

Progressing Association of Directors of Adults Social Services (ADASS) Local Accounts in the Region in Sunderland - Discussion Paper

1. Purpose

2. The purpose of this brief note is to set out how Sunderland City Council and its partners might fulfil the national and local requirements of ADASS Local Accounts, setting out an approach in terms of production and timescales for delivery.

3. Local Account Statutory and Local Requirements

4. The Department of Health's *Transparency in Outcomes in Adult Social Care* set out the requirement for individual authorities in collaboration with partners to publish Local Accounts, which will provide a narrative on Council achievements, outcomes of and future priorities for adult social care in consultation with partners. These accounts replace annual regulatory assessments and provide a greater emphasis on localism and transparency. It should be noted the Local Accounts will need to be validated through the local HealthWatch.
5. Local accounts are self-assessed and published by the Council and whilst there is no prescription of its format, but is expected to draw on a common set of data and information as part of this narrative. The Government and North East ADASS are also developing a new system of peer review by which Councils will support each other to provide the most useful picture of social care. This will mean individual authorities being able to review one another's accounts and share expertise.
6. North East ADASS recognized each Council will wish to implement the Local Accounts in a way that suits that place at that time, but would prefer an approach which incorporates a consistent regional baseline. NE ADASS are therefore committed to develop a checklist to help provide a consistent approach and quality of Local Accounts in the region, which will provide an element of challenge, including sharing regional performance results. NE ADASS has agreed to share draft Local Accounts across the region.

7. Proposals for Sunderland's Approach

8. The following section contains a number of proposals for the development of Sunderland's Local Account. However, it's important to reflect that ideally the development and production of the Local Account should be

integrated into the production of service planning arrangements in the Council: however, in the inaugural year, there is a mistiming between the two arrangements which will need to be addressed in the following years' Accounts.

9. *Format*

10. It is proposed that the format of the Local Accounts should be accessible to the general public in the spirit of greater localism and transparency, rather than a more "professional" account of the Council's achievement and priorities. As a result it is proposed the Account should be limited to a relatively short, readable form setting out last year's achievements and resident outcomes and 2012/13 priorities.
11. As part of the discussion of these achievements, it is recommended the Council should publish only key performance results, e.g. the proportion of people with self-directed support, but as part of the narrative, with the potential to include illustrative case studies. To facilitate this process, it is proposed that the Council's Communication Team should be involved as soon as possible in shaping the format of the Local Account.

12. *Engagement with Partners and Compiling the Evidence*

13. It is proposed an initial assessment included in the Local Account should be developed between the Strategy, Policy & Performance Management Team and the Directorate of Health, Housing & Adult Services from existing service planning arrangements, incorporating an analysis of progress during 2011/12 and challenges for 2012/13, including those identified in the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment. However, the evidence base, priorities and detailed format of the report should be developed in conjunction with feedback from:
 - Third Sector and other representative groups about the same issues – this should be through existing and ongoing partnership and engagement mechanisms such as the Adults Partnership Board or the Learning Disabilities Partnership both for the first and subsequent Accounts;
 - Feedback from primary sources such as the Reference Groups or the Market Resource Service recently or about to be established to help the Council understand individuals' experience of adult social care and for future priorities;
 - Assurance groups such as HealthWatch.

14. *Peer Support*

15. One proposal that will come before NE ADASS from the Regional Performance Sub-Group is that Councils should share their Local Accounts through the Sub-Group and agree broadly similar timescales to publish their first Accounts - early June 2012 when the results from

Council's local authority's returns will be available for comparison in the North East.

Proposed key milestones are:

- Report outlining approach to Directorate Management Team and Adults Partnership Board and other partnership groups (January 2012);
- Produce initial assessment of achievements, outcomes and future priorities (February 2012);
- Agree format of Local Account with partners (February 2012);
- Engage with partners and through Reference Groups to gather and analyse evidence about achievements, outcomes and priorities (January – April 2012);
- Circulate initial draft of Local Account internally and to partnership groups, including Adults Partnership Board (April 2012);
- Circulate refined draft to NE ADASS Regional Performance Sub-Group for discussion with leads in other Councils; and review other Council's Local Accounts (May 2012)
- Publish final validated copy of Local Accounts with more recent regional performance management data (June 2012).

16. Recommendations

17. Directorate Management Team to note the contents of this report and discuss the proposals.
18. Directorate Management Team to receive regular progress about, and receive an initial assessment relating, to achievements, outcomes and future priorities jointly from the Head of Strategic Commissioning and Strategy, Policy and Performance Management Team based on service planning, JSNA and other documents.