

**HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**ADULT CARE & HEALTH CABINET PANEL**

**WEDNESDAY 18 OCTOBER 2017 10:30 AM**

Agenda Item No.
<b>3</b>

**15 YEARS: FUTURE DIRECTION & STRATEGIC AMBITIONS FOR ADULT SOCIAL CARE IN HERTFORDSHIRE 2018-2033 - CONSULTATION**

*Report of the Director of Adult Care Services*

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**1. Purpose of report**

1.1 Panel is asked to note, consider and comment upon the draft consultation on the long term direction statement for Adult Social Care (“the Fifteen Year Direction”) as attached at Appendix 1 to this report.

**2. Summary**

2.1 The proposed ‘Fifteen Year Direction’ for Adult Social Care is set in the context of the pressures and challenges facing the delivery of adult social care nationally which regularly feature in the headlines. There is gathering public awareness of a health and social care system which is struggling to keep pace with the demands upon it. Hertfordshire is not immune to this struggle.

2.2 The Fifteen Year Direction sets an over-arching ambition for the future to meet these challenges, and guide the development and transformation of adult care services into the long term.

2.3 The overall context is of a council which is committed to fostering healthy and vibrant communities. The council’s fundamental starting point is that, in line with the Prevention agenda within the Care Act 2014, it seeks to ensure that adult social care intervention is directed, outcome focussed and only occurs when absolutely required.

- 2.4 The council is also an active partner in the [NHS' Sustainability and Transformation Planning](#) (STP) process which includes working together around preventing need, joining up health and social care and playing a key role in urgent and emergency care for people.
- 2.5 The Fifteen Year Direction sets a future course of travel for adult social care which will increasingly see the service:
- involved in supporting significantly more people than at present but with a role less focussed on direct service provision and more on the infrastructure that supports people to remain well and independent.
  - Continue the evolution towards a role of provider of information and advice, commissioner, regulator and emergency safety net than a care provider per se.
- 2.6 Following internal consideration the draft Fifteen Year Direction will provide an opportunity for dialogue with partners and providers and key stakeholder groups and help to further cement and build the common understanding of the mission of the service and the vital role of adult social care in society.

### **3. Recommendation**

- 3.1 Panel is asked to note and comment on the draft Fifteen Year Direction for Adult Care Services.

### **4. Background and Context**

- 4.1 Hertfordshire currently has a three year plan for Adult Care Services for the period 2015/2018, ending in March 2018:

<http://cmis.hertfordshire.gov.uk/hertfordshire/Calendarofcouncilmeetings/tabid/70/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/397/Meeting/24/Committee/16/Default.aspx>

- 4.2 In 2016 the former Director of Adult Social Services at Sunderland visited Hertfordshire as part of a general commission by the East of England Association of Directors of Adult Social Services group to undertake an informal peer challenge exercise.

4.3 One of the suggestions made from the peer challenge was to develop a long term vision for adult social care in Hertfordshire. The purpose of creating this is an opportunity to:

- think strategically and on a long term scale about challenges and issues that are deeply complex and long term in nature
- have a conversation with stakeholders about expectations / challenges / constraints / choices and opportunities and to reach a shared view of the future
- create a vision to guide medium term plans which themselves guide operational thinking
- be pro-active and in control in the face of powerful trends / pressures.

4.4 The timing of the planning exercise is intended to be as follows:



4.5 The intention is to consult widely on this plan on the direction of travel for adult social care – rather than on the specific actions. We will create an overarching summary of the plan and develop questions on the key points it contains to collate feedback. The approach will be include:

- Traditional media for an online questionnaire, promoted through our staff, the community and voluntary sector, social media, email to partners and community newsletters
- Existing forums attended by service users and carers – such as the ‘Community Conversations’ currently underway with our commissioning teams
- Targeted focus groups for a cross section of residents.

4.6 The consultation exercise will begin in November and conclude by the end of December with the results being reported to Panel and Cabinet accordingly. It will have the following objectives:

- To provide opportunities for people to influence the direction of travel and decisions in adult social care
- Raise awareness of the priorities and pressures of adult social care in Hertfordshire
- Use feedback from consultation and engagement to make adult care services even more relevant and efficient in future.

- 4.7 Consultees will include:
- Residents
  - Service users and carers
  - Community and voluntary sector
  - Elected members and staff
  - Health and statutory partners.

## **5 Financial Implications**

- 5.1 There are no immediate financial implications in the draft Fifteen Year Plan but the general ethos of the plan is about the importance of developing an infrastructure that supports people to remain well and to re-balance provision away from intensive, dependence-inducing costlier forms of support. Any changes that are made in due course will be within the current budget or may assist in securing future savings or efficiencies.

## **6 Equality Implications**

- 6.1 When considering proposals placed before Members it is important that they are fully aware of, and have themselves rigorously considered the equality implications of the decision that they are making.
- 6.2 Rigorous consideration will ensure that proper appreciation of any potential impact of that decision on the County Council's statutory obligations under the Public Sector Equality Duty. As a minimum this requires decision makers to read and carefully consider the content of any Equalities Impact Assessment produced by officers.
- 6.3 The Equality Act 2010 requires the County Council when exercising its functions to have due regard to the need to (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other conduct prohibited under the Act; (b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it and (c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it. The protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010 are age; disability; gender reassignment; marriage and civil partnership; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion and belief, sex and sexual orientation.
- 6.4 An initial Equality Impact Assessment has been developed and is attached at Appendix 2, and will be updated as and the consultation process on the plan takes place with a view to presenting a final version along with the final version of the Fifteen Year Direction.

**Background documents:**

Appendix 1: 15 Years – Future Direction & Strategic Ambitions for Adult Social Care  
in Hertfordshire

Appendix 2: Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA)

Are attached as separate documents