

REPORT TO: Health Policy & Performance Board
DATE: 8th March 2016
REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, People & Economy
PORTFOLIO: Health and Wellbeing
SUBJECT: Care Act Implementation – Evaluation
WARD(S) Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To present the Board with the first of a two-part evaluation, attached at Appendix 1. The first summarises how the Care Act has resulted in a number of changes in the way Care Management carries out its various processes.

The second and more difficult part will be presented to Board at a later date. This will look at how these changes in health and social care are making a difference to the lives of adults with needs in Halton. Together these two reports will provide evidence of how effective the Act has been in helping adults with a long-term illness to live more fulfilling and meaningful lives while retaining their independence and active role in their community for as long as possible.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

That the Board:

i) Note the contents of the report and associated appendix.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 On April 1st 2015 phase 1 of the Care Act came into force and its principal objectives are to:

1. reduce reliance on formal care
2. promote independence and wellbeing
3. give people more control over their own care and support
4. Improve the quality, accessibility and importance of information such that it is no longer an add-on but a service

Achieving these goals has not been easy and required major procedural changes in the way social care was presented. This was compounded by both the short timescale that local authorities in England were given to embed the Act and the climate of austerity and local government cuts prevalent in the background. Hence, the local approach was to use as far as possible current social care staff, but to make changes in the way they carried out their role. In this sense, implementing the Care Act has become

an exercise in 'doing things differently.' Evaluating its effectiveness requires taking a closer look at what we are doing that is so different and then assessing how effective this has been in realising the four objectives above.

To help the Local Government Association, Department of Health and the Association of Directors of Adult Social Care Services conducted a series of regional analyses. These monitored how effectively LAs were adapting to the changes and the most recent (Stocktake 5) looked at the Act's impact 6 months after implementation. The rationale for the present evaluation follows on from this.

- 3.2 The report looks at both the national and local picture. It illustrates the cultural change that Halton has experienced since the days of FACS (Fair Access to Care Services) and stresses the four key shifts that have occurred in Adult Social Care and Support since the advent of the Act. Finally, it selects nine different areas (Safeguarding, Financial Assessment...etc) and looks at the changes that have occurred within each and in some cases provides some early analysis of how such changes have made a difference.

The Information section (pages 10–12), as an example, shows how some of the new changes in procedure can be measured. This will be taken up in much more detail in the next report.

4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 There are no implications.

5.0 **OTHER/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 There are no implications.

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

6.1 **Children & Young People in Halton**

There are no implications for this priority.

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

There are no implications for this priority.

6.3 **A Healthy Halton**

There are no implications for this priority.

6.4 **A Safer Halton**

There are no implications for this priority.

6.5 **Halton's Urban Renewal**

There are no implications for this priority.

7.0 **RISK ANALYSIS**

7.1 There are no risks identified.

8.0 **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

8.1 There are no issues that have been identified.

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

9.1 None under the meaning of the Act.