
Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee

15 January 2020

Adults Services Improvement – Next Steps - Diagnosis and proposal to address service improvement requirements

Report by Director of Law and Assurance

Summary

Since the publication of the adults' peer challenge in May 2018 a three-year improvement programme was implemented structured around 100-day plans. The Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee (HASC) has had the opportunity to consider and comment on the improvement programme at various meetings over the last 18 months. There is now a proposal for a significant further phase of improvement requiring investment in the services of external experts. The required improvements have been set out in a piece of diagnostic work undertaken by those experts.

Focus for scrutiny

Members will have the opportunity to consider and question the output of the diagnostic work by the external experts. As the proposal includes a plan for investment in a contact with the external supplier their representatives will not participate in the discussion and scrutiny of the proposal.

The Committee is asked to comment on options to support the delivery of the next phase of the Adults' Improvement Programme, prior to decision at Cabinet on 28 January 2020. Key areas for scrutiny include:

- (1) The output from the diagnostic assessment and the rationale for proposal to address the challenges identified. Is the case compelling? How do we know these are the right areas to focus on?
- (2) The areas for consideration for choosing the preferred option to deliver the identified improvements. Are these the right questions? How can the optimal solution be arrived at?
- (3) How will the benefits be realised in monetary terms – does it make financial sense?
- (4) How the plan aligns with service outcomes and projects currently underway within Adult Social Care, for example the planned procurement of the care and support at home contract, currently listed in the Forward Plan of Key Decisions. Are these plans joined up?
- (5) The process for agreeing deliverable milestones, including a timetable and methodology for monitoring; how will Members gain assurance of the benefits being realised and monitor on-going performance to ensure it is sustained?
- (6) How those risks identified in the report will be managed in the short and longer term

- (7) Plans to deliver a balanced budget in the next financial year (2020/21), recognising that the planned savings are not the same as the current projections in the Medium-Term Financial Strategy, as stated in the report.

Members should consider these scrutiny aims in the context of the recently published report of the Children's Commissioner which challenged the Council's capability and capacity to deliver sustainable service improvements and called upon elected members to consider their role in seeking assurance about effective improvement planning and sustainable delivery of them.

The Chairman will summarise the output of the debate for consideration by the Committee.

Details

The background and context to this item for scrutiny are set out in the attached report, as listed below, including resource and risk implications, Equality, Human Rights, Social Value, Sustainability and Crime and Disorder Reduction Assessments.

Tony Kershaw

Director of Law and Assurance

Contact Officer: Helena Cox, Senior Advisor, Democratic Services

helena.cox@westussex.gov.uk

Appendices

Appendix 1 - Draft decision report - proposal to engage a strategic partner to support the delivery of the second phase of the Adults' Improvement Programme

Background papers

None