
27 February 2020

Cabinet Member for Adult Services

Name of Cabinet Member:

Cabinet Member for Adult Services – Councillor M. Mutton

Director Approving Submission of the report:

Deputy Chief Executive (People)

Ward(s) affected:

All

Title: Adult Social Care's approach to Promoting Independence

Is this a key decision?

No, although this matter affects all wards in the City, the approach to promoting independence has been in place for several years, the proposals outlined in this paper detail how this approach is to be further developed.

Executive Summary:

A core principle underpinning the delivery of Adult Social Care in Coventry is that of promoting independence.

This principle has, at its heart, an approach to social care that starts from the premise that everyone we work with has strengths that can be built upon to promote recovery, live independent lives and be engaged with their network and the community. This approach starts from when somebody initially contacts Adult Social Care and any follow-on contact and assessments of the person's needs and the outcomes they are seeking to achieve.

In delivering this approach we use a combination of staff groups with different skills including Occupational Therapists, Social Workers, Community Care Workers, Outcome Brokers, Support Workers and direct care staff who work together with the person, their family and carers to achieve the maximum level of independence.

By producing the 'our approach' document we aim to make it much clearer to people what they can expect when they contact Adult Social Care for support, how we will work with the individual and their families and carers, and the further changes we will be making to improve our approach.

Recommendations:

Cabinet Member is requested to:

- Approve the attached document – Adult Social Care, Promoting Independence – our approach for publication

List of Appendices included:

Adult Social Care, Promoting Independence – our approach

Background papers:

None

Other useful documents

None

Has it been or will it be considered by Scrutiny?

No

Has it been or will it be considered by any other Council Committee, Advisory Panel or other body?

No

Will this report go to Council?

No

1. Context (or background)

1.1 A core principle underpinning the delivery of Adult Social Care in Coventry is that of promoting independence. This has been an established and recognised approach to the delivery of Adult Social Care that enables adults to maximise their potential to remain as independent as possible. Specific initiatives to progress this approach, that demonstrate its long standing nature includes:

- The establishment of Intermediate Care services in the early 2000's and the New Homes for Old policy which saw the development of Housing with Care as a means to enable older people with care and support needs to remain living independently in their own flat within a supported environment.
- The development of supported living for adults with learning disabilities to provide increased opportunities for people to be supported in their own tenancy.
- Discharge to assess pathways to support people to regain skills following a Hospital stay which is often a key point at which, ongoing care and support needs may present.
- Home based community independence services to support people to remain in their own home.

1.2 Our approach to promoting independence is constantly evolving and improving as our understanding and technologies develop. The 'Promoting Independence – our approach' document has been produced to set out what people who come into contact with social care can expect in respect of promoting independence and also indicate some of the areas we are seeking to improve further, these include:

- Increasing the availability of specific support for adults with a learning disability
- Extend the principles to adults with mental illness through working with our partners in Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership Trust, NHS and wider stakeholders to support people's recovery and enable them to build a better life
- Developing and implementing a Promoting Independence toolkit for all providers. This toolkit, which is being developed following an initial project with Skills for Care is expected to improve the extent to which a Promoting Independence approach is delivered in the future
- To create opportunities in community settings where people are able to engage with us about how they can maintain their independence without the need for direct social care support
- To ensure that health and social care staff work together more effectively in learning from people who have experienced support, to improve them and focus more on enabling people to live more independent lives
- Engage with organisations who are interested in developing Housing with Care and/or Supported Living in Coventry to ensure they are operating in a manner that supports our objectives
- Work with the wider Council in other service areas in supporting people to be independent. This can include the role of housing, employment and skills and sport and leisure, all of which play an important role in supporting people to live independent and fulfilling lives

1.3 As well as supporting the overall aim of Adult Social Care to enable people to live independent and fulfilled lives the approach also supports the overall ambition of the Coventry and Warwickshire Health and Care system, as embodied in the 2019 long term plan which is:

'We will do everything in our power to enable people across Coventry and Warwickshire to pursue happy, healthy lives and put people at the heart of everything we do'

2. Options considered and recommended proposals

2.1 Option One – Recommended Option

In the context of continual improvement, it is recommended that the production of the attached framework and next steps are approved. This will provide an external facing document on what people can expect from Adult Social Care.

2.2 Option Two – Not Recommended

As Promoting Independence is a core principle of how we provide Adult Social Care in Coventry there is no fundamental need to produce the attached document. However, a number of people who come to Adult Social Care for support have different expectations of what will be provided for, which creating the attached document will help to clarify.

3. Results of consultation undertaken

3.1 Not applicable.

4. Timetable for implementing this decision

4.1 Should Cabinet Member support the recommendations the document will be issued on the Council's website with the improvement work continuing over 2020/21.

5. Comments from Executive Director, Resources

5.1 Financial implications

There are no direct financial implications arising from the enhancement of our approach to promoting independence. There could be potential financial benefits from the reduction in spend associated with long term care.

5.2 Legal implications

This approach is consistent with the Authority's responsibilities under the Care Act 2014 which specifically requires

'a local authority to have regard to ...

- the importance of preventing or delaying the development of needs for care and support or needs for support and the importance of reducing needs of either kind that already exist; (s1(3)(c)).

In particular s2 of the Act requires every local authority to provide a range of preventative services that will contribute to preventing, delay or reducing the need for care and support in adults or needs for support in carers. Further the authority is required under s4 to ensure that information and advice relating to care is available for people in its area.

The publication of this framework is an important element in complying with the Council's statutory responsibilities.

6. Other implications

6.1 How will this contribute to the Council Plan (www.coventry.gov.uk/councilplan/)?

This proposal would contribute to the Council's key objectives through a contribution to protecting our most vulnerable people and using resources effectively.

6.2 How is risk being managed?

There are no specific identified risks associated with the recommendation.

6.3 What is the impact on the organisation?

Promoting independence is an approach already embedded in the service area, the proposals outlined will further enhance the offer and support for the people of Coventry.

6.4 Equalities / EIA

Not applicable as no significant policy change

6.5 Implications for (or impact on) the environment

None

6.6 Implications for partner organisations?

This approach supports the objectives of health partners.

Report author(s):

Name and job title: Neil Byrne, Service Manager, Adult Social Care

Directorate: People

Tel and email contact: 02476972765 neil.byrne@coventry.gov.uk

Enquiries should be directed to the above person.

Contributor/approver name	Title	Directorate or organisation	Date doc sent out	Date response received or approved
Contributors:				
Pete Fahy	Director of Adult Services	People	04/02/20	06/02/20
Sally Caren	Head of Social Work (Mental Health and Sustainability)	People	27/01/20	30/01/20
Ian Bowering	Head of Social Work (Prevention and Health)	People	03/02/20	03/02/20
Names of approvers for submission: (officers and members)				
Finance: Ewan Dewar	Finance Manager (People)	Place	06/02/20	06/02/20

Legal: Janice White	Solicitor – People Team	Place	11/02/20	11/02/20
Director: Gail Quinton	Deputy Chief Executive (People)	People	11/02/20	11/02/20
Members: Councillor Mal Mutton	Cabinet Member Adult Services		13/02/20	13/02/30

This report is published on the council's website:
www.coventry.gov.uk/councilmeetings