
Meeting	Safeguarding Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Date	10 April 2014
Subject	Local Account of Adult Social Care
Report of	Cabinet Member for Adults
Summary	Adult Social Care Departments are required to publish an annual public statement giving information on local services to enable residents to hold the council to account on how well it is performing. This is the third Local Account which summarises key activities, achievements, challenges and next steps.

Officer Contributors	Andrea Breen – Head of Prevention and Wellbeing, Adults and Communities Delivery Unit
Status (public or exempt)	Public
Wards Affected	All
Key Decision	No
Reason for urgency / exemption from call-in	Not Applicable
Function of	Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Enclosures	Appendix A: 'How are we doing? Your Local Account of Adult Social Care in Barnet April 2013 - March 2014'
Contact for Further Information:	Andrea Breen – Head of Prevention and Wellbeing, Adults and Communities, Telephone: 020 8359 2955; andrea.breen@barnet.gov.uk

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 That the Safeguarding Overview and Scrutiny Committee make comments and recommendations to the Cabinet Member for Adults on the Local Account of Adult Social Care Services.

2. RELEVANT PREVIOUS DECISIONS

- 2.1 Safeguarding Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 19 June 2013, decision item 6, Local Account of Adult Social Care Services.

3. CORPORATE PRIORITIES AND POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 The Local Account provides information on Adult Social Care (ASC). This area comes under the Adults and Communities Delivery Unit, whose business plan is closely linked to the Council's core objectives as set out in the Corporate Plan 2013-16. The publication aims to provide information on ASC so that residents can, in turn, hold the Delivery Unit and Council to account on its performance. All Councils with a remit for adult social care are required by government to produce an annual local account of services.

4. RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES

- 4.1 The proposal does not contain any specific / direct risk management implications. Adults and Communities comply with corporate requirements for monitoring, reporting on and managing risk.

5. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

- 5.1 Adults and Communities comply with its public sector equality duty pursuant to the Equality Act 2010 and have completed Equality Assessments (EqAs) where appropriate. Equality and diversity issues are a mandatory consideration in decision-making in the Council which means that the Council and all other organisations acting on its behalf must have due regard to the equality duties when exercising a public function. Equality considerations are integrated into day to day business in the formulation of policies, the delivery of services and their review. The Local Account was published in an easy read version with provision made for alternative formats on request; for example large print, audio tape, CD, Braille and alternative language.

6. USE OF RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS (Finance, Procurement, Performance & Value for Money, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)

- 6.1 The 2013/14 net budget for Adults and Communities was £97m (rounded) with the spend analysed through the following headings: Social work and safeguarding £9.1m; Direct Payments £10.4m; Preventative £3.9m; Registered Care Homes £38m; Support in the Home £23.4m and Day Services £12.3m.

- 6.2 The Adult and Communities budget has been reduced between 2010-14. The Adults and Communities budget has been reduced by £8.4million in 2014/15, which represents 44% of the total savings identified by the council. A further financial savings target of £8.4million for 2015/16 has been identified as set out in the Medium Term Financial Strategy. These savings will be achieved by identifying effective and efficient ways in delivering social care services to service users and carers, and review of our contracts.
- 6.3 The Local Account is accessible via a link in the Council's website. In addition, 600 hardcopies will be distributed to various organisations throughout the borough, and 100 easy read versions will be produced and available too. The unit cost will be approximately £1.00 per copy.

7. LEGAL ISSUES

- 7.1 As noted in paragraph 3.1, all councils with a remit for adult social care are required by government to produce an annual local account of services. Local accounts are referred to in the Department of Health's "Transparency in Outcomes: a framework for adult social care" consultation paper (November 2010) in the context of localism and transparency, and in the subsequent 2011/12 outcomes framework published in March 2011.

8. CONSTITUTIONAL POWERS (Relevant section from the Constitution, Key/Non-Key Decision)

- 8.1 The Safeguarding Overview and Scrutiny Committee has within its terms and reference the following responsibilities "To scrutinise the provision of adult social care services (including for those who have physical disabilities, sensory impairment, learning disabilities, mental health needs or other special needs) to ensure that residents are safeguarded and supported to lead as independent lives as possible in their own homes".

9. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 9.1 The Local Account is now in its third year. It makes information available to people about adult social care services highlighting activities and achievements, areas for improvement and the plans ahead. It uses performance data and feedback from what people say they want and their experiences of what is available. The Local Account is an important self-assessment tool for Adults and Communities.
- 9.2 Barnet's Local Account 2013 was highlighted as an example of good practice at the London Government Association 'Towards Excellence in Adult Social Care' conference on Local Accounts in November 2013. The delivery unit wanted to build on what worked well last year and incorporate other good practice recommendations.
- 9.3 The current edition, 'How are we doing? Your Local Account of Adult Social Care in Barnet April 2013 - March 2014' was published on 28th March 2014 and can be found at: www.barnet.gov.uk/local-account-2013

9.4 Changes this year to the Local Account:

- 9.4.1 Chapters now focus on service areas in a way which people are more likely to identify with. We will further test out the format in consultation with service users and carers in our engagement strategy for next year's Local Account.
- 9.4.2 We wanted to make sure that people understood how Barnet's performance compared with other similar boroughs, where Barnet is doing well and where we will target improvements. Therefore, this year, there is a specific chapter on 'headline performance' which brings together key data; other relevant sources of data are referenced throughout the Local Account. More detailed performance data together with various other documents will be made available on the Barnet website.
- 9.4.3 To inform the content of this year's Local Account, Adults and Communities has used a wealth of feedback obtained through consultations and data sources throughout the year. Healthwatch Barnet provided information about their Enter and View recommendations, and the Council consultation on the 'Community Offer' (carried out as part of the Council's budget consultation which set out proposals on ways to support people in their own homes by more use of technology and equipment in the home, short-term enablement support and support for family carers) generated feedback used to shape the Local Authority.

9.5 Achievements and Challenges

- 9.5.1 Below are some examples of key achievements and challenges from this year's Local Account.
- The opening of Speedwell Court, a specially designed supported housing for adults with high functioning autism/Aspergers so that they can live as independently as possible in their communities. Dementia cafes are up and running and Later Life Planners are now in place.
 - Adults and Communities has successfully managed our financial resources to deliver quality services. This is within the context of increasing numbers of people with complex needs especially those with mental health and dementia, which are placing additional demands on our services. This will continue to be a challenge in the coming years.
- 9.5.2 Being flexible in how services are delivered and close working with health was evidenced through the introduction of a seven day a week social work service in the Accident & Emergency Department at Barnet Hospital. In doing this, we have helped to reduce hospital admissions, which can be disruptive and stressful for people, and enabled people to get home support arranged more quickly.
- 9.5.3 We continue to perform well encouraging all those who are eligible for self-directed support to do so. There are some real examples in the Local Account where people have developed their own Support Plans using their Personal Budgets and Direct Payments to employ their own personal assistants and are more satisfied at having this choice. However, we want to make sure that this option is available for more people, and we aim to increase those numbers using direct payments next year.

9.5.4 Improving our information and advice for all people continues to be an area where we are making improvements. We need to work more closely than before with our partners in health and the voluntary sector, to ensure that people are well informed as early as possible about what is available to support them. This is especially so for those who care for others, so that they can easily access information about a range of mainstream and specialist support.

9.5.5 We plan to move towards a co-production approach, and getting those who use our services to be involved in the development of the Local Account. We also want to explore how the Local Account is being used, and by whom to further improve its function and reach to residents.

10. LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.

Cleared by Finance (Officer's initials)	JH
Cleared by Legal (Officer's initials)	SC