

REPORT TO: Health Policy and Performance Board

DATE: 8 January 2013

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director - Communities

PORTFOLIO: Health & Adults

SUBJECT: Caring for our Future : Reforming Care and Support
White Paper – Self Assessment

WARD(S): Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To present the Board with details of the Self-Assessment conducted against the recommendations outlined in the White Paper 'Caring for our Future: Reforming Care and Support' published in July 2012.

2.0 **RECOMMENDATION: That the Board Notes the contents of the report and attached self-assessment (Appendix1).**

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 On 11th July 2012, the Department of Health published the 'Caring for our future: reforming care and support' White Paper, which sets out the vision for a reformed care and support system, by:

- focusing on people's wellbeing and support them to stay independent for as long as possible;
- introducing greater national consistency in access to care and support;
- providing better information to help people make choices about their care;
- giving people more control over their care;
- improving support for carers;
- improving the quality of care and support; and
- improving integration of different services.

3.2 As outlined in the report to the Board on 11th September, there are a number of recommendations outlined in the White Paper that need to be implemented at both a national and local level and as such a 'task and finish' group has been established from across the Local Authority and Health to analyse how Halton are positioned in respect of being able to respond to these national/local developments when implemented.

3.3 The Self-Assessment outlines that Halton are in a strong position to respond effectively to the development/requirements of the White Paper and identifies a number of actions to be taken forward to further strengthen Halton's position in this respect.

4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 The Government will create a Care and Support Implementation Board, which will have ownership of the implementation plan for the White Paper, with members of the board assuring on the delivery of specific milestones.

4.2 The work of this Implementation Board will need to be closely monitored by the Local Authority.

4.3 As a result of some of the action points outlined within the self – assessment, this may result in the need to amend certain policies and procedures.

5.0 **OTHER/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 The Government stated that the White Paper was not intended to set out a funding settlement for care and support in future years and that future decisions on the overall funding in the system will be taken alongside other funding decisions at Spending Reviews and the work taking place on the funding reform. However throughout the White Paper the Government have outlined a number of financial announcements as follows:-

- £100m in 2013/14 and £200m in 2014/15 to be transferred from NHS to councils under Section 256 with similar conditions to previous transfer. 10% likely to be for reform implementation costs;
- £200m capital spread over 5 years for specialist housing schemes'
- Start-up funding of £32.5m from 2014/15 to develop local online information services; and
- Investment by NHS in end of life care pilots to be doubled from £1.8m to £3.6m

5.2 Future funding streams will be closely monitored by the 'task and finish' group to ensure that the potential to access funding streams is fully realised.

6.0 **IMPLICATIONS FOR OTHER COUNCIL PRIORITIES**

6.1 **Children & Young People in Halton**

Moving from children's to adults' services, at age 18, is a key transition point. The White Paper references the Government's Green Paper '*Support and aspiration: a new approach to special educational needs and disability*' which sets out plans to develop a new birth to- age-25 assessment process and a single plan incorporating education, health and social care assessments. The Green Paper also sets out Government plans to introduce personal budgets for families with an education, health and care plan from 2014. In addition, the Government aim to legislate to give adult social care services a power to assess young people under the age of 18.

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

None identified.

6.3 **A Healthy Halton**

The transformation envisaged by the White Paper will mean fundamental changes to the provision of Adult Social Care; the implications of such will have to be appropriately assessed and progress monitored.

6.4 **A Safer Halton**

None identified.

6.5 **Halton's Urban Renewal**

None identified.

7.0 **RISK ANALYSIS**

7.1 None identified at this stage, although the Local Authority and its Partners need to ensure that it is in a position to respond to the actions outlined in the White Paper, thus the actions identified in the self-assessment will be closely monitored by the White Paper 'task and finish' group to ensure appropriate implementation.

8.0 **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

8.1 An Equality Impact Assessment is not required for this report

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

Document	Place of Inspection	Contact Officer
Caring for our Future: Reforming Care and Support	People & Communities Policy Team	Louise Wilson, People & Communities Policy Team Louise.wilson@halton.gov.uk