and local policy developments and to stimulate creative thinking in relation to Adult Social Care and the wider issues that affect older people.

This differs from the remit of the Adult Social Care Scrutiny Commission, which provides the political challenge by holding the Executive, partners and officers accountable by reviewing policy and practice's and scrutinising decisions.

As the suggested development of the Independent Adult Social Care Commission arose following the review on the future of the Council's Elderly Persons Homes, it was felt that an independent and specialist group would add value to existing mechanisms already in place.

The Independent Adult Social Care Commission will look at a range of relevant cross cutting themes and provide recommendations on policy, strategy and practice as appropriate, informed by evidence and best practice from elsewhere, both nationally

and internationally. It will initially be established for an 18 months and will structure its considerations in the development of recommendations in 6 meetings, covering the following proposed themes:

Meeting Themes

Meeting 1 – Making a start (July 2014)

- Introduction to Leicester – the changing demographics of Leicester, the challenges and opportunities of this including for Social Care
- Terms of Reference for the Commission,
- Discussion of the scope and direction of the Independent Adult Social Care Commission

Meeting 2 (November 2014)

Personalisation, independence and empowerment

Meeting 3 (February 2015)

Nature and quality of adult social care services

Meeting 4 (June 2015)

Tackling loneliness and isolation – unlocking the potential of the community

Meeting 5 (September 2015)

Integration and collaboration – the power of relationship relating to health, housing, employment

Meeting 6 (December 2015)

Maintaining health, wellbeing, intervening early and preventing deterioration

The themes to be explored (during the first 18 months) by the commission will be focussed on issues relating to support for older people and Ageing Well in Leicester. This is because the needs of an ageing population are not just restricted to services provided or commissioned by the Council's Adult Social Care department, but consideration also needs to be undertaken relating to the wider population and the services that are needed to enhance and support people as they grow older in our city.

Objectives

1. The Independent Adult Social Care Commission will consider *specific* challenges in relation to Adult Social Care policy and practice.
2. The Independent Adult Social Care Commission will identify best practice and support the department to develop creative policy solutions, providing advice based on expert knowledge.
3. The Independent Adult Social Care Commission will evaluate the effectiveness in Leicester of current national and international Ageing Well policies and advise upon the required changes.

4. The Independent Adult Social Care Commission will commission authoritative analysis, as required to support the development of policy solutions to enhance and support the diverse population and communities within the city as they grow older.
5. The Independent Adult Social Care Commission will identify new approaches to improving the life chances of an ageing population through the deployment of public services and public, private and voluntary sector partnerships
6. The Independent Adult Social Care Commission will advise upon best practice examples of evidence-based initiatives to enable the development of an Ageing Well strategy for the city for the next 25 years. The strategy will need to encompass a range of issues including housing, transport, leisure and health and well-being.

Members of the Independent Adult Social Care Commission will not be remunerated, but expenses will be paid where necessary. It is expected that the Independent Adult Social Care Commission will meet in full session up to four times a year and that an initial work programme will be for 18 months, before producing an interim report. Further meetings may be necessary linking to specific pieces of work emerging from the Independent Adult Social Care Commission.

Commission Membership

Membership of the Independent Adult Social Care Commission will be drawn from local and national experts by experience and academics with key roles in Leicester and national policy advisors relating to Adult Social Care. The commission will consist of up to 10 key advisors, including the lead for Adult Social Care for Leicester City Council.

Individuals will be approached and agreed to ensure that the final membership of the Independent Adult Social Care Commission reflects an appropriate agenda and ethnicity balance.

Officers supporting the Independent Adult Social Care Commission

Deb Watson - Strategic Director for Adult Social Care and Health

Tracie Rees - Divisional Director for Care Services and Commissioning

Ivan Browne - Consultant in Public Health

Taking Local Evidence

It is anticipated that, in addition to considering independent expert advice provided by commission members, the commission will also take evidence from relevant local organisations, including voluntary and community sector organisations and the Forum for Older People amongst others.

Relationship to the Council's development of an Aging Well Strategy for the city

The development of a strategy will set out how Leicester will work towards being an age friendly city and will be undertaken in parallel with the work of the Independent Adult Social Care Commission. The Commission will act as an advisor to the strategy group whose work will take into account the Commission's findings. Key features of the strategy are that it will:

1. Be shaped by older people and informed by the changing aspirations of Leicester citizens
2. Recognise older people as a resource for families, communities and economies
3. Identify advantages and barriers
4. Go beyond the traditional health and social care agenda and include a collective response from the City Council, other public sector partners, the private sector and the voluntary and community sector, covering issues such as those identified in the World Health Organisation's Age Friendly Cities programme which are:
 - a. Outdoor spaces and buildings
 - b. Transportation
 - c. Housing
 - d. Social participation
 - e. Respect and social inclusion
 - f. Civic participation and employment
 - g. Communication and information
 - h. Community support and health services
5. Be implemented by a series of detailed, measurable and regularly reviewed delivery plans.