

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

HEALTH SCRUTINY PANEL

ADULT SOCIAL CARE – PREPARATION FOR INSPECTION

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1 To provide scrutiny panel oversight on the preparation for local authority inspection by the Care Quality Commission (CQC), which is due to commence from April 2023.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 The Adult Social Care Reform White Paper (People at the Heart of Care) published December 2021 detailed the introduction of local authority inspections by Care Quality Commission (CQC) to independently review and assess local authority performance in delivering their adult social care duties under Part 1 of the Care Act 2014.
- 2.2 From April 2023, CQC will therefore be additionally responsible for the inspection of councils who provide adult social care alongside existing areas of health and social care regulation.
- 2.3 CQC are co-producing their approach with councils and people with lived experience and engagement activities have taken place with providers, local authorities and health which have offered the opportunity to feedback on the proposed inspection approach.
- 2.4 The CQC model for local authority inspections is not yet published, however we believe it will be based on a series of quality statements underpinned by 'I' and 'We' statements to assess how we are improving outcomes for people and reducing inequalities. 'I' statements are based on what people expect and need, what a good experience feels like for them and are a method of capturing structured feedback, 'We' statements are standards to which the local authority will be held to account.

- 2.5 The proposed key lines of enquiry for local authority inspections are **how local authorities work with people, provide support, and ensure safety and leadership**. A presentation will be given at the meeting outlining what we know to date on the proposed framework.
- 2.6 The Council is engaged within the Humber region in establishing a programme of peer review to support with inspection preparedness. We are actively participating in the ADASS sector led improvement programme with local authorities from Yorkshire and Humber, North West and North East to determine what constitutes as best practice in each of the four key line of enquiry areas, to which we can benchmark against.
- 2.7 There are strong, robust inspection practices in place across the council which will support the development of adult's inspection systems.

3. **OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION**

- 3.1 To note the introduction of local authority inspection of its Adult Social Care service by the CQC and the preparedness locally as set out in the report.

4. **ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS**

- 4.1 Further updates will be provided once the CQC Inspection Framework is published.

5. **FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (e.g. LEGAL, HR, PROPERTY, IT, COMMUNICATIONS etc.)**

- 5.1 As part of the local authority inspection, CQC will make use of publicly available documents and any media attention or publications such as peer reviews, Safeguarding Adults Reviews (SAR's), complaints and they will study the Council website for evidence of ASC priorities.
- 5.2 Early completion of a self-assessment (30th September) will provide a current view of the service area and will assist with the development of an action plan. In addition, and in line with the approach taken by colleagues in Children and Families, and to ensure organisational self-awareness regular focused group sessions are in place to monitor action and delivery plans, update on information shared by CQC and where possible to learn from local authority inspections which have taken place (post April 2023).
- 5.3 At the time of writing this report no central funding to undertake these additional inspection activities has been made available to Councils. The

availability of resources to implement and ensure inspection readiness including capacity to respond is challenging at a time when there is multiple areas of adult social care reform and legislative change taking place.

5.4 Consideration is being given to how we support and enable the workforce through this period of change.

5.5 Whilst we are responding to the challenges set out above, the absence of additional resource and an agreed, published legislative framework is currently impacting on our ability to give full assurance on readiness for inspection.

6. OTHER RELEVANT IMPLICATIONS (e.g. CRIME AND DISORDER, EQUALITIES, COUNCIL PLAN, ENVIRONMENTAL, RISK etc.)

6.1 There are no implications on crime and disorder pursuant to section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998..

6.2 This report is a briefing on how the local authority is preparing for upcoming inspections of adult social care by CQC and as such there are no identified equalities issues under the Equalities Act 2010. Further considerations will be undertaken to support the implementation and adherence to the regulatory framework (once known).

6.3 This report is a briefing on how the local authority is preparing for upcoming inspections of adult social care by CQC. The council plan is identified as a key evidence document.

6.4 The local authority inspections will be rated, and appropriate evidence categories will be scored under quality statements to achieve a headline rating. The rationale and ratings have not yet been confirmed, but consideration should be given to reputational impact and the perception of the public and how assured they feel.

7. OUTCOMES OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT (IF APPLICABLE)

Not applicable

8. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION AND CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS DECLARED

Not applicable

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 Scrutiny panel are asked to note to contents of this briefing.

DIRECTOR OF ADULTS AND HEALTH

Church Square House
SCUNTHORPE
North Lincolnshire
DN15 6NL
Author: Charna Manterfield
Date: 13th September 2022

Background Papers used in the preparation of this report –

People at the Heart of Care: adult social care reform white paper



people-at-the-heart-
of-care_asc-form-prin