

Better Lives Better Outcomes: a new strategy for sustainable adult social care in Nottingham

Report to Health Scrutiny Committee, Thursday 20th September 2018

We have a new draft strategy for adult social care in Nottingham which we would like members of the Health Scrutiny committee to be aware of and we would also like to invite members to take part in our consultation on the strategy.

Context:

Nottingham needs a sustainable social care system to help people live better lives. Despite a growth in demand for health and social care services, funding to Councils from Government has fallen significantly in recent years and so maximising the effectiveness of the money we spend is more important than ever.

To be sustainable we need to be:

- Supporting people to do what they can for themselves
- Helping friends and families to provide the best possible support for each other
- Providing connections to others who can help from within Nottingham's caring communities.

Where people do need more support, that support will promote wellness and maximise independence. For those who can pay for and arrange their own services, we will signpost them where necessary.

This draft strategy sets out how we intend to better support adults in Nottingham. At the heart is the development of a financial strategy to enable a sustainable social care system. We are calling our strategy '*Better Lives Better Outcomes*', which reflects our ambition for Nottingham to be one of the best cities for adults in need of support to live well.

In 2017-18, Nottingham City Council supported over 7,300 older and disabled adults, along with over 1,500 carers, spending in total over £100m on adult social care. However, adult social care services are under increasing pressure: demand is increasing due to longer life expectancies and people living with longer periods of long term ill-health, the National Living Wage is having a significant impact on care costs along with inflation and funding from national government to local councils has been cut year on year. Nottingham faces the double impact of higher levels of deprivation meaning a greater proportion of citizens rely on state support, alongside lower levels of funding raised through council tax. The cost of providing adult social care has begun to outstrip the available resource and this is not sustainable.

The strategy:

Our new strategy is all about a sustainable approach to supporting older adults and disabled people. It sets out our ambition to change the way we work with citizens, communities and partners so that we are able to achieve good outcomes within the resources available. It is based on a principle of promoting independence: that we will work with citizens and communities, their needs, aspirations, skills and resources, to build their resilience and independence.

The four themes in the strategy will underpin our approach and we are inviting citizens, communities and other partners to work with us in this new framework. This will mean changing the way we work together with a relentless focus on getting the best outcomes with the whole range of resources we have available between us.

Prevention: promoting healthy lifestyles and intervening early when people's wellbeing is at risk to avoid crisis and loss of independence.

Community Connections: ensuring citizens are connected to the resources and support in their local neighbourhoods, ensuring no one is socially isolated and lonely.

Independent Lives: supporting personal and community resilience, strengths and resources, reducing dependence on council funded support where possible.

Choice and Control: seeing the citizen in the driving seat, shaping solutions around the outcomes which matter for individuals.

This is not a quick change. It is a radical reset of adult social care in Nottingham and as such will take time and commitment to put in place.

Consultation:

We are inviting citizens, families, communities and partners across the City firstly to help us shape this strategy and then to play a full part in delivering Better Lives Better Outcomes in Nottingham. Consultation started on 6th August and will run until 30th September.

The online survey and summary strategy document are available through the NCC Engage website:

<https://www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/engage-nottingham-hub/open-consultations/adult-social-care-strategy/>

We also have printed copies of these and an easy-read version of the questionnaire. The full version of the strategy is also available on request.

Next Steps:

Following the end of the consultation period, survey responses will be analysed and feedback used to inform our final Adult Social Care strategy. The final strategy will be taken to Executive Board in October and Full Council in November for approval. We will then implement the new strategy from the start of 2019.