

# Information Report to Cabinet – September 2013

## Adult Social Care Local Account 2011-13

**Portfolio:** Councillor Mrs Barbara McCracken – Social Care

**Service:** Adult Social Care (social care and inclusion)

**Wards:** All

### 1. Summary

- 1.1 Local Accounts are the basis of a new approach to assessing and reporting on adult social care performance, following the withdrawal of the Care Quality Commission's Annual Performance Assessment. The Local Account is a report for citizens and consumers about the performance of adult social care and is designed to be used as a tool for self-improvement
- 1.2 Cabinet is requested to note this information report, the content of Walsall's Local Account 2011-13 and the new arrangements for reporting the performance of adult social care.

### 2. Walsall's Local Account

- 2.1 The role of the Care Quality Commission (CQC) in relation to local authorities and social care has changed. The requirement for local authorities to produce an Annual Performance Assessment within a format prescribed by CQC has been abolished. A sector led approach to improvement has replaced the external regime. The Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS) recommend that this be "customer-centric and be aimed at the whole community".
- 2.2 In 2011 the Government also introduced the publication of a single data set for local government. Following consultation a new outcomes framework for adult social care (ASCOF) was also introduced along with complementary frameworks covering public health and the NHS. This report embeds the new approach to performance assessment.
- 2.3 Part of the focus for these changes was to strengthen local accountability to residents, users and carers. To enable this, councils need to find meaningful ways of reporting back to citizens and consumers about performance. Across the sector it has been suggested that one means of achieving this is to provide a Local Account, a self assessment accessible to local people to comment on.
- 2.4 The idea of producing a Local Account builds on existing approaches such as local quality assurance frameworks and safeguarding annual reports. Local Accounts were mentioned in the Department of Health's 'Transparency in

outcomes: a framework for adult social care' consultation paper in the context of localism and transparency, and in the subsequent 2011/12 outcomes framework published in March 2011. Responses from the social care sector to the Local Government Group consultation on 'Taking the Lead: Self Regulation and Improvement in Local Government' also included many positive responses to the wider use of self assessment as a tool for Improvement and local accountability.

- 2.5 ADASS also invited councils to consider how they would secure appropriate independent and professional challenge and scrutiny of the quality of the outcomes achieved, for example via external review, user feedback, overview and scrutiny, and LINKs/Healthwatch.
- 2.6 Walsall uses the Adult Social Care Outcomes Framework (ASCOF) as a key tool to track both local and national progress towards the transformation of care and support. ASCOF measures outcomes across four areas which the council believes are the most important to its residents. These are
- Enhancing the quality of life for people with care and support
  - Delaying and reducing the need for care and support
  - Ensuring that people have a positive experience of care
  - Safeguarding adults whose circumstances make them vulnerable and protecting them from avoidable harm
- 2.7 Examples of our achievements in each of these four key areas are detailed in the Local Account, together with a selection of case studies which evidence these achievements as real outcomes for service users and Walsall people.
- 2.8 The document also provides information on consultation activity undertaken, including learning from complaints, to evidence that adult social care listens to what people say and that it uses this information to improve health and social care services in Walsall.

### **3. Council priorities**

- 3.1 This proposal is in line with the overall Council objective to improve the health and well being of the people of Walsall and is in accordance with the priorities established by the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, the Health and Well Being Strategy and the Sustainable Community Strategy. The Health and Well Being priorities included in the 2011-2013 Local Account focus on:
- Fewer vulnerable adults and older people need intensive support, and for shorter periods
  - More vulnerable adults live meaningful lives in their own homes, with fewer people living in long term residential or nursing care
  - Fewer unnecessary hospital admissions, and more rapid discharge home from hospital

#### **4. Risk management**

4.1 There are no risks as a result of this report.

#### **5. Financial implications**

5.1 The local account includes contextual financial information for 2011-2013. Any future actions are contained within existing plans and budgets as part of our continuing improvement cycle.

#### **6. Legal implications**

6.1 None

#### **7. Property implications**

7.1 None

#### **8. Health and wellbeing implications**

8.1 The Transforming Health and Wellbeing Strategy for Walsall 2013 – 2016 will continue to ensure that:

- a. The Council continues to implement its strategy to plan and deliver preventative services, with particular emphasis on accessible services from within the voluntary and community sector to support people and prevent or reduce the need for social care services.
- b. Continued improvements in adult social care services as a result of its performance monitoring ensure that the health and well being of all adults in Walsall is maintained. The successful delivery of this initiative will support people to be independent by removing barriers that create social exclusion within the borough.

#### **9. Staffing implications**

9.1 The local account includes contextual staffing information for 2011-2013. There are no direct implications as a result of this report.

#### **10. Equality implications**

10.1 Continued improvements in adult social care services as a result of its performance monitoring will ensure equality of access to services for all adults in Walsall.

10.2 No Equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken for the production of the report but. the initiatives detailed in the Local Account have been the subject of Equality Impact Assessments.

## 11. Consultation

11.1 The Local Account is a public document and will be available on the Council's website. Comments and questions on its content will be encouraged, as stated in the Foreword.

### Background Papers:

Department of Health - Transparency in outcomes: a framework for quality in adult social care. The 2011/12 Adults Social Care Outcomes Framework.

ADASS Promoting Excellence in Councils' Adult Social Care local accounts paper 12<sup>th</sup> May 2011

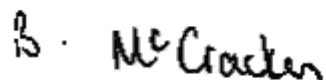
### Author

Suzanne Joyner  
Head of Community Care, Partnerships  
☎ 654712  
✉ [joyners@walsall.gov.uk](mailto:joyners@walsall.gov.uk)



John Bolton  
Interim Executive Director  
Social Care and Inclusion

14 October 2013



Councillor Barbara McCracken  
Portfolio holder  
Social Care

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