

Preparing for Care Quality Commission Assurance

Reference Number: PAF/11/23

Report title: Preparing for Care Quality Commission Assurance	
Report to: People and Families Policy and Scrutiny Committee	
Report author: Nick Presmeg, Executive Director for Adult Social Care	
Date: 8 June 2023	For: Consideration and identifying any follow-up scrutiny actions
Enquiries to: Clare Hardy, Head of Strategy & Innovation clare.hardy@essex.gov.uk	
County Divisions affected: County wide	

1. Introduction

This item has been requested by the Chairman, in consultation with and after discussion with the Cabinet Member and Lead Officer to understand how the Council is preparing for the new Care Quality Commission Assurance Framework.

2. Action required

The Committee is asked to consider:

- (i) **The attached update on how Adult Social Care is preparing for the new Care Quality Commission assurance framework.**
- (ii) **The learning and priority areas for focus arising from the self-assessment, peer challenge and regional sector led improvement activities.**
- (iii) **Identify any follow-up scrutiny actions.**

3. Background

- 3.1 The Health & Social Care Act 2022 established a new duty for the Care Quality Commission (CQC) to quality assurance how local authorities discharge their adult social care responsibilities. Adult Social Care has used the first part of 2023 to reflect and take stock on how the function had reset post pandemic. Essex County Council (ECC) wants to ensure that it is focused on quality, effectiveness, value for money and is enabling personalised outcomes for local people, which will put ECC in the best place possible for the CQC assurance.
- 3.2 The People and Families Committee has had a private briefing session on the responsibilities of CQC in relation to its new duties covering Local Authorities to enable it to now focus on the specific preparation being undertaken by ECC.

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4. Update and Next Steps

Adult Social Care has recently completed a self-assessment, a Local Government Association peer challenge and a range of sector led improvement activities. The attached presentation sets out the activities it has undertaken and the key insight gained from these processes. Following this period of reflection Adult Social Care has prioritised 5 key areas of focus:

- 1) Carers
- 2) Lived experience & coproduction
- 3) People Waiting & Operational Service Efficiency
- 4) Safeguarding
- 5) Equality, Diversity and Inclusion.

Directors are now putting in place plans to ensure we deliver improvements in these areas.

Expected attendees to support the discussion:

Cllr John Spence, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care & Health
Nick Presmeg, Executive Director, Adult Social Care
Clare Hardy, Head of Strategy & Innovation

5 Appendix

Power Point presentation titled: Preparing for Care Quality Commission Assurance
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