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## **Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee**

**5 March 2025**

### **Update on the delivery of the two-year Improvement Programme to assist the delivery of the Adult Social Care Strategy and preparation for Care Quality Commission Assurance of Adult Social Care**

**Report by Director of Law and Assurance**

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#### **Summary**

Scrutiny of the Adult Social Care two-year Improvement Programme has been a priority for the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee (HASC). This Programme is designed to assist the delivery of the Adult Social Care Strategy and preparation for Care Quality Commission (CQC) assurance, and HASC last scrutinised this on 18 September 2024. A detailed update is provided at Appendix A, which includes an update on national policy and lobbying, progress with the CQC assurance process of adult social care in West Sussex and next steps for the Improvement Programme.

#### **Focus for scrutiny**

The Committee's focus for scrutiny is assurance on the effectiveness of the two-year Improvement Programme. Key lines of enquiry include:

- (1) How well the Programme has supported delivery of the Adult Social Care Strategy, preparation for CQC assurance and management of challenges facing the service;
- (2) What ongoing improvement activities will be required beyond June 2025 when the Programme is due to finish, including on any uncompleted workstreams;
- (3) Lessons learned from the Programme, including through the support of an external delivery partner, and how these will be shared within the Service and across the organisation;
- (4) When the outcomes of the CQC assurance process will be known and what the next steps will be following this;
- (5) How national initiatives will impact on future adult social care service provision and budget; and
- (6) Whether further scrutiny of the Programme, or specific ongoing elements of it, would add value.

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

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## **1. Details**

- 1.1 The background and context to this item for scrutiny are set out in the report attached at Appendix A.

## **2. Finance**

- 2.1 The Council's net budget for adult social care in 2024/25 is approximately £264m, which has risen by 28% over the last five years. Adult services provide support to over 12,000 residents per year and around 95% of this relates to the cost of funding the social care needs of approximately 8,500 residents who meet the national eligibility criteria in the Care Act. The Council also committed £8m of additional funding to deliver the Improvement Programme over two years.

## **3. Risk implications and mitigations**

- 3.1 Details of risks are set out in Appendix A.

## **4. Policy alignment and compliance**

- 4.1 The Improvement Programme will assist in the delivery of the Adult Social Care Strategy which sets out five priorities to guide the future development of adult social care services within the context of the Council Plan. There are no legal or crime and disorder implications arising. In terms of Equality duty, the service is on a journey to move from an Equality Act compliance focus to one which embodies inclusion and truly person-centered services and support. Change opportunities afforded by new service models and redesigns will contribute to corporate ambitions to be a net zero carbon organisation by 2030. Adult Services works in close partnership with Public Health and the voluntary and community sector and other partner agencies to increase the range of options open to people to support their wellbeing, as well as reaching people earlier before they require adult social care services.

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### **Appendices**

Appendix A: Update on the delivery of the Adult Social Care Improvement Programme

### **Background papers**

None