

SBC LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION ASSURANCE PEER CHALLENGE UPDATE

Summary

Feedback on Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council (SBC) involvement in a recent Local Government Association (LGA) Assurance Peer Challenge (undertaken ahead of the forthcoming Care Quality Commission (CQC) inspection of the Council's adult social care services) will be presented to the Committee for information.

Detail

1. In June 2024, the Committee received a briefing from SBC officers outlining the Council's preparations for the anticipated inspection of SBC adult social care services. The report, and subsequent discussion points, can be found at the following link (see agenda item ASCH/15/24):

<https://moderngov.stockton.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=1140&Mid=4403&Ver=4>

2. The June 2024 briefing referenced the Council's forthcoming involvement in a LGA Assurance Peer Challenge which was scheduled for July 2024. SBC officers stated that feedback on the challenge could be provided to the Committee in September 2024 – an update on the main outcomes has therefore been prepared and is included within these meeting papers (supplemented by the LGAs final report – see **Appendix 1**). The SBC Strategic Development Manager (Adults & Health) and the SBC Assurance and Co-Production Manager are scheduled to be in attendance to present the report and respond to any comments / questions.
3. Members are reminded that, in July 2024, SBC received its formal 'Notice of Local Authority Assessment' from the CQC. As outlined during the briefing in June 2024, this means that the CQC will conduct an on-site visit within six months (giving around six-eight weeks' notice).
4. In related matters, the CQC recently (September 2024) published a further six new reports on its findings from the latest formal assessments completed under its new responsibility to assess how Local Authorities are meeting their adult social care duties – details of all published reports can be found at the following link:

<https://www.cqc.org.uk/care-services/local-authority-assessment-reports>.

Name of Contact Officer: Gary Woods

Post Title: Senior Scrutiny Officer

Telephone No: 01642 526187

Email Address: gary.woods@stockton.gov.uk