

## **MEMBERS POLICY SEMINAR PROGRAMME**

### **SUMMARY**

This report provides Council with an overview of content from the Members Policy Seminar in October 2014 that included presentations on the Care Act 2014 and Better Care Fund and the ASB Crime and Policing Act 2014.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

Council are recommended to:

1. Receive this report and note its contents.

### **BACKGROUND**

1. Members Policy Seminars are an important vehicle for both informing and consulting with Members on a variety of topics from Policy and Legislative changes, contributions to Government consultations, and providing an update on local service provision from partner organisations. They have been in place since January 2009 and are particularly useful for those issues which are of importance to the Council or partners but are in the early stages of development, or those which will be of interest to Members, out with the usual reporting arrangements.
2. A programme of seminars is set annually with events planned on a monthly basis. Topics are reviewed monthly by the Corporate Management Team to ensure issues are current and discussions and information provision is timely. Special, additional seminars are arranged as required.

### **SUMMARY OF THE TOPIC COVERED IN OCTOBER 2014**

3. Colleagues from Adults Services provided an update on activity underway in preparation for the implementation of the Care Act 2014, from April 2015, detailing the key aims of the legislation and other requirements that form part of the detailed guidance, issued alongside the legislation. Details of work ongoing with respect to financial implications, risks and challenges, implementation and governance arrangements were also shared. Further consultation is expected from government on funding reforms and an appeals process. Funding reforms are not due to come into effect until April 2016.
4. Linked to the Care Act, information was provided on the Better Care Fund, its aims and works ongoing in support of a joint submission to secure funding. Members were also provided with a more general update on other activity ongoing within Adults Social Care Services. An outline of areas covered in the presentation is detailed below:

## Care Act 2014 - key aspects

- Introduces a clearer fairer approach to care and support
- A universal deferred payment scheme
- A single national threshold for eligibility
- Supports people with information, advice and advocacy
- Provides new guarantees re continuity of care
- Provides new protections to ensure no one goes without care if a provider fails.

## Care Act 2014 - other detailed requirements of the act.

- National standards for assessment and eligibility
- Outcome based assessments
- Provision of independent advocacy
- Guidance on charging for services
- Person Centred Care and support (Personal budget, Direct Payments)
- Requirement for a Statutory Safeguarding Board
- Requirements for integration and partnership working
- Arrangements for moving between areas
- Arrangements around the transition from childhood
- Principles of equivalence
- Requirements around service provision for prisoners

## Better Care Fund

- Aims to improve outcomes
  - Provide better value for money
  - Promote/ encourage partnership working
  - Provide pooled budgets between Health and Social Care Services.
5. Details of the Stockton on Tees Borough Council, The Clinical Commissioning Group and the Health and Wellbeing Board submission, to access the Better Care Fund, were shared.
  6. A reminder of other ongoing activity, in support of priority areas within Adult's Services, was provided. This included work in support of :
    - Prevention agenda
    - Personalisation agenda
    - Quality Standards Framework
    - Commissioning of Older Peoples Homecare Services
    - Adult Safeguarding
    - Mental Capacity Act.
  7. The Care Act 2014 is significant in terms of impact on adult service provision now and into the future. Further updates will be brought to members as implementation progresses.
  8. The second presentation provided details on the ASB, Crime and Policing Act 2014; the majority of powers from the act come into effect from 20<sup>th</sup> October 2014. The presentation included a reminder for members of the priority of ASB with our residents, the main type of ASB incidents that occur within the borough, current ASB activity levels and sanctions.

9. The powers and duties within the act apply to Local Authorities, Police and Registered Social Landlords. The presentation provided the detail on new powers, comparisons with existing practices and cited some examples of where the new powers will support further, existing practices of partners within the Community Safety Partnership. The presentation covered the following aspects:
- Civil Injunction ( power delayed until January 2015)
  - Criminal Behaviour Order
  - Dispersal Powers
  - Public Spaces Protection Order
  - Closure Power
  - Community Protection Notice
  - Community Trigger
10. Members requested a further update following the implementation of the act to understand the impact that the new and changed powers were having on the management of ASB and related situations that occur within the borough.
11. All slides, agenda and supporting material from the seminars can be accessed at <http://kyit.stockton.gov.uk/members/policyupdatesessions>
12. A regular update report on members seminar events held will be provided to Council at each meeting going forward.

## **FINANCIAL AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

### **Financial**

13. There are no financial implications arising as a direct result of this report.

### **Legal**

14. There are no legal implications arising as a direct result from this report.

## **RISK ASSESSMENT**

15. This report is categorised as low to medium risk. Existing management systems and daily routine activities are sufficient to control and reduce risk.

## **EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

16. This report is not subject to Equality Impact Assessment as it makes no proposals for service development or policy change.

## **SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY IMPLICATIONS**

17. Members Policy Seminars help the Council achieve all its objectives as outlined in the Sustainable Community Strategy.

## **CONSULTATION INCLUDING WARD/COUNCILLORS**

18. No external consultation has taken place on this report.

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Background Papers

Slides/ Presentation from the member seminar programmes.

Ward(s) and Ward Councillors:

Members Policy Seminars affect all wards in the Borough.

Property

This report has no implications for the Council's Capital Programme and Asset Management Plan.