

# Health Select Commission

## Adult Social Care Preparation for Assurance Peer Challenge Report

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and Health

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# Context

From April 2023, The Health and Care Act 2022 gave the Care Quality Commission (CQC) new regulatory powers to undertake independent assessment of local authorities' delivery of regulated care functions as set out in Part 1 of the Care Act 2014. Local authorities will be assessed against four domains:

- i.) Working with people
- ii.) Proving support
- iii.) How the local authority ensures safety
- iv.) Leadership

It is critical that the Council are adequately prepared for CQC assurance. Adult Social Care commissioned the Local Government Association (LGA) to carry out a Peer Review to gain insights into its areas of strengths and identify areas for improvement with a focus on preparing for assurance.

To this end, Rotherham Adult Social Care (ASC) commissioned the Local Government Association (LGA) to carry out a Peer Review in December 2023. This report details the findings from the LGA Peer Review Team and provides assurance on the actions being adopted to improve the delivery of adult social care for Rotherham.

# Key Improvement Areas Identified

1. Feedback Communication: Strengthening feedback loops among staff, residents, and providers.
2. Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) Assessments: Ensuring visibility and risk triage for community team DoLS assessments.
3. Carers Assessment: Consistently offering carers the opportunity for assessments.
4. Market Position Statements: Embedding these within Joint Commissioning Strategies focusing on long-term financial planning and housing stock utilisation.
5. Better Care Fund: Maximising BCF resources and embedding value-driven approaches.

# Positive Findings

1. Preventative Services: Comprehensive preventative offerings including Rothercare and micro enterprises.
2. Robust Processes and Assessment Management: A robust process for equality impact assessments and effective management of waiting lists and case file audits.
3. Advocacy and Brokerage Services: Strong advocacy offer and strong brokerage for care packages.
4. Quality Assurance: Strong processes for QA and contract management.
5. Informed Decision Making: clear Market Position Statements in place presenting clarity in relation to capacity and demand which informs decisions in the short to medium term.
6. Provider Support: Strong networks for providers in Rotherham exist and high CQC ratings for local providers (85% are 'good').

# Positive Findings

7. Partnerships: Strong collaboration with Integrated Care Board and Place Board.
8. Safeguarding: Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board (RSAB) are actively working on improvements (resulting from a peer review in 2023) and engaging with partners. A robust multi-agency risk management system around Community Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (CMARAC) and Vulnerable Adults Risk Management (VARM) is in place since the RSAB peer review. There is a focus on section 42 safeguarding enquiries with an associated action plan. Making safeguarding personal (MSP) is embedded in practice.
9. Political Leadership: This is strong and supportive of ASC.
10. Performance, Learning, Improvement and Development: The approach of the scrutiny board adds value, a focus on performance and learning from complaints to make improvements. In addition, there is a strong CPD offer and career progression is possible for all parts of the workforce. There is also a reverse mentoring programme.
11. Partnership Work: A strong partnership exists with the South Yorkshire Teaching Partnership.
12. Principal Social Worker: The PSW is knowledgeable and has strong leadership skills.

# 'Top tips' from the peer review team

Appoint an Adult Social Care Lead.	Learn from OFSTED inspections of CYPS.
Secure corporate support.	Encourage organisational self-awareness.
Enhance business intelligence capacity.	Clarify co-production approaches.
Engage leadership of health partners and integrated services. Provide political briefings.	Gather insights from partners and providers.

# Our Progress

## Work Programme Development:

ASC developed a work programme aligned with the CQC Assurance Framework, focusing on:

1. Improving feedback mechanisms, assessment take up and timeliness, and Direct Payments and wait times for care packages. (Working with people)
2. Strategic commissioning and financial planning, including the use of Care Cubed and strengthening relationships with the VCS. (Providing support)
3. Strengthened joint working with CYPS and prioritising community DoLS. (Ensuring safety)
4. Enhancing caseload management, resident voice, quality assurance and workforce communication. (Leadership)

# Our Progress

## **Workforce Engagement:**

ASC worked with Partners in Care and Health (PCH) during January 2024, to deliver a workforce event. This enabled staff to explore possible questions that CQC may pose, reflect on best practice and discuss any areas that they felt necessary in preparation for assessment.

## **Governance and Assurance:**

The work programme is reviewed monthly by the Adult Social Care's Regulatory Assurance Board. An internal audit from April to June 2024 concluded 'substantial assurance' of progress since the LGA peer review.





# Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

Action	Timeline
Work programme developed.	February 2024
Internal audit of progress to deliver the recommendations.	June 2024
Delivery of the work programme.	December 2024
ADASS Peer Review to review progress.	January 2025

# Questions

