

**COUNCIL SEMINAR  
9th December, 2014**

Present:- Councillor (in the Chair); Councillors Astbury, Atkin, Clark, Currie, Dalton, Doyle, Ellis, Godfrey, Gosling, Johnston, Kaye, Lelliott, Pitchley, Roche, Sansome, Sharman, Steele, Swift, Turner, Watson and Wyatt.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors The Mayor (Councillor John Foden), Lakin, McNeely and Reeder.

**CARE ACT (2014) UPDATE.**

Councillor Doyle, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health, welcomed Shona McFarlane (Director of Health and Wellbeing) and Nigel Parr (Development Service Manager) who gave a presentation about aspects of the Care Act 2014. The presentation and subsequent discussion highlighted the following salient issues: -

- The new legislation represents the most significant policy change, for adult social care, in the last 60 years;
- Changes will be made to the eligibility criteria (national eligibility criteria; people to remain living at home for as long as possible; a carers' eligibility criteria will also apply);
- Changes to financial framework ("care cap" cost of £72,000 per individual; Universal deferred payments scheme; non-payment; capacity of individual to make decision based on finances; local authorities to help individuals maintain their own 'care account');
- Move to information, advice and prevention – the duty for local authorities and partner organisations to provide advice and information (there is much information and guidance is already available from Central Government);
- Reablement and enablement – so that people receive assistance at an early stage;
- Emphasis on prevention (community capacity);
- Increase in carers' profile and rights to receive services; funding of carers' budgets; self-funders will be entitled to access support at local authority rates (further details are awaited);
- Safeguarding and the defined membership of the Adult Safeguarding Boards;
- Provider failure - Care Quality Commission regulatory activity;

- The Care Act 2014 replaces some existing legislation (eg NHS and Community Care Act 1990) and the majority of those previous statutory provisions are being incorporated into the new legislation;
- Financial pressures on the local authority – increased number of assessments to be completed, in addition to more carers' assessments; local authorities to receive the New Burdens Grant;
- Local authorities shall facilitate independent financial advice; more emphasis on advocacy;
- Disability Living Allowance – the impact upon an individual's finances;
- Scrutiny of finances (both local authority budgets and the management of care accounts);
- The impact of some care providers which charge 'top-up' fees;
- Key risks include the ICT infrastructure of the local authority, as well as the financial pressures;
- Timescales
  - January-March 2015 training and awareness-raising;
  - April 2015 - deferred payments information and advice; new assessments; carers' assessments
  - October 2015 - preparation for the implementation of the care accounts;
  - April 2016 - care accounts to be implemented;
- Carers of children with a disability – working alongside Children's Services to ensure individuals have a smooth transition to adult services (and avoiding duplication with adult services);
- ICT infrastructure – discussions with Northgate (the adult services' computer software system provider to this Authority).

Members of the Council will continue to receive briefing papers about the implementation of the Care Act 2014 and a further seminar will take place during March 2015.

The Officers were thanked for the informative presentation.