

REPORT TO: Health Policy & Performance Board
DATE: 14th February 2023
REPORTING OFFICER: Executive Director, Adults
PORTFOLIO: Adult Social Care
SUBJECT: Draft Scrutiny Review Report – Adult Social Care Workforce Needs
WARD(S) Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To present the Board with the draft report written in conclusion to the Scrutiny Review of Adult Social Care Workforce Needs.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That the Board:

- i) comment on the findings of the Scrutiny Review; and*
- ii) endorse the Scrutiny Review and its recommendations to go forward to the Executive Board; and*
- iii) consider scrutiny topics for 2023/24.*

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 Commissioning of the report

3.1.1 This report (attached as Appendix 1) was commissioned by the Health Policy and Performance Board in response to the continued pressures across the Adult Social Care system in relation to recruitment and retention and considerations around opportunities for development and progression within the sector.

3.1.2 A scrutiny review topic group was called to action by Councillor Peter Lloyd-Jones as Chair and operational support being led by the Damian Nolan, Interim Operational – Commissioning and Provision. The Senior Service Development Officer from the Policy, Performance and Customer Care Team was present at meetings to record proceedings and considerations towards recommendations.

3.1.3 As part of considerations by the topic group a range of presenter were invited to meetings. From this the Topic Group gained oversight of national challenges facing the sector, regional workforce activity, and looked at the local needs. The latter included meeting with a number of commissioned provider services to better understanding their perspective, as well as hearing about the Adult

Social Care services structure delivered by Council employees, looking at their needs and what initiatives are in place to support them.

3.2 Scrutiny review

3.2.1 The Topic Group met between May and December with an open invitation to Members to participate throughout. The Elected Members involved in the review are named in the report and all Health PPB Members attended across the duration of the study.

3.2.2 Activity undertaken included:

- Monthly meetings of the scrutiny review topic group;
- Reports and presentations made by key stakeholders;
- Site visits to a care home and the offices of the primary domiciliary care provider
- The final draft of this report was circulated to participating staff to check for accuracy

3.2.3 The Board identified a set recommendations as a result of the Topic Group – these are set out in Section 7 of the report. Approval is now sought to take these recommendations forward to the Executive Board.

3.3 Scrutiny Review 2023/24

3.3.1 As part of Member involvement in the current business planning process a range of topic areas have been discussed for consideration for scrutiny during the year 2023/24 – a number of areas of activity have been grouped together under a single heading: Health inequalities across Halton and approaches to reducing them.

3.3.2 Areas of focus would be:

- Ill health prevention strategies and service provision
- Disease screening
- Access to health services (Primary Care)
- Targeted approaches to vulnerable groups
- Access to education and work opportunities

3.3.3 It is intended that a final topic and project brief will be ratified at the next Board meeting.

4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 As identified in the recommendations.

5.0 **OTHER/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 None identified.

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

6.1 **Children & Young People in Halton**
N/A

6.2 **Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton**
N/A

6.3 **A Healthy Halton**
The scrutiny review report and recommendations support the Council's strategic priority of Improving Health. Taking on board the recommendations from the report will support effective delivery of services across the borough.

6.4 **A Safer Halton**
N/A

6.5 **Halton's Urban Renewal**
N/A

7.0 **RISK ANALYSIS**

7.1 The issues highlighted as part of the Topic Group's enquiry pose a continuity of care concerns across all Adult Social Care services and the current activity to alleviate this situation, as well as work proposed further, is intended to reduce this risk.

8.0 **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

8.1 None identified.

9.0 **CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 This report is for information only, therefore there are no environmental or climate implications as a result of this report.

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

10.1 None under the meaning of the Act.