



Implementation of the Care Act
City of York Council
Internal Audit Memo

Service Area: Adult Social Services

Responsible Officer: Assistant Director Adult Social Services

Date Issued: 6th October 2015

Introduction and Initial Enquiries

- 1.0 The Care Act 2014 was brought in with the aim of promoting people's independence and well-being, and giving people more control of their own care and support.
- 1.1 Changes stemming from the introduction of the Care Act have been split by the Department of Health into two phases. Requirements introduced as part of phase 1 came into effect from April 2015. Phase 1 requirements largely focussed on the service provision, including assessments for carers, provision of independent advocates and a new framework for adult safeguarding.
- 1.2 As part of the implementation a number of nationally required stocktakes have been undertaken to assess councils' level of preparation for the requirements of the Care Act.
- 1.3 Phase two was to focus on financial changes including a cap on the amount that an individual has to pay towards their own care, and an increase in the threshold at which people start to contribute to their own care. Phase 2 was due to come into effect from April 2016. On 17th July 2015 it was announced that the changes due to come into force as part of phase 2 were being delayed until 2020.
- 1.4 As part of the 2015-16 Audit plan time was allocated to consider the implementation of phase 1 and preparation for phase 2. This memo is a summary of the position of the authority as of September 2015.

Findings - Phase 1

- 2.0 The authority was required to undertake three stocktakes in 2014/15, with the latest stocktake of the year being due in February 2015. The authority submitted stock take 4 in June 2015. The stocktakes act as a self assessment for the council to gauge how prepared it is for the changes. The stocktakes indicates that the council was or would be ready for the changes that came in from April 2015. The stocktake is not required to be submitted with supporting evidence.
- 2.1 The Care Act introduced a requirement for provision to be put in place for delivering care for prisoners. There is a prison within York and the council has drawn up a memorandum of understanding with Askam Grange prison in order for the council to discharge its duties. The memorandum was due to be approved by the adult safeguarding board in June 2015. The minutes of the meeting have not yet been approved for publication.
- 2.2 Although the authority does have policies and procedures in place these are currently under review will be refreshed in light of new guidance being released in late 2015.
- 2.3 There is a programme of training planned and in progress which is being co-ordinated by the Care Act Programme Manager, the Communications and Media Team, the Workforce Development Team alongside the project group chairs with all activity reporting to the Care Act Programme Board and regular updates provided to the Health and Wellbeing Board.
- 2.4 Arrangements are in place in relation to the new requirements for safeguarding adults, and this was considered as part of audit work undertaken in 2014/15 which provided Substantial Assurance.
- 2.5 The council have in place a deferred payment scheme, with information available to the public on the council's website. Stocktake 3 indicates that no additional requests for the requests for deferred payment have been received in 2014/15 although this is expected to change from 2015/16 onwards

- 2.6 The carers assessment form has been revamped in line with the requirements of the Care Act 2014, and is due to undergo a further view as part of the migration to the new computer system, Mosaic.
- 2.7 In order to monitor whether assessments are being undertaken in line with the requirements of the Care Act and resulting new procedures and guidance the expectation is that there will be internal quality assurance checks.

Overall Conclusions

- 3.0 The council has put arrangements in place to address the requirements of the Care Act 2014. As new guidance is released the council plans to adapt what is in place in line with the new guidance.
- 3.1 Further work may be carried out in 2015/16; however this could be deferred due to the delay in implementation of Phase 2. Veritau will remain in contact with key officers in relation to ongoing developments.