

# **North Somerset Council**

## **Report to the Adult Services and Housing Policy and Scrutiny Panel**

**Date of Meeting: 6<sup>th</sup> July 2023**

**Subject of Report: Care Quality Commission Assurance Inspection**

**Town or Parish: All**

**Officer/Member Presenting: Hayley Verrico Director Adult Social Services and Housing Solutions**

**Key Decision: No**

**Reason: Update on progress in respect of future Care Quality Commission Assurance Visit.**

### **Recommendations**

Members of Adult Services and Housing Policy Scrutiny Panel are asked to note the report and its contents as part of their preparation for a future assurance visit.

#### **1. Summary of Report**

This report and associated appendices intends to inform members of the panel about arrangements for the assessment of adult social care and how preparations in North Somerset are progressing. Appendix 1 is a high level overview of the inspection process.

#### **2. Policy**

In 2022 the CQC developed a new Single Assessment Framework. The new framework will be used to assess providers, councils and integrated care systems.

#### **3. Details**

The Health and Care Act 2022 gave the Care Quality Commission (CQC) new regulatory powers to undertake independent assessment of all 152 English councils with responsibility for adult social care. The regulated functions being assessed are set out in Part 1 of the Care Act 2014. The CQC are undertaking the assessments and started assessing councils from 1st April 2023. The Health and Care Act 2022 also introduced a requirement for the CQC to assess integrated care systems (ICSs).

The CQC's new Single Assessment Framework provides for the assessment of providers of social care services, councils with social services responsibilities and integrated care systems. The assessment framework for local authority assurance was published in March 2023 and includes four themes and nine quality statements.

The lead officers for assurance in each of the Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire councils meet monthly to share information, learning and details of work being undertaken to prepare for inspection. This group has recently been extended to include lead officers from the Integrated Care Board. The CQC are working on a development of the of the assurance framework which will be used to assess Integrated Care System with implementation planned from April 2024.

The assessment framework for local authorities comprises four themes:

**Working with people** - Assessing needs (including unpaid carers), supporting people to live healthier lives, prevention, well-being, information and advice and experience of equity in outcomes.

**Providing support** - Markets (including commissioning) and partnership working.

**Ensuring safety** - Safeguarding, safe systems and continuity of care.

**Leadership and workforce** – Capable and compassionate leaders, learning improvement, innovation, experience of equalities.

There are nine quality statements. Three for theme one and two each for the remaining themes. (Appendix 2)

The council is creating a self-assessment of our strengths and areas for improvement based around these four themes.

The CQC will use six evidence sources to create the judgement about council performance. These are:

- People's experience
- Feedback from partners – providers, NHS, Police, Fire and Rescue and third sector providers
- Feedback from teams and council staff and leaders
- Observation
- Processes/policy
- Outcomes and performance data

#### **4. Consultation**

The assurance assessment framework has been developed by CQC as a coproduction with carers and older and disabled people. The department has been engaging with our own staff, as well as with other council colleagues, and plans are in place to test our self-assessment with stakeholders across North Somerset.

#### **5. Financial Implications**

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

#### **6. Legal Powers and Implications**

The Health and Care Act 2022 gave the Care Quality Commission (CQC) new regulatory powers to undertake independent assessment of local authorities' delivery of regulated care

functions set out in Part 1 of the Care Act 2014. High level enabling legislation was introduced through amendments to the Health and Social Care Act 2008. This created a new duty for the CQC to review local authorities' performance in discharging their adult social care functions under the Care Act 2014. Alongside this, the Health and Social Care Act gives the CQC powers to have oversight of Integrated Care Systems.

## **7. Climate Change and Environmental Implications**

Services which are well organised and delivered as locally as possible are likely to avoid duplication, reduce travel and increase online and digital solutions and therefore this programme is likely to contribute to the council vision of being a green council.

## **8. Risk Management**

This is managed via the Quality Assurance (QA) / CQC Steering Board and the Performance and Quality Board and is mitigated via the programme governance structure.

## **9. Equality Implications**

An equalities impact screen was undertaken on commencing the programme. The outcome was that the self-assessment and subsequent improvement plan will benefit all people who use council run and commissioned services.

Any implications for staff will not have any disproportion impact.

## **10. Corporate Implications**

The outcome of this inspection will reflect on the council overall. Where corporate input into preparing for the inspection, for example, updating the website, this has been forthcoming.

## **11. Options Considered**

None

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### **Appendices:**

Appendix 1 – High level overview of CQC assurance process and planning  
Appendix 2 – “I” and “We” statements

### **Background Papers:**

<https://www.cqc.org.uk/sites/default/files/2023-02/20230228%20Interim%20Guidance%20for%20Local%20Authority%20Assessments%20FINAL.pdf>