



Adults and Safeguarding Committee

6th June 2022

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| Title | Delivering the Administration's manifesto priorities |
| Report of | Chair of the Adults and Safeguarding Committee |
| Wards | All |
| Status | Public |
| Urgent | No |
| Key | No |
| Enclosures | None |
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Summary

This report sets out the proposed approach to bring forward the new Labour Administration's priorities in the areas of adult social care, mental health and healthy lives which fall within the remit of the Adults and Safeguarding Committee. The report outlines some initial proposals for agreement and also tasks officers to develop proposals and plans to be brought forward to future meetings for consideration.

Officers Recommendations

1. The **Adults and Safeguarding Committee** is asked to agree the approach set out in this report to bringing forward proposals to meet the manifesto commitments this report to bringing forward proposals to meet the manifesto commitments

2. The **Adults and Safeguarding Committee** is asked to agree the high-level plan for the development of the new engagement strategy and the charter, subsequent to the Executive Director of Adults & Health will implement the plan in consultation with the committee chair

3. The **Adults and Safeguarding Committee** is asked to note that the Executive Director of Adults & Health will develop proposals for the delivery of the administration's other adult social care commitments which will be presented to future Committee meetings.

1. Why this report is needed

1.1 The **Adults and Safeguarding Committee** is responsible for all matters relating to adult social care and leisure and for working in partnership with the health and wellbeing board and NHS partners. This report sets out a proposed approach to delivering the administration's manifesto relevant to the remit of the committee.

1.2 The administration's manifesto sets out the following aims relevant to this committee:

- Developing a new engagement strategy with people who draw on care and support
- Introducing a charter for social care
- Prioritising independent living, putting people at the centre of their care
- Maximising the use of technology and implementing innovative technology to support independence
- Supporting local social care providers and the social care workforce, working with education providers & addressing recruitment & retention
- Being a dementia friendly borough
- Introducing a Barnet Charter for Mental Health
- Health inequalities – healthy living through physical activity

1.3 Developing a new engagement strategy and a charter for social care

1.3.1 Key to the delivery of the manifesto aspirations is developing engagement with people who draw on care & support and delivering the other elements with them, using co-production and engagement approaches. From this, there will be three key deliverables: a new engagement strategy, a local charter for social care, and thirdly, agreed approaches to co-production & engagement to deliver the other manifesto commitments. Subject to agreement at committee, the first piece of work to deliver the manifesto will be to initiate a new engagement strategy, and work with people to develop the social care charter.

1.3.2 There is a strong basis of engagement and co-production with people who draw on care and support in Barnet. We currently have an Involvement Board made up of resident representatives from across adult social care, who meet quarterly to oversee the engagement programme and shape key issues.

1.3.3 We also have a programme of engagement projects throughout the year, focusing on areas of change and improvement. The project areas are typically selected by the engagement board and the service. In these projects we use a variety of methods (working groups, surveys, 1:1 interviews, involving residents on commissioning panels etc.) to make sure that services are shaped and co-produced with residents.

1.3.4 We are in regular contact with our 'People's Voice' group of 200+ residents for these projects, as well as recruiting directly through care providers and voluntary sector groups. The People's Voice group is list of people who have contacted us to express an interest in being part of the engagement programme and who choose to be involved as much or as little as suits them.

1.3.5 We will build on this to refresh our approach and establish a new engagement strategy and a charter for those who draw on care and support. We will ensure it is shaped by a diverse range of people including the local voluntary, community, and faith sector. It will also be informed by best practice and learning from elsewhere. The intended approach will include:

- Establishing a steering group to develop and lead the work programme. The steering group will include people with lived experience, local voluntary groups, and people/organisations with expertise in co-production and engagement, including national experts
- Appointing a dedicated project manager for the work
- Commissioning experts in co-production to work on the project
- Holding a series of events and activities with people who draw on care & support
- Establishing a range of communication channels
- Putting in place access & support arrangements so that people with a range of needs can participate
- Research on best practice

1.3.6 The final strategy and charter will be presented to the Adults & Safeguarding Committee. We will ensure the final products are accessible, practical, and set us on a sustainable path to ensuring people's voices are heard throughout adult social care.

1.4 *Independent living*

1.4.1 Adult social care in Barnet has promoted independent living and a strengths-based approach, in line with national legislation and policy. At the 11 January 2022 committee meeting, a report was presented which described services and approaches which support independent living, which can be found in background papers. The committee has previously agreed the expansion of the Prevention and Wellbeing team to increase opportunities for people to stay independent, a link has been provided to this report in the background papers section.

1.4.2 Further opportunities to enhance independent living will be developed and presented at future committee meetings. These will consider areas such as the range of housing options available; community access & inclusion; enablement and the role of therapy; progression focused practice from the council and providers of care; addressing social isolation; and travel options.

1.5 *Technology*

1.5.1 Care technology enables residents to maintain their independence and stay safe and connected in their homes and out in the community. The Barnet care technology service offers a variety of services, e.g., telecare, telehealth, assistive technology equipment, and a call monitoring platform, and is used by circa 5,000 people as part of their care and support plan.

1.5.2 The national social care reform programme has an aim to increase use of technology and digitisation across social care, including among the social care sector as well as supporting independence.

1.5.3 Barnet adult social care has been recognised for its use of technology and was an early adopter of tech innovations in care. Officers will work with the council's technology partner, Argenti, to identify innovations in the field from the UK and overseas and present proposals to a future committee. Areas could include universal technology, health monitoring, wearable technology, data analytics, location devices, virtual support and communications, and smart house technology.

1.6 *Supporting local care providers*

1.6.1 Adult social care represents approximately 14% of the Barnet economy with over 10,000 people employed in the sector. There are eighty registered care homes and approximately seventy registered home care agencies, along with supported living schemes, day services and other services, such as personal assistants.

1.6.2 Adult social care contributes circa £300m per year to the local economy, with funding coming from individual residents who pay for their own care, the council, NHS CCGs, and other councils which commission services in the borough.

1.6.3 As well as commissioning placements with a wide range of care homes, the council has sixty providers on its home care framework list, with over thirty of those agencies being local businesses.

1.6.4 The council has supported providers through its Care Quality team and through its work in the north central London adult social care programme, which developed the free to use recruitment portal 'Proud to Care' and levered in over £2m of workforce development funding for the frontline care workforce. We have also supported the sector with recruitment campaigns and fairs, training and running communities of practice for registered managers.

1.6.5 Officers will continue to work with the NCL ICS to secure workforce funding and training opportunities for care staff and to promote parity of esteem between health and care staff and will continue to provide support through the Care Quality team.

1.6.6 Officers will explore the opportunities for new initiatives to support recruitment and retention into the sector, such as sector-based skills academies with both education and care providers.

1.6.7 Adult social care supports care providers to come together to share information and learning through dedicated forums and meetings. Through these forums, officers will work with care provider representatives to develop innovative ideas to promote the sector as a driver of the local economy, as an attractive career opportunity and to support the sustainability of the sector.

1.7 Dementia friendly borough

1.7.1 Being a dementia friendly borough is an ambition whereby people affected by dementia are empowered, understood, included in community life, and supported to live well. Barnet's multi-agency Dementia Friendly Partnership is working towards accreditation for Barnet as a "dementia friendly borough" by Spring 2023. The Partnership has chosen three priority areas for action:

- Dementia Friendly Venues (arts, culture & leisure)
- Dementia Friendly Faith Communities
- Dementia Friendly High Streets

1.7.2 In addition, we will continue the programme of training for dementia friends. There are already 12,295 trained Dementia Friends in Barnet, which the Partnership will work to increase in 2022/23. This work reflects Barnet's ongoing commitment to the objectives of the Dementia Manifesto for London, published by the Alzheimer's Society in 2014.

1.7.3 Further improving our holistic care and support offer for adults with dementia and their carers remains a priority area and a new borough-wide dementia strategy will be coproduced in 2022/23. The strategy will be based on a full dementia needs assessment carried out by Public Health and co-produced with people with dementia and their carers. The strategy will set out the vision for a dementia friendly Barnet, addressing service development, community inclusion and the role of partner agencies and communities. The strategy will be developed in partnership with the Barnet Borough Partnership and will be brought to committee for approval in the future. In developing the strategy, access arrangements will be put in place so a wide range of people can participate.

1.8 Charter for mental health

1.8.1 The council is committed to working in partnership with key stakeholders, including health, housing, the voluntary and community sector and other organisations, to ensure we have a multi-agency approach to mental health support which addresses needs holistically and supports achievement of the best outcomes possible.

1.8.2 This ethos of partnership working and the important role that wide-ranging partners play in supporting Barnet residents with their mental health will be cemented into a Barnet Borough Partnership Mental Health Charter in 2022/23. This work will be led by Barnet's multi-agency Mental Health Strategic Partnership, facilitated by Inclusion Barnet. The charter will set out the standards people can expect and how partner agencies will work together to provide better, more integrated services. It will develop on the work already undertaken to apply a 'making every contact count' approach to mental health services. In developing the charter, access arrangements will be put in place so a wide range of people can participate.

1.9 Addressing health inequalities through sport and physical activity

1.9.1 Supporting people to live healthier lives is an important part of tackling health inequalities. The Committee's remit includes sport and physical activity, and work will carry on to support more people to become physically active, and through this, address inequalities. The Councils 'Fit & Active Barnet' (FAB) Framework (2022-26) was adopted by Committee unanimously in March 2022. It sets out a vision to 'create a more active and healthy' borough, based on the following principles.

- ***Make physical activity everyone's business:***

Ensure physical activity is not just the business of typical 'sports' agencies but is considered by all.

- ***Promote equality and reduce inequality:***

Make Barnet a place where everyone can lead more active and healthier lifestyles

- ***Embed a whole systems approach:***

Implement a whole systems approach, by working collaboratively with partners and the community to co-produce and support delivery

- ***Be driven by insight:***

Invest time to understand and challenge barriers to participation by engaging with communities and using a robust evidence base to inform and guide decisions

1.9.2 Over the coming year, the Adults and Safeguarding Committee will work closely with the Environment and Climate Change Committee to develop shared approaches to physical activity in Barnet's parks and open spaces, with facilitating access to walking and promoting open spaces as a source of wellbeing being a key priority. The council will also work with the Fit & Active Barnet Partnership Board, sport and leisure providers, National Governing Bodies of Sport, the health sector, education sector and the voluntary, community and faith sector to develop more opportunities to encourage physical activity, especially for those people and groups who may find it harder to engage.

1.9.3 The Council owns five leisure facilities which are located across the Borough. The facilities are managed by Greenwich Leisure Limited (GLL / Better) as part of a 10-year leisure management contract agreement expires March 2028). The facilities are:

- Barnet Copthall Leisure Centre (opened Sept 2019)
- Hendon Leisure Centre (circa 1995/96)
- Burnt Oak Leisure Centre (circa 2003)
- Finchley Lido Leisure Centre (circa 1995/96)
- New Barnet Leisure Centre (opened September 2019)

1.9.4 The leisure centres will continue to offer initiatives that promote healthier lives such as weight management and diabetes programmes, plus more specialist programmes for people living with cancer.

2. Reasons for recommendations

2.1 The report sets out in high level terms the approach that will be taken to deliver the aspirations outlined in the administration's manifesto.

3. Alternative options considered and not recommended

3.1.1. None in the context of this report.

4. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION

4.1 Subject to agreement to the recommendations, work will commence to finalise the engagement strategy and charter project plan, with the project then being initiated as soon as possible. Officers will develop proposals to deliver other elements of the manifesto commitments, to be presented to committee in the future.

5. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION

5.1. Corporate Priorities and Performance

5.1.1. This programme of work will support the achievement of the Healthy priority in the Barnet plan.

- **Healthy:** a place with fantastic facilities for all ages, enabling people to live happy and healthy lives.

6. Resources (Finance & Value for Money, Procurement, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)

6.1 Some of the programme of work will be delivered within existing resources. Any requirement for additional investment to deliver the programme will be considered as detailed proposals are developed and then considered through the council's budget setting process.

7. Social Value

7.1. None applicable to this report, however the council must take into account the requirements of the Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012 to try to maximise the social and local economic value it derives from its procurement spend.

7.2. Legal and Constitutional References

7.3. The Council's Constitution (Article 7, Article 7 – Committees, Forums, Working Groups and Partnerships) sets out the responsibilities of all council Committees. The responsibilities of the Adults and Safeguarding Committee can be found at <https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s68757/08Article7CommitteesFor>

[umsWorkingGroupsandPartnerships.doc.pdf](#)

Responsibilities include:

- Responsibility for all matters relating to vulnerable adults, adult social care and leisure services.
- Work with partners on the Health and Well Being Board to ensure that social care interventions are effectively and seamlessly joined up with public health and healthcare and promote the Health and Wellbeing Strategy and its associated sub strategies.
- To submit to the Policy and Resources Committee proposals relating to the Committee's budget for the following year in accordance with the budget timetable.
- To make recommendations to Policy and Resources Committee on issues relating to the budget for the Committee, including virements or underspends and overspends on the budget. No decisions which result in amendments to the agreed budget may be made by the Committee unless and until the amendment has been agreed by Policy and Resources Committee.
- To receive reports on relevant performance information and risk on the services under the remit of the Committee.

8. Risk Management

- 8.1. The programme of work will be managed in accordance with the council's risk management framework.

9. Equalities and Diversity

- 9.1. Equality and diversity issues are a mandatory consideration in the decision making of the council.
- 9.2. Decision makers should have due regard to the public sector equality duty in making their decisions. The Equality Act 2010 and the Public-Sector Equality Duty require elected Members to satisfy themselves that equality considerations are integrated into day-to-day business and that all proposals emerging from the business planning process have taken into consideration the impact, if any, on any protected group and what mitigating factors can be put in place. The equalities duties are continuing duties they are not duties to secure a particular outcome. The statutory grounds of the public sector equality duty are found at section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 and are as follows:
- 9.3. A public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to:
- Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act.
 - Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
- Having due regard to the need to advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to:
- Remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic.
- Take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it.
- Encourage persons who share a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.
- The steps involved in meeting the needs of disabled persons that are different from the needs of persons who are not disabled include, in particular, steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities.
- Having due regard to the need to foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to:
 - Tackle prejudice, and Promote understanding.
 - Compliance with the duties in this section may involve treating some persons more favourably than others; but that is not to be taken as permitting conduct that would otherwise be prohibited by or under this Act. The relevant protected characteristics are:
 - Age
 - Disability
 - Gender reassignment
 - Pregnancy and maternity
 - Race
 - Religion or belief
 - Sex
 - Sexual orientation
 - Marriage and Civil partnership

9.4 This is set out in the council's Equalities Policy together with our strategic Equalities Objective - as set out in the Corporate Plan - that citizens will be treated equally with understanding and respect; have equal opportunities and receive quality services provided to best value principles.

9.5 Progress against the performance measures we use is published on our website at: <https://www.barnet.gov.uk/your-council/policies-plans-and-performance/equality-and-diversity>

10. Corporate Parenting

- 10.1. Adult social care services are provided to people who meet Care Act eligibility criteria and who may have been looked after by the council or are care experienced. The council's leisure provider offers discounted and free access to people who are care experienced or looked after.

11. Environmental impact

- 11.1. None in the context of this report

12. Consultation and Engagement

- 12.1. The council's adult social care team conduct regular engagement and involvement activities with people who draw on care and support and their carers. This report also sets out the proposal for a new programme of work to engage with residents and people who draw on care.

13. Insight

- 13.1. N/A

14. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 14.1. Adults and Safeguarding Committee - Monday 11 January 2021 - Prevention Report: <https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s69415/Prevention%20report.pdf>

