

COUNCIL
29 SEPTEMBER 2022

OVERVIEW OF ADULTS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

1. Since the last meeting of the Council, the following are the main areas of work the Adults Scrutiny Committee has undertaken.

Adult Social Care Reform Programme and Fair Cost of Care Exercises

2. We were pleased to receive an informative presentation on the Adult Social Care Reform Programme and the Fair Cost of Care Exercises from the Assistant Director Adult Services.
3. In doing so, the Assistant Director Adults Services highlighted the key points of the Health and Care Act 2022, including the Return of CQC assessment of Adults Services provided by local authorities, the Secretary of State default powers in relation to Adult Social Care, the introduction of Integrated Care Boards and Integrated Care Partnerships, the provision of Mandatory Learning Disability and Autism training, and greater professional regulation.
4. The Assistant Director Adults Services outlined the impact from an Adult Social Care perspective, which included charging reform requirements, fair cost of care – market capacity and sustainability, the CQC Assurance Framework and involvement with the Integrated Care Partnerships.
5. Members were keen to explore the comparison between the fees paid by the Council and those paid by a self-funder, and the scope of payments, and sought reassurance that service providers were in a position to adapt to the new regulation. We were also keen to understand the preparedness of our own Adult Social Care teams for inspection. Further discussion ensued on whether the national funding for the reforms would cover the additional costs.
6. We recognised that there will be challenges, and were pleased to learn that working in partnership would be at the core of planning. We were eager to understand the linkages between staff retention and the rate of pay, and the influence local authorities could have to provide more attractive pay arrangements.

Performance Indicators End of Year Report 2021-22

7. The Committee received a report to provide Members with performance data against Key Performance Indicators for 2021/22 at Quarter 4. The submitted report outlined performance information in line with an indicator set and Scrutiny Committee distribution agreed by the Monitoring and Coordination Group on 4 June 2018, and are aligned with key priorities. Twelve indicators are reported to this Committee, ten on a six monthly basis and two annually.
8. It was reported that, of the ten indicators reported at six months, two of the indicators showed performance better than at this time last year, four indicators showed

performance which had slightly reduced from this time last year, yet was still continuing to be monitored and managed, one indicator showed performance that was the same as at this time last year, and that three indicators were not comparable (being reviewed at a point in time). No surveys were completed in relation to the two indicators reported on an annual basis due to the ongoing Covid pandemic.

9. Members entered into discussion on the report including the rise in residential numbers following Covid and the impact of Covid on other indicators, and expressed a desire to scrutinise budgets.

Work Programme

10. Members gave consideration to the Work Programme items scheduled to be considered by this Scrutiny Committee for the Municipal Year 2022/23 and to any additional areas that Members would like to be included.

Councillor Bob Donoghue
Chair of Adults Scrutiny Committee