

Adult Social Care Scrutiny Commission Briefing Note

22nd September 2015

Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) Advocacy and Carers Review: progress update.

Advocacy

- Planned procurement of VCS carers and advocacy services was abandoned January 2015, in order to consider the impact of The Care Act on service provision.
- Consultation has since been undertaken with the VCS Advocacy providers to consider the impact and determine a future service model to be re-procured with effect from April 2016.
- 3 months service user data across the sector has been collated and analysed.
- The analysis shows there has been a limited impact on the demand for Care Act advocacy.
- Consultation with key stakeholders on 4 potential service models for advocacy was undertaken.

Carers Support

- National Care Act projections suggested a potential increase in the demand for carer support. The local data shows an increase in the number of Carers assessments undertaken by Adult Social Care (541 in Q1 of 14/15 and 613 in Q1 of 15/16), but there has been a trend of a year on year increase, so the rise is not above what would normally be expected.
- Consultation has also been undertaken with the VCS Carers' providers to consider the impact and determine a future service model to be re-procured with effect from April 2016.
- 3 months service user data across the sector has been collated and analysed.
- The data analysis showed a limited impact on demand for carer's services; further supported through feedback from Carers organisations who reported minimal increase in activity.
- Engagement with key stakeholders regarding the requirements for Carers highlighted the importance of targeting those most in need (i.e. those most likely to be at risk of crisis or reaching breaking point) including:
 - Older carers
 - Long term carers

Engaging with the VCS providers

- The results of the review are being fed-back to the providers on 17th September.

Next steps

- Options will be considered by the Executive in early October 2015.
- A procurement exercise will then commence and new contracts will be in place by 1st April 2016.