

MEETING:	HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD
MEETING DATE:	15 JULY 2014
TITLE OF REPORT:	CARE ACT 2014
REPORT BY:	Director Of Adults Wellbeing

Classification

Open

Key Decision

This is not a key decision.

Wards Affected

County-wide

Purpose

To provide the Board with an update on the progress of the Care Act.

Recommendation(s)

THAT: the progress of the Care Act, as outlined in the Briefing Note attached at Appendix A, is noted.

Alternative Options

- 1 The purpose of the briefing is to provide a progress update on the Care Act, which will place new legal requirements on the Council from 1 April 2015.

Reasons for Recommendations

- 2 The Care Act represents the most significant change to adult social care in over 60 years. It is therefore essential that the Health and Wellbeing Board are informed of progress with the Act and its implementation locally.
- 3 The Care Act received Royal Assent on 14 May 2014 and the statutory regulations and guidance which will underpin the Act are currently out to national consultation (until 15 August 2014).

Key Considerations

- 4 As the Care Act has now received Royal Assent and the draft regulations and guidance have been released for consultation, the council is beginning to develop a more detailed understanding of what the requirements of the new legislation will be when they take effect in 1 April 2015 (1 April 2016 for the funding reforms).
- 5 The briefing attached at Appendix A explains the most significant changes the Act introduces and outlines the implications for both residents and the council.

Community Impact

- 6 The Care Act is intended to have a range of positive implications for Herefordshire residents, including service users and their families and carers. These are outlined on page 1 of Appendix A.

Equality and Human Rights

- 7 By simplifying the care and support system, the Care Act intends to ensure that all those in need of care and support are treated equally and with respect.

Financial Implications

- 8 The Care Act will have significant financial implications for Herefordshire Council. High level estimates are included in Appendix 1. A more detailed understanding of the financial implications in Herefordshire is currently being modelled – a further update will be provided when these projections are finalised.

Legal Implications

- 9 When the Care Act 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 changes are explained in Appendix A,

Risk Management

- 10 As the Care Act introduces 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.

Consultees

- 11 Not Applicable – the briefing attached at Appendix A is intended only as a progress update.

Appendices

Appendix A – Care Act Briefing Note

Background Papers

None identified.