

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Health Select Commission – 25 March 2021

Report Title

Outcomes from Sub-Group - Adult Social Care Outcomes Framework (ASCOF)

Is this a Key Decision and has it been included on the Forward Plan?

No

Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report

Jo Brown, Assistant Chief Executive

Report Author(s)

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Ward(s) Affected

Borough-Wide

Report Summary

To report the findings and recommendations of the Health Select Commission Sub-Group on Adult Social Care Outcomes Framework 2019-20.

Recommendations

1. That further information in respect of the following be ascertained and reported back to the Commission with the next annual benchmarking and performance report for 2020/21 in December 2021.
 - a. Analysis of the cohort of people receiving reablement services.
 - b. Analysis of the cohort of people entering residential care as a hospital discharge destination, with a view to demonstrating the effectiveness of the pathways in place which allow individuals to continue to live independently for as long as possible, and this analysis to include the proportion of new residents having previously availed social care and reablement support.
 - c. Analysis of Community Hub data to explore any increase in demand for Adult Social Care referrals.
 - d. A comparative account of other authorities whose ASCOF data may have been flagged with a data advisory due to challenges the pandemic has presented to data collection and authentication, and, insofar as this information may be available, a comparison of the results.

- e. A timeline for planned actions in response to the ASCOF results for 2019/20 and for 2020/21 when these become available.
2. That the following recommendations be made to the Strategic Director of Adult Care, Housing and Public Health:
 - a. That the data format amended for future presentation materials with a view to clearly showing change over a period of time.
 - b. That a proactive communications plan be further developed whereby the wider public can be apprised of achievements in respect of Adult Social Care work programmes and available support schemes.
 - c. That policy options and frameworks be developed and system design be undertaken with a view to achieving greater parity of social care and health-based care in Rotherham, in anticipation of this provision being secured in forthcoming primary legislation.
 - d. That liaison with partner organisations and community connectors such as the Rotherham libraries service be undertaken to avail all resources and infuse valuable expertise into the further development of a digital access strategy.
 - e. That, toward bolstering the pathways whereby people with disabilities have gainful employment as part of full participation in the community, a strategic, place-based response be undertaken alongside partner organisations.
3. That a presentation illustrating the nuanced picture surrounding the gainful employment of people with disabilities be added to the 2020/21 work programme of the Health Select Commission.

List of Appendices Included

None

Background Papers

Members reviewed a briefing on ASCOF performance measures from 2019-20 as well as the performance measures from the previous year.

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

None

Council Approval Required

No

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

Outcomes from Sub-Group – Adult Social Care Outcomes Framework (ASCOF)

1. Background

- 1.1 Members met on 25 January to discuss the ASCOF results from the previous year. The receipt of data had been delayed at a national level by the urgent response to the ongoing pandemic; therefore the meeting was held as soon as the data had been received and analysed.
- 1.2 Because of the emergence of the pandemic during March 2020, the usual stringent data authentication and finalisation procedure could not be completed as would have been routinely done in a typical year. This has led to the flagging of Rotherham's ASCOF data and a data advisory being placed on the 2019-2020 results. Despite this challenge, officers analysed the available data that had been collected and presented the outcomes to the sub-group. Members of the group were advised to keep this data advisory in mind during the discussion and subsequent formulation of recommendations.

2. Key Issues

2.1 ASCOF-related Recommendations

- In discussion, Members raised several concerns and suggestions which have been reflected in the recommendations from this working group. The distinction was made that many of the indicators measure the perceptions of service users, which can be influenced from a number of angles that are sometimes not related to the delivery of the service itself. Even so, it was affirmed by officers and the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health that perceptions are important nevertheless, and Members were advised to take note of the indicators which attempt to quantify how people feel about their experience of the service. The work of the ASCOF therefore, is substantially to represent qualitative data in a quantitative measure.
- 2.2 Members expressed concerns around the delivery of reablement services. Assurances were provided that the figures regarding reablement services denote the number of patients who have actually taken up the offer of support, rather than a tally of how many times support was offered. Members expressed a desire to learn more in future ASCOF reports about the cohort of people who have taken up the reablement support offer.
 - 2.3 Members expressed an interest in any data that might explore a possible correlation between respondents' living independently, feelings of confidence, and perceptions of safety. It was concluded, however, that the ASCOF does not include any standard questions that would illustrate a potential correlation of this kind; and, as the survey had been declared voluntary for 2020/21, this data would also not be included in the next year's results. Whilst the Community Hub similarly does not collect data that would speak to potential correlations between perceptions of safety and personal independence, it was proposed that Community Hub data could be availed to indicate any increase in demand for Social Care referrals.

- 2.4 Further assurances were requested that the service has moved away from its historic over-reliance on residential care as a hospital discharge destination. Officers provided the clarification that historic over-reliance has since been reversed, as evidenced by a five-year downward trend in admissions to residential care following a hospital stay. The reasons for this downward trend bear explanation. Residents who have passed away have not been replaced at an equal rate, producing a drop in demand for residential care referrals. Over the past year in particular, this drop in demand could be attributable to COVID-19, as more individuals may be avoiding entering residential care at present, but the steady decline in referrals also signals that the social care pathways have been effective in helping people live independently at home for longer. At the time of this report, the residential care admission numbers were close to target level, at 260-300 per year. Therefore, it was suggested that analysis of the cohort entering residential care ascertain how many new residents had previously been receiving social care and reablement support which postponed their need for residential care.
- 2.5 Members expressed interest in receiving more contextual information around the ASCOF results of neighbouring authorities, who may have likewise incurred a data advisory flag due to the difficulties the pandemic has presented to data authentication. Members wished to know the proportion of authorities nationwide in a similar situation to Rotherham as regards ASCOF data collection and results, and insofar as such data may be available, Members requested that this be reported as part of the next ASCOF analysis.
- 2.6 Members requested that a timeline for planned actions in response to the ASCOF results also be provided as part of the next reporting, and that further reports show the previous years' measures in-line with the current year in future graphs and charts in order to provide context and a sense of trajectory over time. It was noted that this information was provided in the appendix, but it would be more easily read as part of the data visualisations in the report itself.

Service-related Recommendations

- 2.7 Arising from the ASCOF discussion, Members also proposed several suggestions related to social care. In respect of the ASCOF indicator around employment for people with disabilities, Rotherham's figures were noted to be below the national average; however, officers noted that this figure may not accurately reflect the progress that has been made. For example, individuals who are currently in training would not be counted as part of this figure. Officers and the Cabinet Member also emphasised the objective that people with disabilities be supported to participate fully in the community in the way that they so choose, which includes the choice to have gainful employment.
- 2.8 As exemplified in the discussion of reablement support and residential care referrals, Members noted the need for the provision of social care to have greater parity with the provision of health-based care, which has traditionally taken precedence in terms of both prioritisation and funding. This stance is echoed in the recent Government White Paper which heralds forthcoming primary legislation to this effect. It was therefore suggested that the service undertake preliminary policy and system design preparations that consider the implications of these changes in a Rotherham context.

2.9 Members further suggested that liaison with community partner organisations may help infuse valuable expertise into the place-based response around digital access and inclusion. In particular, the library service was proposed as a potential resource for furthering digital inclusion.

2.10 Finally, Members noted the need for a communications strategy to publicise the positive work accomplished by Social Care and the support schemes that are available to residents. Members emphasised the importance of getting the word out about the real progress that has been made and the many resources that are available now to provide support.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

3.1 Rationale for recommendations is set out in the main body of the report.

4. Consultation on proposal

4.1 This report reflects the consultation with Members who are themselves the elected representatives of the citizens of the Borough, and who therefore represent the interests and wishes of the electorate.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

5.1 The timetable for implementing the recommendations will sit with the relevant officers. Following formalisation of the recommendations by Members, it will become clear which officers will be responsible for each recommendation.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

6.1 There are no financial or procurement implications directly associated with this report.

7. Legal Advice and Implications

7.1 There are no legal implications directly associated with this report.

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

8.1 There are no human resources implications directly arising from this report.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

9.1 These are set out in the relevant sections of the report.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

10.1 Members have had regard to equalities when considering recommendations and other matters arising from the Sub-Group.

11. Implications for Partners

11.1 These are set out in the relevant sections of the report.

12. Risks and Mitigation

12.1 Members have been advised previously of risk assessments and mitigation plans, and these have been taken into account in their consideration of potential recommendations.

13. Accountable Officer(s)

Craig Tyler, Head of Democratic Services and Statutory Scrutiny Officer

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