

SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Health Scrutiny Panel **DATE:** 31st March 2021
CONTACT OFFICER: Alan Sinclair Executive Director People (Adults)
(For all Enquiries) 01753 875752
WARD(S): All

PART I **FOR COMMENT & CONSIDERATION**

ADULT SOCIAL CARE STRATEGY AND BUDGET

1. **Purpose of Report**

To update members of the Health Scrutiny Panel on the delivery of the adult social care strategy, the expected outturn for 2020/21, the proposed budget for adult social services in Slough in 2021/2022 and a summary of the new adult social care transformation programme.

2. **Recommendation(s)/Proposed Action**

The Panel is requested to note the report and comment on the financial position facing adult social care services in Slough and the new adult social care transformation programme and receive an update on progress in 6 months.

3. **The Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy, the JSNA and the Five Year Plan**

Adult social care services in Slough are particularly focused on meeting Outcome Two of the five priority outcomes in the Council's Five Year Plan:

- Our people will be healthier and manage their own care needs

The effective scrutiny of the council's decision making and the work of adult social care underpins the delivery of all four of the Joint Slough Wellbeing Strategy priorities:

- Starting Well
- Integration
- Strong, healthy and attractive neighbourhoods
- Workplace Health

4. **Other Implications**

- (a) Financial – There are no financial implications directly resulting from the recommendations of this report.
- (b) Risks – there are no risks arising from the recommendations of this report. There will though be a risk plan in place for the adult social care programme as it develops.

There are also potential significant unknown risks due to the pandemic as demand for social care service could rise above expected and planned levels and provider viability may be impacted. These risks will be managed through the transformation programme.

- (c) Human Rights Act and Other Legal Implications - There are no direct legal implications. The specific activity in the adult social care strategy and the new transformation programme and activities may have legal implications which will be brought to the attention of the Council's Cabinet and Health Scrutiny panel separately. There are no Human Rights Act Implications.
- (d) Equalities Impact Assessment – impact assessments have been completed for all the savings identified by adult social care for 2021/22 and all business cases in the new adult social care transformation programme will have new equality impact assessments.

5. **Supporting Information**

5.1 **Adult Social Care Strategy**

Slough adult social care aims to improve the outcomes of our residents and their carers by enabling people to do more for themselves, focusing on people's strengths even at points of crisis in their lives, by connecting them to their interests and communities and a network of wellbeing, care and support services.

Our strategic aims are to support Slough residents with adult social care needs and their carers, to enable people to:

- Maintain their health and wellbeing.
- Manage their own care and support needs.
- Live independently in their own homes for as long as possible.
- Have control over the support they receive.
- Avoid hospital admission unless clinically necessary.
- Be safe.

5.2 The last year has been one of the difficult and challenging years that adult social care has faced. The impact of the pandemic on people who require adult social care services has been significant and has been a priority for the council.

Key achievements have been:

- Continued to deliver all aspects of adult social care services with most staff working remotely but face to face services being delivered where needed with staff using appropriate PPE.
- Day services have been closed and peoples needs have either been supported at home or through other means such as meeting in the park when that was possible between national or local 'lockdowns'
- Safeguarding work has increased and been prioritised
- Support including financial support has been provided to all Slough providers. Regular meetings and newsletter updates have been provided
- Continued good performance in supporting people to remain living independently at home.
- Continued good performance in supporting people home in a timely way after a hospital admission including those people who have been covid+
- The Slough co-production network has continued to meet remotely

- Good partnership working with leadership during the pandemic via the Slough health and care partnership that has met remotely every two weeks.

5.3 **Financial Position of Slough Adult Social Care 2020/21**

The budget for adult social care for 2020/21 is £40.3m

The forecast outturn for adult social care is approximately a £3million overspend which has been significantly impacted by the covid pandemic which accounts for approximately £2m of this overspend.

The main reasons for this overspend are:

- Direct covid costs – such as PPE purchase, additional funding to care providers, additional staffing costs
- Indirect covid costs - such as no capacity to deliver expected savings
- An increasing number of people needing support.
- An increase in the complexity of people’s needs – especially of those people who are already known to social care.
- Increases in prices, due to the increase in the living wage and also covid impact

Nationally, we know that most, if not all, of the councils who provide social care services are facing similar pressures. We are still waiting for an announcement from the government with proposals for the sustainable future funding of adult social care.

5.4 **Adult Social Care Proposed Savings and Growth 2021/2022**

As the budget planning cycle started for 2021/22 it was clear that there were significant financial pressures of approx. £2m and service pressures as a result of the pandemic and growing demand over the last few years. In recognition of this the council engaged an external organisation People Too to support the adult social care service review its strategy and financial strategy.

As part of this work a new adult social care transformation programme is being developed and areas of savings and growth have been agreed by cabinet and Council for 2021/22. The growth is primarily due to demographic changes, meeting the needs of young people in transition to adult services and the increasing need for social care services.

Proposed Budget for 21/22 is £42.26m

Summary of agreed growth:

Care Act burdens £25,000
 Transition £70,000
 Demography £700,000
 Contract Inflation £1,104,000
 Contingency/Increased demand £2,000,000
 Total £3,899,000

Summary of Agreed Savings

Day services redesign £350,000
 Healthwatch contract saving £21,000
 Deprivation of Liberty costs £40,000

Mental Health staffing savings £86,000
Transformation programme £1,445,000
Total £1,942,000

5.5 **Adult Social Care Transformation Programme 2021-24**

Further information on the programme will be provided in a presentation to the Panel on the 31st March. The programme will report into the Our Futures Programme Board

The programme will cover:

- Communications and Engagement
- Practice development – including strength-based working, locality working, personalisation, joint funding arrangements with the NHS, a new agreement for integrated mental health services
- Market management – including development of a new shared lives scheme, day opportunities redesign, improvements in the purchasing of care, costs of care and developing a range of accommodation options to support people to live independently in the community.
- Preparation for adulthood – improving the outcomes for young people with social care needs as they move into adult services.
- Targeted interventions – deep dives into the reablement service and internal provider services.
- Digital and IT - linked to the wider ambitions of the Council to be digital by default

Business cases are being developed to confirm the specific actions for each of the workstreams and confirmation of the savings levels that will be delivered over the coming years.

6. **Comments of Other Committees**

The adult social care growth and savings have been agreed by February cabinet and March Council as part of the medium-term financial strategy.

7. **Conclusion**

This report has outlined the current financial position of adult social care in Slough, the proposed budget for the next financial year and the new adult social care transformation programme.

Nationally and locally there is and will be increasing pressure on adult social services to meet the increasing needs of older and disabled people particularly as we step out of the pandemic. The immediate national challenge is to provide certainty regarding the funding available to social care over the next few years rather than the reliance of in year one off funding.

8. **Appendices Attached**

None

9. **Background Papers**

None.