

Health Scrutiny Committee

Meeting to be held on Tuesday, 15 September 2020

Electoral Division affected:
All Divisions

Lancashire County Council Adult social care - winter preparations (Appendix A refers)

Contact for further information:

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Executive Summary

The report provides details of:

- Support to adult social care providers during the COVID-19 pandemic; and
- The Adult Social Care Winter Plan.

Recommendation

The Health Scrutiny Committee is asked to:

1. Note the report.
2. Support the ongoing work of Adult Social Care in supporting providers during the COVID-19 pandemic and in continuing to develop the Adult Social Care Winter Plan to ensure that the Authority continues to meet its statutory duties under the Care Act (2014).

Background and Advice

The presentation set out at appendix A, provides an update to the committee on:

- Support to adult social care providers during the COVID-19 pandemic; and
- The Adult Social Care Winter Plan.

Adult social care provider representatives from extra care, residential care, domiciliary and supported living services will be in attendance at the Committee meeting to share their feedback and participate in any discussion.

COVID-19 Support to Providers

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Authority has supported the adult social care provider market through a multi-faceted response. This has included:

- Guidance re: relatives and friends visiting care homes and supported living settings
- Financial Assistance Programme for COVID-related expenditure
- Provider Engagement and Communication Strategy
- Infection Prevention and Control/Outbreak Management Support
- Support with testing
- Lancashire Temporary Staffing Agency
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Supply

The COVID-response is ongoing as we head towards Winter and it is acknowledged that the ongoing pandemic, along with the annual seasonal challenges means that the adult social care market continues to operate under challenging circumstances.

Adult Social Care Winter Plan

This year, the Adult Social Care plan has been required to take account not just of typical winter pressures, but also the added challenges that are still evident across the social care sector from the first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic, alongside ensuring readiness for a second wave or further spikes. In addition, the NHS is working hard to restore services that were paused during the pandemic, such as orthopaedic operations, which will bring greater demand to social care. Ensuring the stability of the care market and sufficiency of care remains of paramount importance and is a critical part of this winter plan.

The Plan sets out the actions adult social care will take across winter and the additional services that will be put in place to support more people to return directly home from hospital when they no longer need to be there, or to remain in their own home and avoid an unnecessary hospital admission. It also sets out how risks will be managed and the contingencies that will be in place during times of enhanced pressure.

The Adult Social Care Winter Plan sits alongside and is interdependent with, local NHS winter plans at both an Integrated Care Partnership and an Integrated Care System level.

Consultations

N/A

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

Risk management

Financial

The funding implications of the Winter Plan will be considered by Cabinet in due course.

Legal

The Authority has a statutory duty under the Care Act (2014) to facilitate a diverse, sustainable, high quality adult social care market and to manage provider failure locally. The ongoing COVID-response alongside the development of the Adult Social Care Winter Plan supports the Authority to fulfil this duty, however, the Authority must be mindful that there are a number of legal issues, including state aid and procurement, that must be given due consideration when seeking to provide any form of support to providers.

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
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None		
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Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate		
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