

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO CABINET MEMBER

1	Meeting:	Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health
2	Date:	26 January 2015
3	Title:	Care Act 2014 – Communications, Updates and Briefings
4	Directorate:	Neighbourhoods and Adult Services

5 **Summary**

The Care Act 2014 represents the most significant change to Adult Social Care in three decades. It brings together much of the relevant legislation from the 1948 National Assistance Act to present day, repealing some laws and putting into statute some elements which to date have only been covered through guidance.

An initial report was presented to Cabinet on 16 June 2014, outlining the scope of the legislation and how RMBC is proposing to approach the changes. A key element of these changes is communication, and ensuring timely information is provided to key decision makers and senior manager.

Key information will be available in stages and it is proposed to manage this through a series of briefings. Key decisions will always be handled through Council decision making process.

6 **Recommendations**

- **Cabinet Member approves the mechanism of briefing notes to provide key information on the delivery of preparations for the Care Act 2014.**

7 Background Information

The Care Act 2014 supports legislation change across Adult Social Care. RMBC has established a Care Act Steering Group with a series of sub-groups and enabling groups. Each group has taken responsibility for delivering on elements of the Act.

These are:

Sub Group	Lead
Information, Advice and Guidance	Sarah Farragher
Assessment/Eligibility and Transition – the customer journey	Michaela Cox /John Williams
Finance, Deferred Payments, Charges and Care Accounts	Mark Scarrott
Policy Group	Michael Holmes
Communication and Customer Engagement	Tanya Palmowski
Commissioning	Janine Parkin
Safeguarding	Sam Newton
Carers	Janine Moorcroft

The groups are structured, each having Terms of Reference, Risk Log and Action Plan. The Risk Logs and Action Plans have been formulated into a single overall plan for Rotherham.

ADASS have requested the completion of two stocktakes, to date. The one completed in the Summer indicated that Rotherham had some risk areas. However these have been addressed and the Autumn stocktake summarised our progress as Green in 5 domains and Amber in 4. This places us in the top third of Local Authorities, and indicates that there are no concerns with progress.

There is a regional Care Act Group, led by Pete Lenahan, an ADASS project lead. RMBC is an active participant in this group.

The final guidance, which forms part of the legislative framework, was issued in late October, and now means that the pace of change has to significantly increase.

One of the sub-groups focuses on Policy Development and will ensure that all key decisions are supported with an effective framework of consultation, research, legal advice, equalities assessment and implementation plan.

There are other areas which will require the delivery of key information, such as finance, and it is proposed to produce a series of briefings to ensure key

people are kept informed of what will be a complex, intensive and broad piece of work. The attached briefing on finance provides an example.

8 Risks

- Key element of the ADASS Stocktake is information, ensuring stakeholders and decision makers are kept informed. This process reduces the risk of lack of information.
- Current Corporate Governance Inspection – resources are allocated to supporting this process.
- Information overload – that people receive too much information. Every effort will be made to ensure briefings are accessible/easy read and can be placed on the website to inform customers and others.

9 Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

The Care Bill Tracker will ensure that all elements of Part 1 of the Act are addressed. In addition, Part 2, which relates to CQC activity, Part 3 relating to Health Education England, and parts 4 and 5 which relate to integration and general orders will be reviewed to ensure that any related links to Adult Social Care and Public Health Services are known and addressed.

The Customer Engagement Sub Group will ensure that all changes are co-produced, ensuring that customers are kept at the heart of the process.

An Impact Assessment is being produced.

This process results in significant changes to Council Policy – both in terms of amendment to existing and new policy. Consideration is being given to the way in which these changes can be managed efficiently in respect of Council decision making and approval processes, including consultation with members, and Cabinet timetables.

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