

Non-Executive Report of the: Health & Adults Scrutiny Sub-Committee Tuesday 26 October 2021	 TOWER HAMLETS
Report of: Denise Radley – Corporate Director; Health, Adult and Community Services	Classification: Unrestricted
2021 Adult Social Care Strategy	

Originating Officer(s)	Joanne Starkie - Head of Strategy and Policy; Health, Adult and Community Services
Wards affected	All wards

Executive Summary

This report presents the new, draft Adult Social Care Strategy (Appendix I) for comment.

It was agreed in May 2021 to develop a new vision and high-level strategy for adult social care in Tower Hamlets. The aim is to develop a “big picture” plan defining the strategic ambitions for the service, why change is necessary (including the financial imperative and insights from service users and carers) and the work packages needed to move us forward over the next three to five years.

Between June and September 2021, a programme of engagement was carried out to coproduce the strategy as much as possible with staff, providers, adult social care users and carers. A set of clear, shared themes arose from this work, and these themes have driven the vision and aims of the strategy.

The strategy is comprised of:

- A vision for the future of adult social care. This is as follows, reflecting what staff, providers, users and carers told us we should be striving for: *Adult social care enables people who need support to achieve their goals, be connected to others and be as independent as possible.*
- Nine aims to meet the vision. These are the same as the aims of the Tower Hamlets Together partnership and again reflect what we have heard from staff, providers, adult social care users and carers have told us.
- Ten work packages to meet the aims. These work packages have been defined through evidence, insights from peers and in feedback from staff, providers, users and carers. Each of the ten work packages is then described in more detail, in terms of what we want to focus on, what practical action we will take and what difference this will make.

The strategy is currently out for public consultation until 31 October 2021 and is due to be in place in early November 2021.

Recommendations:

The Committee is recommended to:

1. Note and comment on the draft 2021 Adult Social Care Strategy (Appendix I)

1. REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS

- 1.1 The strategy aims to articulate a vision for adult social care that is shared by everyone, describing the strategic ambitions for the service, why change is needed and the specific programmes of work to focus on.

2. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 2.1 Feedback and input from the Health and Adults Scrutiny Sub-Committee can be incorporated into the final strategy.

3. DETAILS OF THE REPORT

- 3.1 The development of the strategy was done via analysis, engagement and co-production. Analysis of evidence was carried out, including evidence and insights on practice and costs in Tower Hamlets adult social care. Analysis also included the findings of recent service user and carer engagement and coproduction, including:
- Healthwatch insights
 - Integrated Homecare (2020-21) Healthwatch Tower Hamlets and Almost Any How
 - Independency or learned helplessness: A co-designed day centre service model in Tower Hamlets (October 2020) Toynbee Hall
 - Reports submitted by Neighbours in Poplar
 - Consultation findings in relation to charging in adult social care and day support in adult social care.
- 3.2 A programme of engagement and coproduction was then carried out on the strategy itself, focusing on the vision (what social care should be aiming to achieve for people), the aims (what we need to do to achieve the vision) and the proposed work packages (what we need to focus on to achieve the aims). This was comprised of the following:
- A staff working group was set up, made up of representatives from across adult social care and integrated commissioning services. Part of the role of members was to get wider input and engagement from staff and providers.
 - Meetings with those with lived experience of social care. This included the Carer Forum, Older People's Reference Group, Healthwatch and 'Taking Control of Your Life' group.
 - Two workshops were held in August, open to adult social care users, carers and providers. These workshops were largely (but not solely) attended by providers.
 - Meetings with the Promoting Independence Workstream of the Tower Hamlets Together partnership were attended in July and October 2021. These meetings are attended by a range of stakeholders, including health partners.
- 3.3 A set of consistent messages arose from this activity. These messages are summarised at the end of the strategy and have driven the contents of the vision, aims and work packages.

The format of the strategy

- 3.4 The strategy is comprised of:
- A vision for the future of adult social care. This is as follows, reflecting what staff, providers, users and carers told us we should be striving for: *Adult social care enables people who need support to achieve their goals, be connected to others and be as independent as possible.*
 - Nine aims to meet the vision. These are the same as the aims of the Tower Hamlets Together partnership and again reflect what we have heard from staff, providers, adult social care users and carers have told us.
 - Ten work packages to meet the aims that will be focused on over the next three to five years. These work packages have been defined through evidence, insights from peers and in feedback from staff, providers, users and carers. Each of the ten work packages is then described in more detail, in terms of what we want to focus on, what practical action we will take and what difference this will make.

Consultation and next steps

- 3.5 The draft strategy is currently out for consultation until 31 October ([Adult Social Care Strategy 2021 | Let's Talk Tower Hamlets](#)), and all those who contributed to the draft are being contacted to contribute to the consultation.
- 3.6 The consultation documents are available online or via the post, and an easy read version is available. Meetings are also being attended (for example, the draft strategy was discussed at a Beyond Sight Loss meeting for people who have experienced sight loss on 10 October 2021)
- 3.7 The strategy will be updated at the end of the consultation, and the final version is due to be in place and agreed in early November.
- 3.8 A range of communication and engagement activity will then take place to make sure that everyone is aware of and engaged with the strategy.
- 3.9 We are also committed to ensuring that coproduction takes place in the delivery of the strategy with adult social care users and carers.

4. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 In working towards the vision and aims of the Adult Social Care Strategy, the strategy also aims to tackle inequality for the groups most impacted by social care: Older people, and people with a disability.
- 4.2 The strategy also makes explicit reference to the following actions:
- Provide a training programme to social care staff (in the council and commissioned organisations) that supports staff to take a compassionate, kind, culturally sensitive, anti-racist and empowering approach to support.
 - Carry out initiatives to ensure the social care workforce reflects the diversity of the borough.

- Target areas with the highest levels of older people living in poverty (for information, advice and early help)

5. OTHER STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

5.1 This section of the report is used to highlight further specific statutory implications that are either not covered in the main body of the report or are required to be highlighted to ensure decision makers give them proper consideration. Examples of other implications may be:

- Best Value Implications,
- Consultations,
- Environmental (including air quality),
- Risk Management,
- Crime Reduction,
- Safeguarding.
- Data Protection / Privacy Impact Assessment.

5.2 The 2014 Care Act sets out the legal framework for adult social care.

6. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

6.1 Any costs associated with the production and implementation of the ASC Strategy will be met within existing budgets.

6.2 Costs arising for workstreams aligned with the Adult Social Care Improvement Plan or the Finance Improvement Plan will be funded via additional funding resources identified for these projects.

7. COMMENTS OF LEGAL SERVICES

7.1 The Local Authority Social Services Act 1970 requires local authorities to exercise social services functions in relation to the residents of their area.

7.2 The Care Act 2014 sets out how these functions are to be carried out and statutory guidance issued under that Act gives detail as to how this should be done.

7.3 Section 149 of the Equality Act requires local authorities, when carrying out their functions, to eliminate discrimination and other unlawful behaviour; to advance equality of opportunity between people who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it; and to foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it. The protected characteristics are: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation.

7.4 The proposals set out in this report comply with the above legislation and guidance.

Linked Reports, Appendices and Background Documents

Linked Report

- NONE

Appendices

- Appendix I: Adult Social Care Strategy

Local Government Act, 1972 Section 100D (As amended)

List of “Background Papers” used in the preparation of this report

List any background documents not already in the public domain including officer contact information.

- NONE

Officer contact details for documents:

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