

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO CABINET MEMBER

1	Meeting:	Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health
2	Date:	22 September 2014
3	Title:	Care Act Stocktake on behalf of RMBC
4	Directorate:	Neighbourhoods and Adult Services

5 Summary

The Stocktake has been completed as part of the Local Government Associations national audit of progress in implementation of the Care Act. The results of the stocktake of all Local Authorities will be used to inform the Local Government Association's understanding of councils' concerns, if any, about the implementation of the Care Act in 2015/16.

6 Recommendations

- **RMBC will continue to consult and work with all partners to ensure that there is successful implementation of the Care Act. The resource implications of the Act to be assessed and planned for.**

7 **Proposals and Details**

RMBC to fully implement the Care Act in 2015/16.

8 **Finance**

We have completed the initial estimate on the impact of additional demand for early assessments and carers assessments using a model developed by Lincolnshire County Council as requested by the Department of Health and ADASS. Other models will be used to further estimate and benchmark the likely impact on demand over the next few months.

The Government have recently issued a consultation on the funding formula for the new burdens of implementing the Care Act in 2015/16 in respect of additional assessments, introduction of universal deferred payment agreements and social care in prisons.

- Both proposed options would result in a reduction in funding for Rotherham of between £292k and £370K in 2015/16 compared to what was illustrated in the December 2013 financial settlement.
- It is expected that there will be an increase in carer's assessments, and staff time in carrying out assessments. The term carer will be much broader than the current act. It is expected that approximately 5357 requests for carer's assessments will be received in 2015/16.
- Those people who paid for their own care were classed as self-funders and were not eligible for RMBC support. Under the Care Act they will be eligible for support from RMBC. The expected numbers of self-funders who present themselves for a needs and means will be 667 for 2015/16.
- It is forecast that the estimated cost to RMBC of implementing the Care Act in 2015/16 will be £727,000. There is also a further estimated cost associated with demographic and inflationary pressures of £2000,000 for 2015/16.

9 **Risks and Uncertainties**

The resource risk implications for RMBC will be financial and the burden on staff to meet the increased demand for assessments. The Act makes clear that both adults (needs assessment) and carers (carers assessment) should be assessed on the appearance of need and regardless of what the local authority thinks is the level of their need and regardless of their financial resources. The assessment must consider how the person's needs impact on their well-being and the outcomes that they wish to achieve in day-to-day life. The adult's needs assessment must focus on outcomes of the person and the authority must also consult the carer. The definition of a carer has been widened and it is envisaged that there will be an increase in demand for carer's assessment. This will have resource implications for RMBC, particularly for staff to meet the increase in assessments.

10 Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

Under the Care Act, local authorities will take on new functions. This is to make sure that people who live in their areas:

- receive services that prevent their care needs from becoming more serious, or delay the impact of their needs;
- can get the information and advice they need to make good decisions about care and support;
- have a range of high-quality care providers to choose from.

11 Conclusion

The 2014 Autumn Care Act Stocktake highlights the very good progress that RMBC is making. The implementation of the Care Act will have considerable resourcing and risk issues for RMBC and other local authorities. The emphasis will be on identifying those with eligible need and on preventative services. Our staff will need to have in-depth knowledge of the care market and focus on enabling and prevention to reduce the numbers of people needing long term care. We are confident that we have the workforce and IT systems in place to meet the demands of the Care Act. Within Rotherham, the independent sector is well placed to provide services to meet the opportunities offered. Whilst there is concern that NHS providers have yet to fully engage with the Act, RMBC has engaged well with partners to ensure that Ideas and best practice is shared and developed both locally and regionally.

12 Background Papers and Consultation

The Care Act 2014 DoH.

www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2014/23/contents/enacted

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