

MEETING:	CABINET
MEETING DATE:	24 OCTOBER 2013
TITLE OF REPORT:	ADULT SOCIAL CARE IN HEREFORDSHIRE: LOCAL ACCOUNT 2012-13
REPORT BY:	PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT OFFICER.
CABINET PORTFOLIO	HEALTH AND WELLBEING

1. Classification

Open

2. Key Decision

This is not a key decision

3. Wards Affected

County-wide

4. Purpose

Cabinet are asked to approve publication of the Local Account of Adult Social Care and Support 2012-13.

5. Recommendation(s)

THAT:

(a) the draft Local Account (at Appendix A) be approved for publication.

6. Alternative Options

6.1 There are no alternative options as it is a statutory requirement to publish a Local Account.

7. Reasons for Recommendations

- 7.1 There is a statutory requirement that a Local Account is published by all Local Authorities; the content and layout reflect best practice recommendations and has been developed in partnership and with community consultation.

8. Key Considerations

- 8.1 All councils with a remit for adult social care are required by government to produce an annual Local Account of services from 2012-13. This replaces the role of the regulator, the Care Quality Commission (CQC), in assessing council performance with a lighter-touch approach which emphasises local accountability and sector and peer-led assessment.
- 8.2 The purpose of local accounts is twofold: to communicate with and promote accountability to the local community; and to support benchmarking, peer review and sector led improvement.

The guidance leaves the format and content to be determined locally. The approach and requirements have been agreed as shown below:-

- Producing the document as a web based document, available online but easy to print off hard copies.
- Having a tone and style aimed at a citizen audience.
- Having the comprehensive underpinning data published separately and referenced, interwoven and analysed throughout the account. (e.g. statutory returns, user and carer surveys, complaints reports, CQC reports on providers, national census data)
- Being balanced and therefore credible – good news **and** bad news, both in context and evidence based.
- Giving the context of national policy, financial challenges and the range of organisations that deliver social care.
- Having a structure based on the national performance framework, (Adult Social Care Outcome Framework)
- Consulting and involving a range of stakeholders during the production.

9. Community Impact

- 9.1 This plays a fundamental part in local authorities being accountable to their communities. The Local Account specifically gives a true and fair outline of key issues and performance to residents and reflects and refers to the detailed evidence available. The document will signpost people with detailed interest to the underlying evidence base that will be made available through other media.

10. Equality and Human Rights

The Local Account, and the evidence it references, reflects the Council's duty under section 149 of the Equalities Act to:-

- advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
- eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Act;
- foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

11. Financial Implications

11.1 There are no financial implications

12. Legal Implications

12.1 All councils with a remit for adult social care are required by government to produce an annual local account of services. Local Accounts are referred to in the Department of Health's "Transparency in Outcomes: a framework for adult social care" consultation paper (November 2010) in the context of localism and transparency, and in the subsequent Adult Social Care Outcomes Framework published in March 2011.

13. Risk Management

13.1 The Local Account does not contain any specific/direct risk management implications.

14. Consultees

14.1 Herefordshire Voluntary Organisations Support Service (HVOSS), and all HVOSS members;
Herefordshire Carers Action;
Herefordshire MIND;
Age UK Herefordshire and Worcestershire;
Wye Valley NHS Trust;
All in-county providers of domiciliary or residential care;
Council Strategic Finance;
West Midlands Performance Network, Association of Directors of Adult Social Services.

15. Appendices

15.1 Appendix A: Herefordshire's Local Account 2012-13

16. Background Papers

16.1 None identified.