

Report to the Cabinet

Meeting to be held on Thursday, 6 October 2022

Report of the Director of Adults Disability and Care Services

Part I

Electoral Division affected:
(All Divisions);

Corporate Priorities:
Caring for the vulnerable;

Adult Social Care Winter Plan 2022/23

(Appendix 'A' refers)

Contact for further information:

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Brief Summary

The Lancashire County Council Adult Social Care Winter Plan has been updated for 2022/23, to reflect the services in place and the social care planning and response to winter pressures.

This winter is anticipated to be one that is significantly more challenging than the last 2 years, and the plan includes information about various actions being taken across the winter period, and the proposed social care capacity enhancements to provide resilience and system support.

This is deemed to be a Key Decision and the provisions of Standing Order C19 have been complied with.

Recommendation

Cabinet is asked to:

- (i) Approve the Lancashire County Council Adult Social Care Winter Plan for 2022/23, as set out at Appendix 'A'.
- (ii) Support the ongoing work of Adult Social Care to ensure people who need social care support across the winter period get the right support for them at the right time, in the context of the continuing pressures across social care and NHS and the challenges across the care sector.



Detail

Winter planning is a necessary and critical part of business planning, to set out business continuity and managing major areas of risk during what is a pressured season of the year.

This year's Adult Social Care Winter Plan, as set out at Appendix 'A', has required the county council to take account of the continued challenges and pressures across the health and social care sector, as well as recognising the potential impact of the cost of living increases.

The challenges across the social care market remain significant and planning needs to focus on not destabilising the sector. The position in Lancashire mirrors the regional and national position and is resulting in significant challenges across various parts of the county. Demand for social care has also increased, and Lancashire County Council is currently commissioning just over 3,000 care hours a week more than in October 2021. Further workforce risks may also materialise across the coming months linked to cost of living increases. The growing risk to ensuring that there is sufficient capacity to meet peoples' needs, keep people safe and ensure continued 'flow' across the system is not to be underestimated, and will be exacerbated through the winter months.

The updated Lancashire County Council Adult Social Care Winter Plan 2022/23 formally comes into effect from 1 October 2022 and will run until 15 April 2023, to incorporate resilience across the Easter period. The plan sets out the range of actions and service capacity enhancements put in place to support social care resilience, as well as to support the effective delivery of health and care services across the winter period. The Plan includes information on how some existing services support winter challenges and the support in place to prevent the transmission of infection, as well as setting out additional service capacity in critical services such as crisis support and reablement to support people in their own homes. The Plan also sets out how Adult Social Care will work with the NHS and other partners to support people to leave hospital as soon as they are ready, or to remain in their own home as independently as possible, with the right care and support at the right time.

Adult Social Care will continue to work with each key partner on winter resilience and contingency actions. Where appropriate, a pan Lancashire approach will be undertaken to maximise system resilience and the benefits of the deployment of resources.

Funding has been identified through flexible use of the short term Improved Better Care Fund winter monies, plus other short term funding such as Contain Outbreak Management Fund grants. Delivery, spend and performance will be monitored throughout the implementation of the Adult Social Care Winter Plan.

The plan will be shared both internally within the county council and with each Accident & Emergency Delivery Board across Lancashire, for inclusion in the system wide winter planning and delivery reporting.



Consultations

The plan has been developed in consultation with relevant teams and key individuals within Lancashire County Council and key external partners. Winter planning overall has taken place within each Place Based Partnership and across the Integrated Care System.

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

Risk management

The Adult Social Care Winter Plan will be subject to monitoring throughout the winter period, to ensure its full delivery and the achievement of key outcomes.

The key risks for Adult Social Care include:

- Recruitment – recognising the possible challenges of recruiting additional staff, the plan does not rely heavily on staff based schemes.
- Risk of further fragility in the care market and disruptions to peoples' care and support.
- Impact from any further periods of increased COVID-19 restrictions.
- Impact of the cost of living increases.
- There is significant demand for Adult Social Care staff to attend meetings on the planning of collaborative work, which is drawing them away from delivering on critical elements across the pressured winter period.
- Unintended consequences of decisions made by one organisation adversely impacting on another.

Mitigating actions have been set out in relation to key risks. The Adult Social Care and Health Partnership will be holding the ring around social care delivery and partnership working across the winter period, and this is chaired by the Executive Director for Adult Services, Health and Wellbeing at Lancashire County Council. The Partnership is working to ensure it operates together as one collaborative system, and to ensure there are no unintended consequences of decisions made by one organisation impacting on another, either financially or in terms of workforce moves.

Financial

The planned spend on additional staffing and additional service/care capacity is:

- Flexible use of Improved Better Care Fund winter related funding; and
- Flexibly funding of some elements through use of the Covid Outbreak Management Fund, as appropriate to the regulations.



List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
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None

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

N/A

