COP/03/12

Policy & Scrutiny Committee Community and Older People

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Update report on Adult Social Care Local Account

Purpose of Report

For Scrutiny to note the first "Local Account" which describes the performance of the Council in delivering adult social care services for 2010-11. Local Accounts are a key component of the new performance framework for adult social care and as such the Association of Directors of Social Services (ADASS) have requested that Councils produce their first local account describing their performance in delivering adult social care services for the year 2010/11. It is likely that Local Accounts will become a statutory requirement in future years.

General Background

In response to the coalition governments drive to move away from "top down" performance management regimes and achieve greater transparency and accountability for public services to local citizens the Department of Health consulted on a new outcomes framework for adult social care in 2011. (*Transparency in Outcomes: A Framework for quality in adult social care – Department of Health, March 2011*)

A key component of the new framework is the development of "Local Accounts" which describe the performance of adult social care services to local citizens. The Association of Directors of Social Services (ADASS) wrote to Councils in autumn 2011 requesting that authorities publish their first local account for the performance year (2010-11). Councils were given the freedom to decide the content and format of their local accounts.

The local account replaces the self assessment that contributed to the previous performance assessment process undertaken by the Care Quality Commission.

The Essex "Local Account" summarises the key challenges faced by adult social care services, and how the council is working with key partners to ensure the continuation of quality services for our most vulnerable residents.

