

REPORT TO: Health Policy & Performance Board
DATE: 18th September, 2018
REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, People
PORTFOLIO: Health and Wellbeing
SUBJECT: Strength's Based Approaches
WARD(S) Borough-wide

1.0 **PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1.1 Following a presentation to the PPB on the “Everyone Early Help Strategy 2018 – 2021, Early Help For Everyone In Halton – Children, Young People, Adults, Families”, during the presentation members raised a query on a reference made to Strengths Based approaches and requested additional information. This report offers a brief introduction to the presentation to be offered on “Strength’s Based” Approaches to the PPB on September 18th 2018 Board Meeting.

2.0 **RECOMMENDATION: That:**

- i) **The Report be noted**
- ii) **Presentation to be offered for information, and consideration by the PPB.**

3.0 **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

3.1 The Care Act 2014 statutory guidance for Adult social care, requires local authorities to ‘consider the person’s own strengths and capabilities, and what support might be available from their wider support network or within the community to help’ in considering ‘what else other than the provision of care and support might assist the person in meeting the outcomes they want to achieve’. In order to do this the assessor ‘should lead to an approach that looks at a person’s life holistically, considering their needs in the context of their skills, ambitions, and priorities’.

Local authorities should identify the individual’s strengths – personal, community and social networks – and maximise those strengths to enable them to achieve their desired outcomes, thereby meeting their needs and improving or maintaining their wellbeing.

3.2 What is a strengths-based approach to care?

Strengths-based practice is a collaborative process between the person supported by services and those supporting them, allowing them to work together to determine an outcome that draws on the person's strengths and assets. As such, it concerns itself principally with the quality of the relationship that develops between those providing and those being supported, as well as the elements that the person seeking support brings to the process. Working in a collaborative way promotes the opportunity for individuals to be co-producers of services and support rather than solely consumers of those services.

- 3.3 “A strengths-based approach to care, support and inclusion says let's look first at what people can do with their skills and their resources and what can the people around them do in their relationships and their communities. People need to be seen as more than just their care needs – they need to be experts and in charge of their own lives. “

Alex Fox, chief executive of the charity Shared Lives

- 3.4 The phrases 'strengths-based approach' and 'asset-based approach' are often used interchangeably. The term 'strength' refers to different elements that help or enable the individual to deal with challenges in life in general and in meeting their needs and achieving their desired outcomes in particular. These elements include:

- Their personal resources, abilities, skills, knowledge, potential, etc.
- Their social network and its resources, abilities, skills, etc.
- Community resources, also known as 'social capital' and/or 'universal resources'.

(Extracts from SCIE social care institute for excellence.)

4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 There are no policy implications at this time

5.0 **OTHER/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 None at this time.

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

6.1 **Children & Young People in Halton**

None at this time.

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

None at this time.

6.3 **A Healthy Halton**

None at this time.

6.4 **A Safer Halton**

None at this time.

6.5 **Halton's Urban Renewal**

None at this time.

7.0 **RISK ANALYSIS**

7.1 The Strength's based approaches agenda does not pose risks to the council at this time.

8.0 **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

None at this time.

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

| Document | Place of Inspection | Contact Officer |
|--|--|------------------------|
| Strengths based approaches | SCIE Website | Marie Lynch |
| Care Act 2014 | Department of Health | Marie Lynch |
| Chief Social Worker for Adults Annual Report 2017-18 | From Strength to Strengths-Strengths based practice and achieving better lives". | Marie Lynch |