

THIS ITEM IS FOR INFORMATION ONLY

(Please note that "Information Only" reports do not require Integrated Impact Assessments, Legal or Finance Comments as no decision is being taken)

Title of meeting: Health, Wellbeing & Social Care Portfolio Meeting

Subject: Adult Social Care Inspection & Assurance

Date of meeting: 10th March 2022

Report by: Sharon Smith, Principal Social Worker

Wards affected:

1. Requested by

Cllr Jason Fazackarley, Cabinet Member for Health, Wellbeing & Social Care

2. Purpose

To update the Portfolio holder and spokespeople of the intention for the Care Quality Commission, (CQC) to inspect the provision of adult social care in Local Authorities and the potential impact on the Council.

To set out the intention to bring a cabinet briefing paper once inspection criteria have been published.

3. Information Requested

An outline of the decision making and process for inspection and the preparation required.

4. Requirements

The [Health and Care Bill](#) 2021 creates a new duty for CQC to independently review and assess the performance of local authorities in delivering their adult social care, (ASC) functions, as set out under part one of the Care Act 2014. The criteria against which ASC will be assessed has not yet been set out as of February 2022.

5. Self-Assessment

As part of preparation for the inspection ASC in Portsmouth will be assessing service provision against:

- The Southeast Principal Social Worker network 'Preparing for Inspection self-assessment tool'
- The 'Toward Excellence in Adult Social Care' risk assessment tool

The aim of using these tools is to set out known areas of good practice and identify where new information may be needed and where the service needs to develop practice. ASC will collaborate with regional neighbours through the Association of Directors of Adult

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Social Services, (ADASS) for peer reviews and to learn together in preparation for inspection.

6. Developing Practice

The inspection process is likely to commence from April 2023, however CQC have not yet published the framework, this is anticipated during 2022. The process is likely to be based on data submitted through existing returns, self-assessment, sector-led improvements and an annual inspection exercise.

ASC are developing the service Quality Assurance Framework and strengthening governance arrangements in oversight of service provision. The work will be managed as a project and have a central point of knowledge and improvement work through a governance group. The service has developed practice tools to support a consistent approach to quality assurance across the service.

ASC has an ongoing project to refine data collection and improve data capture through the System1 recording system. This will be essential in being able to meet data return requirements from CQC/DHSC. Practice and recording reviews are in place and learning panels are being established with practitioners. Reviewing practice quality, and focussing learning and development on improvement, will enable us to know our areas for development and action plan.

The last national inspection of ASC was over 10 years ago and, in the intervening period, savings decisions have been made which has affected the capacity of the service to prepare for and respond to inspection. The service will be recruiting a performance manager to strengthen our preparation, given the limited management capacity in ASC.

Given the position of ASC as the largest financial commitment in the Council, when the full inspection framework is published, the service will seek to bring a paper to the Council's Cabinet. The purpose of this is part of good governance, to provide assurance to the Council on how well prepared the service is for inspection.

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Signed by (Director)

Appendices:

Background list of documents: Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972

The following documents disclose facts or matters, which have been relied upon to a material extent by the author in preparing this report:

Title of document	Location