



## Adults and Safeguarding Committee 13 October 2022

<b>Title</b>	<b>Engagement and Co-Production Strategy and Charter progress report</b>
<b>Report of</b>	Cllr Paul Edwards, Chair, Adults and Safeguarding Committee
<b>Wards</b>	All
<b>Status</b>	Public
<b>Urgent</b>	No
<b>Key</b>	No
<b>Enclosures</b>	Appendix: Engagement Strategy update for Adults and Safeguarding Committee
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### Summary

This report provides an update on the progress towards producing a new engagement and co-production strategy and charter for adult social care, which is one of the administrations key priorities. It summarises the work done so far to establish a steering group, launch the project, begin engagement with a wide range of people, undertake research and learn from best practice in order to deliver the new strategy and charter.

### Officers Recommendations

1. The **Adults and Safeguarding Committee** is asked to note the progress towards developing a new Engagement and Co-Production Strategy and Charter for adult social care

#### 1. Why this report is needed

- 1.1 This report follows an update to Adults and Safeguarding Committee in June 2022 outlining the proposals to meeting the Administration's commitments.
- 1.2 Key to the delivery of the Administration' commitments was to develop engagement and co-production with people who draw on care & support, including through the codesign with residents and the voluntary and community sector, of a new strategy and charter.

- 1.3 This strategy and charter also align with the Administration's approach to working more closely with residents and the community, and is closely linked to the new Community Participation strategy.
- 1.4 The strategy and charter build on the council's existing work, a strong foundation of involving people in quality assuring, shaping and improving adult social care services. The strategy and charter will enable us to step up our ambition and further embed this way of working.
- 1.5 The table below provides a summary of our approach as set out in the June 2022 committee paper, and provides an update on each area:

What we said we'd do (June 2022)	What we've done: September 2022
<p>Establishing a steering group to develop and lead the work programme.</p> <p>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</p>	<p>Steering group has been established and meeting monthly.</p> <p>The group includes all the stakeholders mentioned, and we have benefited from insight from local and national experts.</p>
<p>Appointing a dedicated project manager for the work</p>	<p>Project has been led by a dedicated project manager. In addition, we have recruited a new Engagement and Co-Production project lead, starting early October who will lead on finalising the strategy, action plan and overseeing implementation.</p>
<p>Commissioning experts in co-production to work on the project</p>	<p>We are working with various organisations including Think Local Act Personal (national experts) and Inclusion Barnet (local experts)</p>
<p>Holding a series of events and activities with people who draw on care &amp; support</p>	<p>We have been working closely with voluntary and community organisations to join in with existing events and hear people's views. The majority of engagement has been face to face conversations and focus groups, with plans to engage with more over the next month. The official launch event was held on 5<sup>th</sup> July at Age UK Barnet which was a chance to speak to residents and celebrate work in the community.</p>

	By the date of this committee we will have attended or held 12 groups, meetings or events and run 2 surveys.
Establishing a range of communication channels	<p>We have new branding for adult social care, which has been shaped by residents and staff.</p> <p>We have run a campaign to promote engagement and co-production and recruit people to join, including joining the People's Voice group. This has raised the visibility of the work.</p>
Putting in place access & support arrangements so that people with a range of needs can participate	We continue to make use of our Reward and Recognition policy to cover expenses and payments for participation, in order to recognise people's time and effort in having their say. We also ensure our engagement activities are accessible and inclusive for example providing interpreters, accessible venues, adapting engagement methods for different communication styles.
Research on best practice	We have started to research best practice, working with Inclusion Barnet and Think Local, Act Personal, and have been in touch with colleagues across different local authorities and the NHS to develop a community of practice. We have attended London ADASS (Association of Directors of Adult Social Services) meetings to share practice and approaches.

1.6 The slides in the appendix give a more detailed update on the following areas:

- 1.6.1 The 'road map' – setting out our plans for completing the strategy and what has already been achieved
- 1.6.2 Steering group – information about the steering group membership, how we work, and people's feedback
- 1.6.3 Project launch and promotion – information about the project launch at Age UK Barnet, new branding and social media campaign
- 1.6.4 Structure of the strategy – what the strategy will look like, as agreed by the steering group
- 1.6.5 Engagement update – who we have spoken to so far about the strategy, and the plans for engagement to make sure we hear a range of people's voices

- 1.6.6 Looking outwards – how we are using research, best practice, expertise and networks to shape the strategy to be the best it can be.

## **2. Reasons for recommendations**

- 2.1 The reports set out a progress update towards the new engagement and co-production strategy and charter for adult social care as part of the implementation of the Administration's manifesto priorities and a critical part of the work we do to work with residents.

## **3. Alternative options considered and not recommended**

- 3.1 None

## **4. Post decision implementation**

- 4.1 We will continue to deliver the project, with the full strategy and charter to be presented at Adults and Safeguarding Committee in November. This will be living document open to continued engagement.

## **5. Implications of decision**

### **Corporate Priorities and Performance**

- 5.1.1 The new corporate plan will set out the council's corporate priorities, this will include a new outcomes framework that will be developed to monitor performance and ensure we continue to keep residents and the work we do together at the centre of everything we do.
- 5.1.2 The new Community Participation Strategy is a key interdependency to this work, and we continue to work closely to ensure that it is aligned.

### **5.2 Resources (Finance & Value for Money, Procurement, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)**

- 5.2.1 This programme of work has been supported by dedicated staff time, the recruitment of two new staff members, as well as continuing our approach of covering expenses, Reward and Recognition payments and costs for engagement. We have also offered grants to voluntary and community sector groups to reach lesser-heard communities.

### **5.3 Legal and Constitutional References**

- 5.3.1 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/s68757/08Article7CommitteesForumsWorkingGroupsandPartnerships.doc.pdf>
- 5.3.2 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.

#### **5.4 Insight**

- 5.4.1 This programme of work is led by people with lived experience, using feedback and insight from residents, alongside best practice and 'next practice' research to shape the Engagement and Co-Production Strategy..

#### **5.5 Social Value**

- 5.5.1 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.

#### **5.6 Risk Management**

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

#### **5.7 Equalities and Diversity**

- 5.7.1 Equality and diversity issues are a mandatory consideration in the decision making of the council.
- 5.7.2 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:
- 5.7.3 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.

5.7.4 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

5.7.5 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.

5.7.6 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-anddiversity>

## 5.8 Corporate Parenting

In line with Children and Social Work Act 2017, the council has a duty to consider Corporate Parenting Principles in decision-making across the council. The engagement strategy and charter are relevant to care experienced adult who may be drawing on support from adult social care. Engagement with younger adults has taken place as part of the programme of work.

## 5.9 Consultation and Engagement

Co-production and engagement are central to the work on this new strategy and charter. We have involved people with lived experience from the start and are engaging widely with people who have experience of adult social care, carers, and people who may draw on services in the future. The draft strategy will also be shared and circulated widely for comments from many stakeholders.

## 5.10 Environmental Impact

5.10.1 None in the context of this report

# 6. Background papers

- 6.1 Adults and Safeguarding Committee – 6 June 2022 – Delivering the administration's manifesto priorities:  
<https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s72702/Delivering%20the%20Administrations%20manifesto%20priorities.pdf>