



To: Coventry Health and Wellbeing Board

Date: 24 January 2022

From: Pete Fahy – Director of Adult Services and Housing

Title: Social Care White Paper – People at the Heart of Care

1 Purpose

- 1.1 To brief Coventry Health and Well Being Board on the content and main provisions of the Adult Social Care White Paper 'People at the Heart of Care' issued on 30 November 2021.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 There are no specific recommendations associated with this report as it is a briefing document.
- 2.2 The Health and Wellbeing Board is however requested to note the following:
1. That the aspirations of the White Paper are positive and ambitious
 2. The resourcing to deliver these ambitions does raise a question regarding how deliverable the ambitions are in reality
 3. The issue of pay and reward of front line care staff remains unresolved
 4. That Social Care will be entering into a new regime of oversight and review by the Care Quality Commission likely to commence in 2023

3 Information/Background

- 3.1 The long anticipated Adult Social Care and Support white paper was published on 30 November 2021. There are three main objectives that the white paper aims to deliver, these being:-
- People have choice, control, and support to live independent lives
 - People can access outstanding quality and tailored care and support
 - People find adult social care fair and accessible.
- 3.2 The content of the white paper sets out a promising and optimistic agenda regarding social care. It seeks to address important issues of:
- Information and Advice - more help nationally on information and advice

- Empowerment of service users and unpaid carers - help more disabled people into employment; keeping open the possibility of allowing the public to appeal certain social care decisions; renewed push for LAs to offer more direct payments and personal budgets with associated support; commitment to revisit the national 2018 Carers Action Plan
 - The role of Housing - increasing the supply of supported housing
 - Improving pay and conditions of care staff - The only references to helping improve the pay and conditions of front-line care are the via the 6.6% increase in the National Living Wage
 - Care market - shaping a healthy and diverse care market
 - New technology and digitisation – more alarm systems, falls prevention aids, smart devices generally in people’s homes and care homes
 - Digital Social Care Records – expect at least 80% of social care providers to have a digitised care record in place by March 2024 that can connect to a shared care record
 - Prevention - more emphasis on whole family, whole system approaches to prevention linking closely with the newly formed Office for Health Improvements and Disparities (OHID)
- 3.3 It is to be noted that there is nothing additional in the white paper in respect of the critical issue of pay for those who work in front line care roles other than reference to the National Living Wage increase and as workforce is so critical in the delivery of Adult Social Care.
- 3.4 The white paper does provide greater clarity on how some of the social care reform monies announced in September 2021 are to be deployed across areas including; housing and home adaptations, technology and digitisation, workforce investment in non-pay related areas, support to unpaid carers, an innovation fund, improving information and advice, and finally, an increased support offer to enable adult social care to improve. The funding spread across these areas equate to £1.05bn over three years (1.65% of the total national spend on Adult Social Care for 2020/21) and is part of the £5.4bn announced in September 2021.
- 3.5 The white paper also provides a reminder that £3.6bn from the £5.4bn announced in September 2021 is to fund the care cap and financial thresholds and to help fund the “Fair Cost of Care” for which a subsequent communication from the Department of Health and Social Care on 16 December 2021 specified the requirement for each local authority to undertake a ‘fair cost of care’ exercise with an emphasis on residential care and home support for people aged 65 and over, and produce a provisional market sustainability plan by September 2022.
- 3.6 Within the White Paper a strong emphasis is placed on better data, assurance, inspection and intervention. There is indication of where the focus of CQC will be for when Adult Social Care becomes a CQC regulated service from April 2022 (once the Health and Care bill becomes an Act). These areas being as follows, which broadly cover responsibilities under Part 1 of the Care Act 2014.

- Maintaining oversight of the social care workforce in their local area, supporting staff retention and professional development
- Managing transitions between services, for example between health and social care, and the transition from children's to adults' services
- Preventing people from requiring social care in the first instance, for example by supporting and developing community organisations working on prevention and reablement
- Carrying out their safeguarding duties
- Ensuring good outcomes for people through effective leadership
- Managing their commissioning and contracting responsibilities
- Shaping the care market to meet people's needs with diverse and quality provision, enabling choice and independence
- Meeting the needs of unpaid carers
- Assessing the needs of people who may be eligible for care and support them to access what they need, whether or not they receive local authority support or will fund their own care.

3.7 In addition, the White Paper states that the matter of health and care integration is to be subject to a separate White Paper. No specific timescale for this is provided.

4 Options Considered and Recommended Proposal

4.1 As this report is a briefing paper there are no specific options or recommendations for the Health and Well Being Board.

Report Author(s):

Name and Job Title:

Pete Fahy, Director of Adult Services and Housing

Telephone and E-mail Contact:

Peter.fahy@coventry.gov.uk

Enquiries should be directed to the above person.