

REPORT TO: Health Policy & Performance Board
DATE: 10 January 2012
REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, Communities
PORTFOLIO: Health and Adults
SUBJECT: Adult Social Care Annual Report
WARD(S) Borough-wide

1.0 **PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1.1 To present the Board with the first Adult Social Care Annual Report (Local Account). The report is included as Appendix 1 to this report, with a proposed communication schedule shown in Appendix 2.

2.0 **RECOMMENDATION: That Members note the contents of the report.**

3.0 **BACKGROUND**

3.1 In past years all Local Authorities had a duty to report Adult Social Care performance to the Care Quality Commission (CQC) on an annual basis. The annual performance assessment consisted of both performance data and a contextual document which centred on seven outcome areas – detailing achievements in the current year and priorities for the forthcoming year.

3.2 CQC's focus has recently shifted to an increasingly regulatory role. In light of this, the role of the Department of Health (DoH) has strengthened in relation to the performance management of Councils.

3.3 To replace the CQC annual performance assessment, the DoH now requires Councils to produce a 'Local Account' which reflects annual performance in Adult Social Care, where local residents are the audience, as opposed to a regulatory body. This represents a shift in terms of accountability whereby Councils will become increasingly accountable to their local population, rather than to Central Government.

3.4 The 'Local Account'(Appendix 1) includes the following sections:

- Introduction
- What is Adult Social Care?
- Equality & Diversity

- Fair Access to Care Services (FACS)
- Adult Social Care and Personalisation
- Safeguarding Adults
- Examples of the type of Adult Social Services that Halton Borough Council Provide
- Paying towards the cost of your care services
- Adult Social Care Expenditure
- Priorities for Adult Social Care over the next twelve months
- How does your local Councillor contribute to the Adult Social Care Agenda?
- Your Views are Important
- Compliments & Complaints
- Contact Us
- Feedback

3.5 Publishing and Communications

Marketing and Communications Team have worked along side Policy and Performance Officers to make the report more accessible to the general public, as a statement of where the Council sees its services, welcoming the general public's perspective.

It is proposed that the Local Account be published as a Web-accessible document on the Halton Borough Council website. A proposed communications schedule has been developed to publicise the Local Account. This is provided at Appendix 2.

3.6 The Name for the Local Account

In order to reduce the possibility for confusion, it was agreed that the 'Local Account' be named as the 'Adult Social Care Annual Report'. This follows discussions with other Local Authorities who have steered away from naming the document as a 'Local Account', in case the intended audience may not know what a 'Local Account' is. It is perceived that 'Adult Social Care Annual Report' may be more self-explanatory.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Local accounts were mentioned in the Department of Health's 'Transparency in Outcomes: a framework for adult social care' consultation paper (November 2010, section 4) in the context of localism and transparency and in the subsequent 2011/12 outcomes framework published in March 2011.

4.2 Responses from the Adult Social Care Sector to the Local Government Group consultation on 'Taking the Lead: Self Regulation and Improvement in Local Government' also included many positive responses to the wider use of self assessment as a tool for improvement and local accountability.

5.0 **OTHER/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 It is proposed that costs will be minimised by publishing the Local account on the Council's website. Other North West Councils surveyed have adopted a similar approach.

6.0 **IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

6.1 **Children & Young People in Halton**

The Adult Social Care Annual report can be read alongside the Children's and Young Peoples Plan, demonstrating and describing performance in social care to local people.

6.2 **Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton**

Employment support activities to help people prepare for and find the right kind of employment are included on page 11 of Appendix 1.

6.3 **A Healthy Halton**

The Local Account is intended to generate awareness of Adult Social Care in the Borough. It is intended that promoting the work of Adult Social Care to the general population may offer residents an opportunity to access the necessary support available to improve their health and wellbeing.

6.4 **A Safer Halton**

The report also raises awareness that Safeguarding is everybody's business with communities playing a part in preventing, detecting and reporting neglect and abuse (pages 5 & 6 of Appendix 1).

6.5 **Environment & Regeneration in Halton**

Services provided by the Council in respect of Housing and Homelessness are included on page 7 of the Appendix 1.

7.0 **RISK ANALYSIS**

7.1 Failure to produce a Local Account for Halton may be perceived negatively by the Department of Health in terms of sharing learning and best practice. However, Councils are no longer mandated by Government and are able to exercise local discretion regarding how and when the Local Account is published.

8.0 **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

8.1 The Local Account will meet Council requirements in association

with the local equality and diversity policy.

9.0 **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF
THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

None identified under the meaning of the Act.