

Southend-on-Sea Borough Council

Report of
Corporate Director of Adult and Community Services
to
Cabinet

on
6th November 2012

Report prepared by: Catherine Cobb, Group Manager
Finance and Performance

Agenda
Item No.

A Local Account of Adult Social Care Services in Southend 2011-12
Community Services & Culture Scrutiny Committee – Executive Councillor: Councillor
Salter
A Part 1 Public Agenda Item

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To present a Local Account of adult social care services in 2011-12, including priorities and plans for 2012-13. This is the second annual report of these services to be produced by the Council, but the first time its production is statutory. The first Local Account for 2010/11 was used in the eastern region as an example of good practice.
- 1.2 The Local Account aims to provide information about the quality and value of the adult social care services to consumers of services and local people. It is the Council's self assessment of how it provided services in 2011-12 together with plans for the future which contribute to the overall health and wellbeing of the local community.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That the Local Account for adult social care for 2011-12 be noted as the Council's self assessment for these services.
- 2.2 That the initiatives associated with plans for 2012-13 as set out in the Local Account are agreed.
- 2.2 That plans for producing a Local Account for 2012-13 are approved.

3. Background

- 3.1 In the years leading up to 2010-11, an annual assessment of adult social care services was undertaken by the regulator of adult social care services. The last annual assessment was carried out by the Care Quality Commission (CQC) for the year 2009-10.
- 3.2 In that year, the Council was assessed as “performing well ... consistently delivering above the minimum requirements” and in two out of the seven areas assessed, achieved a rating of “excellent”, the highest ranking. This was the third year in succession in which adult social care services in Southend had improved.
- 3.3 Annual assessments by the Care Quality Commission have now ended and for services provided from 2011-12, the Council will be required to self assess its provision of these services and to publish an annual Local Account as part of an overall agenda for transparency. This intention is set out in the result of the Department of Health’s consultation on “Transparency in outcomes: a framework for quality in adult social care” published in July 2011 which states that one of the aims is “the conversation which local organisations have with the communities they serve”.
- 3.4 To ensure that information is available on services for 2011-12, a Local Account has been produced in line with Department of Health and Association of Directors Social Services (ADASS) guidance.

Production of a Local Account for 2011-12

- 3.5 There is a clear expectation that the Local Account will engage with the views of people who use services and their carers. In producing the 2011-12 Account, a group of voluntary organisations, external providers of services and colleagues in the health sector as well as interested local people were given the opportunity to participate in the development of the Account. Consultation on the Account also took place with Community Services and Culture Scrutiny Committee and the Health and Wellbeing Board and their comments are included within the document.

4. Other Options

No other options are presented.

5. Reasons for Recommendations

- 5.1 The publication of a Local Account of adult social care services for 2011-12 ensures the continuity of information for the public about the performance of this service.
- 5.2 The involvement of key stakeholders in the production of the Local Account for 2011-12 and future years will assist in our aim to be transparent about the services we deliver and to ensure that the Account includes information of interest to local people.

6. Corporate Implications

6.1 Contribution to Council's Vision & Corporate Priorities

Healthy – Continue to improve outcomes for vulnerable adults and older people

Prosperous - Reduce inequalities and increase the life chances of people living in Southend

Excellent – Deliver strong, relevant and targeted services that meet the needs of our community.

6.2 Financial Implications

The cost of planning the production of future Local Accounts will be met within the existing resources for consultation on adult social care services. Any new costs arising from the Local Account for adult social care services for 2012/13 and future years will need to be considered as part of the relevant annual budget process for the Council.

6.3 Legal Implications

Publication of a Local Account of adult social care in 2011-12 is a requirement of the Department of Health.

6.4 People Implications

The Account demonstrates how increasingly our staff are working in an integrated way with other public and third sector organisations within Southend.

6.5 Property Implications

Not applicable

6.6 Consultation

In producing the 2011-12 Account, a focus group of voluntary organisations, external providers of services and colleagues in the health sector as well as interested local people were given the opportunity to participate in the development of the Account.

Feedback from the Community Services and Culture Scrutiny Committee included linking current performance to our plans for 2012/13 and further amendments to the text within the document. These have now been included in appendix 1.

6.7 Equalities and Diversity Implications

Policies for developing adult social care services are subject to equality impact analyses.

6.8 Risk Assessment

The Local Account for 2011-12 is a report of delivery of adult social care services to which risk assessments were applied as part of the service planning

6.9 Value for Money

Financial and performance information has been included within the Account as well how we are using our joint resources with health more effectively.

6.10 Community Safety Implications

Extracts from the annual safeguarding report are included within the Local Account in line with guidance from the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services.

6.11 Environmental Impact

Not applicable

7. Background Papers

Transparency in outcomes: a framework for quality in adult social care – response to consultation published July 2011 may be found at:

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Responsestoconsultations/DH_125464

8. Appendices

Appendix 1: A Local Account of adult social care services in Southend 2011-12: an annual report of social services for people aged 18 years and over.