

MEETING:	HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD
MEETING DATE:	20 MAY 2014

TITLE OF REPORT:	THE CARE BILL - IMPACT ANALYSIS AND UPDATE REPORT
REPORT BY:	DIRECTOR FOR ADULTS WELLBEING

1. Classification

Open

2. Key Decision

This is not an executive decision

3. Wards Affected

County-wide

4. Purpose

4.1

The purpose of this report is to:

- a) identify where Herefordshire Council currently stands in relation to preparations for the Care Bill
- b) analyse what the implications of the Care Bill are for Herefordshire
- c) outline the implementation plan for meeting the requirements of the Care Bill

5. Recommendation

THAT: The report be noted, subject to any comments the Board wishes to make.

6. Alternative Options

There are no alternative options.

7. Reasons for Recommendations

7.1

The Care Bill will introduce a new legal framework for adult social care which puts the wellbeing of individuals at the heart of an integrated care and support system. The legislation will be effective from 1 April 2015 (2016 for certain funding provisions).

The Bill introduces a number of new duties for local authorities and will have significant implications across the whole of adult social care, and beyond – particularly in relation to finance, IT systems and workforce.

8. Key Considerations

- 8.1 As the Care Bill both consolidates existing legislation and introduces new duties for local authorities, an initial priority has been to conduct a systematic stocktake to understand our current position in relation to each clause set out in the Care Bill and to identify what we must put in place to be compliant with the new legislation. This analysis forms the basis of the report.
- 8.2 The changes required by the Care Bill must also be considered within the context of the existing financial and demographic pressures facing the adult social care and support in Herefordshire.

9. Community Impact

- 9.1 The Care Bill will have wide ranging community impacts, both for residents who are or may become in need of care and support and also for the local care and support market. As the regulations and guidance underpinning the Care Bill are not yet available, it is not possible at this point in time to specifically identify what those impacts will be.

10. Equality and Human Rights

- 10.1 By simplifying the care and support system, the Care Bill intends to ensure that all those in need of care and support are treated equally and with respect. Of particular significance is the aim of the Bill to ensure Carers are treated as equally as the person they care for.

11. Financial Implications

- 11.1 The Care Bill will have significant financial implications for Herefordshire Council. These are discussed in section 3.2 of the report

12. Legal Implications

- 12.1 When the Care Bill comes into effect in April 2015 (April 2016 for certain funding reforms), a number of new statutory duties and requirements will be placed on the local authority. The most significant of these requirements are outlined in section 1.3 of the report.

13. Risk Management

- 13.1 As the Care Bill will introduce a number of new statutory duties and requirements for local authorities, there will be significant risks for the council in failing to meet these new statutory requirements.
- 13.2 The initial impact analysis and systematic stocktake that has been undertaken to understand our current position in relation to each clause set out in the Care Bill and to identify what we must be compliant with the new legislation has highlighted three areas of highest risk:
- Financial implications – both the cost of implementing the Care Bill and also the costs of potentially more people being entitled to local authority support
 - IT systems implications – the existing IT infrastructure, in particular the case management system, is not able to support the requirements of the Care Bill in its current format
 - Workforce implications – the Care Bill will create increased pressures on

workforce capacity (particularly for assessments) and will also necessitate considerable learning and development across the whole adult social care workforce.

- 13.3 The risks and implications relating to these three areas, and an overview of the initial steps being taken to manage those risks are discussed in section 3 of the report.

14. Consultees

- 14.1 A range of officers within Adult Wellbeing have helped inform the clause-by-clause stocktake which forms the basis of the report.

15. Appendices

- 15.1 Appendix 1 - The Care Bill - Impact Analysis and Update Report.

16. Background Papers

- 16.1 None identified.