

Title of report: Home Care

Meeting: Health, Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee

Meeting date: Monday 20 November 2023

**Report by: Service Director, All Age Commissioning and Service Director
Social Care Delivery**

Classification

Open

Decision type

This is not an executive decision

Wards affected

All Wards

Purpose

To provide the Health, Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee with an overview of home care services in Herefordshire, both services commissioned by the council and the wider market. The report also outlines plans to support hospital discharge arrangements over the winter and provides information on the council's Shared Lives services.

Recommendation(s)

That:

- a) the committee consider the report note progress; and**
- b) the committee determine any recommendations it wishes to make to the executive for consideration.**

Alternative options

1. Local Authorities have a duty under the Care Act 2014 to meet assessed eligible care and support needs. The Care Act 2014 also places a duty on Local Authorities to shape markets and enable a sustainable and diverse range of care providers to deliver innovative and cost effective services that promotes the wellbeing of people who need care and support. Home care is one of the services that the Local Authority commissions in order to fulfil this duty.
2. The committee could choose to include further recommendations to enhance, improve and deliver the offer and accessibility to services.

Key considerations

3. The committee has requested the following key areas to be considered:
 - a. Domiciliary Care
 - b. Discharge to Assess
 - c. Shared Lives
4. The attached report (appendix 1) provides information on these areas.

Community impact

5. In accordance with the adopted code of corporate governance, the council is committed to promoting a positive working culture that accepts and encourages constructive challenge, and recognises that a culture and structure for scrutiny are key elements for accountable decision making, policy development, and review. Topics selected for scrutiny should have regard to what matters to residents.
6. This report provides an overview of services in relation to home care provided in Herefordshire. Impact on the community is considered within all commissioning processes in order to ensure that any negative impacts are minimised and positive impacts explored. In particular, home care services are often delivered in tandem with community groups and networks to provide holistic support to an individual. All tender evaluations consider social value, including delivery of positive outcomes for individual and communities.

Environmental impact

7. This report provides an overview of services in relation to home care provided in Herefordshire. Impact on the environment is considered within all commissioning processes in order to ensure that any negative impacts are minimised and positive impacts explored. All tender evaluations consider social value, with bidders asked to provide information on how they will minimise carbon footprint in delivery of services.

Equality duty

8. Under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, the 'general duty' on public authorities is set out as follows:

A public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to –

 - a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;
 - b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
 - c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
9. The public sector equality duty (specific duty) requires us to consider how we can positively contribute to the advancement of equality and good relations, and demonstrate that we are paying 'due regard' in our decision making in the design of policies and in the delivery of services.

10. This report provides an overview of services in relation to home care provided in Herefordshire. All tender evaluations include checks that bidders have equal opportunities policies in place and are compliant with the Modern Slavery Act 2015 and agree to align their business activities with the council's modern slavery statement

Resource implications

11. This report provides an overview of services in relation to home care provided in Herefordshire. There are no direct resource implications arising from this report, however there are resource implications in relation to providing these services which are managed within established financial processes and staffing arrangements.

Legal implications

12. The role of this committee is to help develop policies, carry out reviews and hold decision makers to account. This report is provided within the scope of the committee's role as set out in the Constitution.
13. The council's duties in relation to home care, for the most part, arise from the Care Act 2014. The Care Act places clear and on-going legal duties for the meeting and provision of care in line with eligible needs, as well as placing a duty on the council to shape the local provider market and enable a sustainable and diverse range of care providers. This then helps promote the wellbeing of local people who need care and support.

Risk management

Risk / opportunity

There is a risk to individuals if there is insufficient home care available to support them.

Mitigation

A range of different options, including Shared Lives and a secondary domiciliary care framework, are in place to ensure that the needs of individuals are met.

Consultees

The Chair and Vice Chair of the Health, Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Main Report

Background papers

Herefordshire Market Position Statement 2020-2025 - [Herefordshire Market Position Statement 2020-2025](#)
Herefordshire Market Sustainability Plan 2023 - [Market Sustainability Plan 2022-25 \(herefordshire.gov.uk\)](#)
Cost of Care Report - Home Care - [Cost of Care Report - Home Care \(herefordshire.gov.uk\)](#)
The State of the Adult Social Care Sector and Workforce 2023 - [The State of the Adult Social Care Sector and Workforce 2023 \(skillsforcare.org.uk\)](#)