

CABINET MEETING – 7 SEPTEMBER 2023

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY SHEET – PART I

Title of Report: Challenges of Adult Social Care in Sunderland	
Author(s): Assistant Director of Law and Governance	
Purpose of Report: To present the findings of the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee’s working group around the challenges facing adult social care in Sunderland.	
Description of Decision: To consider and approve the recommendations of the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee’s working group review into the challenges facing adult social care in Sunderland.	
Is the decision consistent with the Budget/Policy Framework?	Yes
If not, Council approval is required to change the Budget/Policy Framework	
Suggested reason(s) for Decision: The working group review recommendations are intended to help inform and support the future development of policy and practice in terms of adult social care in Sunderland.	
Alternative options to be considered and recommended to be rejected: There are no alternative options.	
Impacts analysed;	
Equality <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Privacy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sustainability <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Crime and Disorder <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Is the Decision consistent with the Council’s co-operative values?	Yes
Is this a “Key Decision” as defined in the Constitution?	No
Is it included in the 28 day Notice of Decisions?	No

CHALLENGES OF SOCIAL CARE IN SUNDERLAND**Report of the Assistant Director of Law and Governance****1. Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to present the findings of the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee's task and finish working group established to look at the challenges facing social care in Sunderland.

2. Description of Decision (Recommendations)

- 2.1 To consider and approve the recommendations of the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee's working group review into the challenges facing adult social care in Sunderland.

3. Background

- 3.1 The Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Work Programming session held on 13 June 2022 provided Members, officers and partners with the opportunity to discuss a variety of scrutiny topics, compiling a shortlist of potential issues for task and finish work during the coming year.
- 3.2 The first of the topics selected to investigate was the state of adult social care in Sunderland following the Covid-19 pandemic. The task and finish working group set out to conduct a focused, clearly scoped, and time-limited piece of work with clear objectives.

4. Context to the Task and Finish Working Group

- 4.1 The Council currently operates a range of commissioning arrangements for the provision of adult care and support services. Within Sunderland there are different provider markets which support the health and social care agenda. These can be broken down into the following:
- I. Accommodation based services for older people – Residential and Nursing Care; Extra Care Accommodation
 - II. Accommodation based services for people with disabilities – Residential Care; Independent Supported Schemes; Core and Cluster Schemes.
 - III. Accommodation based services for people with mental health needs – Residential Care; Independent Supported Living Schemes; Core and Cluster Schemes.
 - IV. Community services – Care and Support into people's homes; Day Care/Opportunities; Preventative Services.
- 4.2 There are 50 older person's care homes across the city, with an occupancy rate of around 88%, that deliver a mixture of general and dementia residential care, general and dementia nursing care, support for younger people with dementia and people with enduring mental health needs. There are also currently 12 Extra Care schemes in the city providing 848 apartments, of which 766 (90%) are currently occupied.

- 4.3 The Council currently has a framework in place with 39 providers who deliver home care having been accepted on to the framework and having successfully completed quality and assurance checks. More often than not, they operate city wide. This includes seven providers who are formally contracted to deliver care and support at home in zoned locality areas across the City. The framework providers are commissioned to provide care and support at home to all service user groups including adults with complex needs. There are a small number of spot purchased providers who aren't on the framework but who have been directly commissioned by Adult Social Care following the completion of a number of quality assurance checks. These spot purchased arrangements are used mainly when there is an urgent need for support and the home care market has been unable to respond within the required timeframe.
- 4.4 Sunderland also commission a variety of other adult social care services including, independent and health complaints advocacy, support and accommodation for people with learning difficulties and mental health, short break services and day opportunities that are delivered in both a building and community setting.

5. The Aim and Terms of Reference of the Working Group

- 5.1 The working group was established with the specific aim of looking at the challenges facing adult social care services in Sunderland post-Covid-19 pandemic and understanding the impact that Covid-19 has had on the sector including the lessons learned and how this is driving improvement and innovation across social care.
- 5.2 The working group consisted of Cllrs Simon Ayre, Malcolm Bond, Michael Butler, Allison Chisnall and John Usher; the group selected Cllr Chisnall as the Chair.
- 5.3 The following Terms of Reference for the working group were agreed:-
- (a) To understand the adult social care sector in Sunderland;
 - (b) To consider the impact of Covid-19 on adult social care services in Sunderland;
 - (c) To look at how issues of sustainability and resilience are being addressed in the adult social care sector;
 - (d) To consider the implications of new legislation on adult social care for commissioners, providers and
 - (e) To explore areas of innovation and development in adult social care and how they can support the sector going forward.

6. Drafting the Report

- 6.1 The task and finish working group gathered evidence from a number of sources and this was coordinated, on behalf of Members, by the scrutiny officer. Members gathered evidence from the following:
- Desktop research;
 - Use of Secondary Research;
 - Evidence presented by Key Stakeholders;
 - Site Visits.

6.2 Attached for Members information is an overview of issues related to adult social care and a number of recommendations. Some of the key areas covered include:

- Covid-19 Pandemic and Social Care
- Recruitment and Retention
- Raising the Profile and Marketing of Social Care
- Accessing Social Care
- Technology in Social Care
- Legislation and Funding.

5. Reason for Decision

5.1 The working group review recommendations are intended to help inform and support the future development of policy and practice in terms of adult social care in Sunderland.

6. Alternative Options

6.1 There are no alternative options.

7. Relevant Considerations / Consultations

7.1 The findings in the report are the result of consultation and evidence gathering by the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee.

8. Background Papers

Report to the Scrutiny Coordinating Committee on 4 July 2023

