

Adult Social Care & Housing Scrutiny Committee

Agenda Item

Brighton & Hove City Council

Subject:	Adult Social Care Local Account		
Date of Meeting:	January 12th 2012		
Report of:	Director of Adult Social Services / Lead Commissioner People		
Contact Officer:	Name:	Philip Letchfield	Tel: 29-5078
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Key Decision:	No	Forward Plan No:	
Ward(s) affected:	All		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE/

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

- 1.1 From 2012/13 the Department of Health and the 'Promoting Excellence in Councils' Adult Social Care Programme Board' are proposing that every Council develops and publishes a 'local account' each year regarding adult social care services. This should say what adult social services have been doing over the past year, how successful they have been and what they plan to do in the future. Councils are encouraged to publish a 'Local Account' in 2011/12 on a voluntary basis.
- 1.2 This report outlines the approach taken in Brighton & Hove to the voluntary publication of a 'Local Account' in 2011/12 and includes a draft 'Local Account' document (appendix 1) that could be published as part of a continuing programme of consultation.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That the Scrutiny Committee comments on the proposals for producing a Local Account
- 2.2 That the Scrutiny Committee receives a further report in 2012 with proposals on the future process for delivering an annual Local Account .

3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION/CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS:

- 3.1 From 2012/13 the Department of Health and the 'Promoting Excellence in Councils' Adult Social Care Programme Board' are proposing that every social services department publishes a 'local account' each year. This should say what social services have been doing over the past year, how successful they have been and what they plan to do in the future. In previous years how well social

services were doing was judged through the national regulator, the Care Quality Commission but this has now ceased. The intention with local accounts is to allow local people to have a stronger voice in deciding how well their local social services are doing and what they should be reporting on.

- 3.2 Councils are being encouraged to produce a 'short, accessible' local account in 2011 on a voluntary basis. There is no national guidance on how to produce a local account and each Council will be trying their own approach this year if they decide to produce such an account. The learning from this will be shared nationally with other Councils to help in the production of a further local account in 2012.
- 3.3 In Brighton & Hove our approach is to :
 - 3.3.1 produce a brief local account of our performance so far during 2011 by January 2012
 - 3.3.2 consult with some key local organisations on the drafting of this local account ,given time and resource constraints
 - 3.3.3 publish the final local account on our website and consultation portal to enable more people and local groups to give their views
 - 3.3.4 present the local account at two key public meetings, the Cabinet Members Meeting and the Adult Social Care and Housing Scrutiny Committee
 - 3.3.5 produce a full local account that takes account of the local consultation and national learning in 2012/13 and thereafter annually.
- 3.4 Inevitably this first local account is still shaped by the previous national reports we provided to the Care Quality Commission. The performance information we collect and report has been developed within the previous national framework. We have tried to make it informative and interesting. We have also tried to be honest and be clear about the challenges that face us as well as the successes. We are committed to listening to local people as part of the consultation process so that future local accounts reflect better what they want to know about.
- 3.5 The local account is in 3 parts.
- 3.6 The first part gives some broad general information about social care services and the national context within which the services operate.
- 3.7 The second part of the local account provides information on what we have been doing in social care and how well we think things are going. For the first year we have used the 4 national outcomes for social care services set out by the Department of Health as headings through which to report on our performance. This is because these are things people say have the most impact on their lives. The 4 outcomes are :
 - Enhancing quality of life for people with care and support needs
 - Delaying and reducing the need for care & support
 - Ensuring people have a positive experience of care and support
 - Safeguarding adults whose circumstances make them vulnerable

Within the local account we have given particular importance to what local people are telling us about services either through surveys, complaints, plaudits and more general customer feedback.

- 3.8 The third part of the local account is a consultation which we hope as many local people and groups will respond to as possible. This will help us to make future local accounts better so they provide the type of information that local people are interested in and are in a format that allows people to hold the Council to account.
- 3.9 We have provided as many hyperlinks as possible in the local account so that if they want people can quickly access more detailed information on a subject. This has enabled us to keep the document relatively brief.
- 3.10 Although no national guidance is in place it is of note that documents which may assist in the future development of Local Accounts have been emerging recently, these include; 'Making It Real' (appendix 2), brief 'guidance' from the 'Promoting Excellence in Councils' Adult Social Care Programme Board' and most recently an advice note from ADASS on how safeguarding matters maybe included in the Local Account.

4. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND CONSULTATION

- 4.1 We are undertaking a two phased approach to the consultation process in relation to the Local Account. We have shared the draft document with the LINK and the Older Peoples Council to obtain some initial views on the content and approach to this. These have been included in the document.
- 4.2 The intention is to consult more broadly once the document is published on the Councils website and to use the consultation portal as a vehicle for this. We have a contact list of key stakeholders across the city who will be notified of the consultation and the use of the portal.
- 4.3 Nationally there will be a review of Councils experience in 2011/12 and this will help identify best practice. There maybe further national guidance and support following this.
- 4.4 Our plan is to draw on both the local and national experience to develop a local process for developing and producing a Local Account in future. If the Local Account is to be a local and transparent document then the process of production and opportunity for challenge is of as much importance as the content. This will take time and resources to develop effectively.
- 4.5 The recent publication of 'Making it Real' may assist in the development of a future Local Account and this brief document is attached at appendix 2.

5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 5.1 The development of the local account has been achieved through existing resources. Resources required for further development and production of an annual report will be considered as part of the 2012 report.

Finance Officer Consulted: Anne Silley

Date: 08/12/11

Legal Implications:

[Address legal implications, including power to carry out the proposals and any legislation that affects the proposals. This section to be completed/approved by the relevant lawyer] see [report writing guidance](#)

- 5.2 As set out in the body of this Report the Local Authority is responding to central government invitation to produce a Local Account ensuring service provision is informed by effective consultation and transparency of processes involved in Adult Social Care provision. There are no specific legal or Human Rights Act implications arising from this report.

Lawyer Consulted:

Name Sandra O'Brien

Date: 12/12/2011

Equalities Implications:

- 5.3 Local Accounts were proposed through the Department of Health's 'Transparency in Outcomes' paper and this was subject to a full Equality Impact at the national level. This is available on line at the Department of Health website. A local equalities impact assessment will be undertaken once the consultation process is completed and a future model for local accounts is developed and proposed.

Sustainability Implications:

- 5.4 The development of a genuinely local account provides the opportunity to focus more on sustainability which was not a strong element of the previous national framework.

Crime & Disorder Implications:

- 5.5 There are no specific crime and disorder implications.

Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

- 5.6 The opportunity management implications are covered in section 6 of the report.
- 5.7 Without effective local consultation there is a risk the Local Account will simply replicate the previous framework of national reporting. It will lack a genuine local focus and challenge.
- 5.8 Effective consultation does require resources and this development needs to be viewed alongside other competing priorities.

Public Health Implications:

5.7 The issues of well being and inequalities could well be a more significant feature of the Local Account as it develops.

5.8 Although no national guidance is yet in place some of the national discussions have considered the future role of the Health & Well Being Board in signing off Local Accounts.

Corporate / Citywide Implications:

5.8 The development and production of a local account supports the Councils priorities of tackling inequality (particularly promoting health and well being) and engaging people. There is an opportunity to develop a local process for adult social care services that is transparent, is open to local challenge and is responsive to local consultation.

6. EVALUATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTION(S):

6.1 There is an option not to produce a Local Account as it is voluntary in nature this year. This was discounted as a lost opportunity given the importance of the broader agenda that Local Accounts cover such as transparency, local engagement and challenge.

6.2 Resource and time constraints have been recognised and an achievable process put in place to deliver a voluntary local account this year.

7. REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 The recommendations support the Councils priorities in relation to tackling inequality and engaging people.

7.2 The recommendations support the opportunity to participate in and influence the national development of Local Accounts following the first years experience through a voluntary approach.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. Local Account
2. Making it Real

Documents in Members' Rooms

1. None
- 2.

Background Documents

1. Transparency in Outcomes
- 2.