

# PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

16 JUNE 2022

## ADULT SOCIAL CARE REFORMS IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE

### Report by Interim Corporate Director of Adult Social Care

#### RECOMMENDATION

1. **The Committee is RECOMMENDED to**
  - (a) Note the update provided on Adult Social Care Reform implementation in Oxfordshire

#### Executive Summary

2. The purpose of this briefing is to provide the People Overview and Scrutiny Committee with background information on the requirements set out in Government policy and legislation on the reform of Adult Social Care and to provide an update on the approach to implementation in Oxfordshire.

#### Background

3. In September 2021, the government published its plan for reforming funding for Health and Social Care (Build Back Better: Our Plan for Health and Social Care) which included:
  - Implementation of a cap of £86k on personal care costs, setting this as the maximum amount any individual can spend on their personal care over a lifetime
  - Allowing those who self-fund their care to ask the Local Authority to arrange their care for them
  - Making changes to the current means test which provides financial assistance to those with lower assets
  - Delivering wider support for the social care system including workforce training and development
  - Further integration of health and social care systems
  - The introduction of CQC assurance for Local Authorities' commissioning of adult social care

4. In December 2021, the government also published its white paper for reforming the delivery of Adult Social Care (People at the Heart of Care) which sets out a 10-year vision and includes three objectives:
  - People have choice, control, and support to live independent lives
  - People can access outstanding quality and tailored care and support
  - People find adult social care fair and accessible
5. The integration of health and social care and the role of CQC in assurance of adult social care commissioning was further set out in the Health and Care Act which was given Royal Assent in April 2022.
6. The Government have also issued guidance to Local Authorities regarding the requirement to complete a Fair Cost of Care exercise and a market sustainability plan in order to ensure that the market is supported and funded appropriately to support these reforms and future innovation.
7. Further change to legislation is also linked to this wider reform, such as proposed changes to the Liberty Protection Standards and a proposed review of the Mental Health Act.
8. As a whole these measures a highly significant transformational change for Adult Social Care.

## **Approach**

9. Oxfordshire Council recognises the significance of these reforms and the impact they will have on the way in which care needs are assessed and met, and opportunities for working with stakeholders to further support delivery of innovative person-centred care.
10. Implementation will be managed through a cross-cutting transformation programme that will draw together expertise from across the Local Authority in order to ensure the best possible outcomes for local residents. Individual workstreams will be supported through a project management approach to ensure timely delivery and good outcomes. These will include:
  - Fair Cost of Care and Market Sustainability Plan
  - Care Cap Implementation and Means Test
  - Workforce Development
  - Supported Housing and Home Adaptations
  - Quality and Assurance
  - Liberty Protection Safeguards Implementation
  - Digital Development

11. The programme will be underpinned by a clear approach to communications and engagement that will ensure that residents, care providers and other key stakeholders are well-engaged throughout.

### **Progress to Date**

12. The Oxfordshire Way transformation programme has already delivered rapid improvement with reduced times from referral to assessment (46% reduction) This commitment to continuous improvement will provide a sound platform for implementation of the reforms enabling Oxfordshire to continue to support residents through high-quality practice and person-centred care.
13. Work is already underway to consider the impact of the reforms for Oxfordshire and programme governance is being rapidly established with a programme manager in place to drive delivery. Workstreams are being established and key projects have already been initiated, including to provide a respond to Liberty Protection Safeguards proposals, and to prepare for a new assurance approach through CQC. A Fair Cost of Care Project Board has been established and is meeting weekly and is on track to achieve the Government’s timescales.
14. The programme will draw on transformational work already underway in Oxfordshire including tapping into digital development and the use of technology to enhance processes, performance oversight and the delivery of care.

### **Next Steps and Key Milestones**

15. Programme Governance is being established with clear reporting and accountability to ensure delivery of the reforms and high-quality outcomes for local residents. Key milestones have been identified as:

<b>Indicative Date</b>	<b>Milestone</b>
June 2022	Programme Initiation
June 2022	Initiation of Fair Cost of Care Exercise
7 <sup>th</sup> July 2022	Response to Government consultation on Liberty Protection Safeguards
14 <sup>th</sup> October 2022	Submission to DHSC of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Draft Fair Cost of Care Exercise</li> <li>• Draft Market Sustainability Plan</li> <li>• Spend Report detailing how allocated funding is being used</li> </ul>

Autumn 2022	Publication of Fair Cost of Care Report subject to DHSC sign-off
Winter 2022/2023	Government publishes final Liberty Protection Safeguards documents
February 2023	Submission of Final Market Sustainability Plan
April 2023	CQC Assurance Framework launched
Spring 2023	Publication of Final Market Sustainability Plan
Spring / Summer 2023	Implement new assessment and financial processes in preparation for introduction of Care Cap and revised Means Test
Autumn 2023 tbc	Implementation of Liberty Protection Safeguards
October 2023	Introduction of the £86k Care Cap
October 2023	Introduction of the revised Means Test

Background papers: [Build Back Better: Our Plan for Health and Social Care](#)  
[People at the heart of care. Adult social care reform white paper](#)  
[Health and Care Act 2022](#)

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