

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO HWB

1	Meeting:	Health and Wellbeing Board
2	Date:	8 July 2015
3	Title:	Care Act Progress Review
4	Directorate:	Neighbourhoods and Adult Services

5 Summary

RMBC carry out regular stocktakes on behalf of the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services and the Local Government Association. The most recent stocktake took place in June 2015. The stocktakes are a useful measure of regional progress for Care Act implementation. The information below was produced from the recent stocktake.

Under the Care Act, national eligibility criteria were established for the first time to determine when someone should be entitled to help. To date, RMBC has developed Care Act compliant assessment forms and undertaken 215 social care assessments during April and May under Care Act eligibility.

A new duty for councils requires them to offer schemes through which those who need to pay for residential care can get a loan from their local council, which is then paid back from their estate after death. RMBC introduced the deferred payments scheme in June 2015.

For the first time, carers have the same right to assessment and support as the people they care for; previously, they had to provide "substantial care on a regular basis" to receive an assessment. RMBC undertook 145 carers' assessments under Care Act eligibility during April and May 2015.

Those who pay for care themselves will be entitled to go to councils to get advice and information about the care system. Fifty customers requested an assessment as self-funders during April and May 2015.

To help protect people's assets, a **cap on care costs** they have to pay for, set at £72,000 for over-65s, will kick in from April next year. How the cap works for younger people is still to be finalised.

The Care Act's emphasis on prevention and wellbeing is driving forward changes to how services are accessed and delivered. These include improvements in the following areas:

Connect to Support - now being developed to ensure that customers can access Care Act compliant information and advice. This includes a wider breadth of community based assets. There have been approximately 1,988 hits in April and May 2015 on Connect to Support, compared to 666 hits for the same period in 2014. It is clear that further development is required to enable customers to receive more services via Connect to Support.

Commissioning of advocacy support via RMBC is underway. This will ensure that customers can access independent advocacy, which has been identified as an area of urgent need. A review has been completed and a paper is being presented to senior management.

Introduction of the Liquid Logic IT system - This will become the main operating system for RMBC services from April 2016. It will enable the accurate collation of data to ensure that resources are targeted appropriately.

Contact: Nigel Parr
Professional Standards and Development Manager
Email: nigel.parr@rotherham.gov.uk