

Report sponsor: Strategic Director – People  
Services

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– Integration & Direct Services

## **Adult Social Care “Your Life Your Choice” Strategy**

### **Purpose**

- 1.1 In October 2019, Cabinet agreed to engage in consultation to update the Adult Social Care “Your Life Your Choice” Strategy. The previous strategy was approved by Cabinet following a period of consultation and engagement, in April 2015.
- 1.2 Following consultation and an analysis of the feedback, a revised strategy for 2020 - 2025 has been produced to describe the key areas of focus for the Adult Social Care service in Derby over the coming years. If adopted, the strategy will be launched and communicated widely so that care providers, families, individuals and partners can understand how the Council will support them.
- 1.3 The consultation around the draft strategy was conducted before the start of the coronavirus pandemic and therefore does not focus on the areas that the Council will need to consider in relation to supporting individuals, families and care providers during the ongoing pandemic, and also in the recovery phase. The strategy objectives are focused on areas that will remain important for individuals into the future notwithstanding the impact of the pandemic. The specific actions for Adult Social Care that arise from the pandemic will be considered as part of the overall Council and NHS response to restoration and recovery.

### **Recommendation**

- 2.1 To consider the consultation findings and approve the revised Your Life Your Choice Strategy for Adult Social Care in Derby.

### **Reason(s)**

- 3.1 Although there is no statutory requirement to publish a strategy for Adult Social Care, it is considered good practice set out the vision and approach that will be used to support vulnerable adults with needs that the Council has a duty to meet under the Care Act 2014. Keeping such a strategy updated and widely known about ensures that citizens, service users, families, partner agencies and care providers are aware of the Council’s approach and priorities over the coming years.

## Supporting information

- 4.1 In April 2015, Council Cabinet approved the first “Your Life Your Choice” strategy for Adult Social Care. At the time of the first strategy, Adult Social Care was experiencing rising demand and the Council needed to think differently about how best to serve people well whilst working within the resources that are available. This challenge has not gone away, and in subsequent years to the strategy, resources for Adult Social Care have been further pressurised by demand.
- 4.2 The consultation that took place to inform the refresh of ‘Your Life, Your Choice’ was open to anyone in Derby; an online survey was produced and made available on the Council’s website. Paper copies were also distributed to all Derby libraries and made available in reception at the Council House. Additional paper versions, translations and versions were available by request. The consultation was also discussed at meetings of the Derby Strategic Carers Partnership Board, the Disability Equality Hub and the Race Equality Hub. A copy of the questionnaire used is included in **Appendix 2**.
- 4.3 23 individuals completed the feedback survey between 4<sup>th</sup> November 2019 and 24<sup>th</sup> January 2020. Those responding were friends or family members of Adult Social Care users (21.7%), Carers of people who use Derby social care services (26.1%), health and social care professionals (17.4%), or people who live, work or study in the city generally (26.1%). The group discussions made a number of suggested amendments and additions to each of the priority areas identified in the Strategy and a full description of the feedback given is found within the overall consultation summary at **Appendix 3**.

Overall the feedback was positive with the majority (61%) of those taking part agreed with most or all of the proposed priorities.

Areas that received the highest level of support were:

- 95.7% supported our objective to continue to work to improve the quality and range of care and support available for people to access in Derby by working to improve standards across the care sector.
- 95.7% supported our view that we should continue to work with people at the earliest point possible to prevent crises occurring and to plan for major “transitions” or life changes that may be coming up.
- 91.3% agreed that we should work with NHS partners to ensure that no one goes from a stay in hospital into long term care, unless this is the only care setting that can meet a person’s needs.
- 87% believed we should resolve queries for as many people as possible at the first point of contact and 82.6% agreed we should improve and diversify the range of information and advice that is available for Carers, families and others involved in supporting people to live independently.
- 87% agreed we should prioritise keeping people safe and well and continue to take steps to safeguard vulnerable people by working with partners to prevent abuse and learning from serious incidents.

- 4.4 Based on respondent feedback, more work needs to be done to improve the understanding in the following areas:

78.3% agreed we should focus on supporting people's independence rather than just being a crisis response and

65.2% agreed we should continue to focus on harnessing people's strengths, skills and assets.

These areas remain central elements of the vision for Adult Social Care in Derby and so more work will be needed to embed conversations with individuals that focus on learning about their strengths and abilities and establishing "what does a good life look like to you" and "how can we work together to find solutions"?

There is also much to be learned and harnessed from the response to COVID 19 whereby communities, neighbours, family and friends played a huge part in supporting vulnerable people in the peak weeks of the pandemic and continue to do so. This builds on our long - standing approach to Local Area Coordination where our aim is to prevent creating too much dependence on care staff for individuals where they have skills and abilities that can be developed. We want to celebrate an individual's "assets" and connect people to local and community - based activities and other areas where the Council and partners interact with citizens in Derby -often known as "universal" services.

## Public/stakeholder engagement

- 5.1. **Appendix 3** provides more detail about the consultation that took place on the Strategy. The consultation was open to anybody and all care providers were also encouraged to participate.

The consultation was also discussed at meetings of the Derby Strategic Carers Partnership Board, the Disability Equality Hub and the Race Equality Hub. These groups made a number of suggested amendments and additions to each of the priority areas identified in the Strategy. A description of the feedback given can be found at **Appendix 3**.

## Other options

- 6.1 None have been considered. Whilst there is no statutory requirement to have a strategy, it is considered good practice to set out the key ambitions for Adult Social Care, being clear about the priorities for the coming years and explaining clearly how individuals can expect to be supported. A strategy provides a vehicle for engagement with local people and partners and operating within a more up to date strategic context improves transparency, accountability and communication with local people, partners and stakeholders. The previous strategy had come to the end of its natural lifespan and therefore needed refreshing based on current areas of focus.

## Financial and value for money issues

- 7.1 The Adult Social Care Strategy is supported by an annual revenue budget of £76.1 million. One of the core principles running through the strategy is an asset-based approach to demand management. This shall support the service to keep people independent as long as possible using their natural resources which can be supplemented with public service support. In turn this shall allow the service to manage rising demand for adult social care within the allocated budget resource.

## Legal implications

- 8.1 Adult Social Care is a statutory function that is governed by the Care Act 2014. Whilst it is not a statutory requirement to produce a strategy, a document setting out how the Council intends to support people with eligible or potentially eligible care needs is considered good practice.

Under the Care Act, Councils are required to make sure that people who live in their areas receive services:

- (a) that prevent their care needs from becoming more serious;
- (b) that delay the impact of their needs;
- (c) are able to get the information and advice they need to make good decisions about care and support;
- (d) have a range of provision of high quality, appropriate services to choose from.

Having a written statement about the Council's vision and objectives for Adult Social Care provision assists the Council in communicating how it will ensure the objectives of the Care Act will be met locally.

## Other significant implications

- 9.1 The consultation around the draft strategy was conducted before the start of the coronavirus pandemic and therefore does not specifically focus on the areas that the Council will need to consider in relation to supporting individuals, families and care providers during the ongoing pandemic, and also in the recovery phase. The strategy objectives are focused on areas that will remain important for individuals, families, partners and care providers into the future notwithstanding the impact of the pandemic. The specific actions for Adult Social Care that arise from the pandemic will be considered as part of the overall Council and NHS response to restoration and recovery.

This report has been approved by the following people:

Role	Name	Date of sign-off
<b>Legal</b> <b>Finance</b> <b>Service Director(s)</b> <b>Report sponsor</b> <b>Other(s)</b>	Olu Idowu Alison Parkin Kirsty McMillan Andy Smith	14 <sup>th</sup> August 2020
<b>Background papers:</b> <b>List of appendices:</b>	Appendix 1 Your Life your Choice Strategy September – Ambitions for 2020 and Beyond Appendix 2 Consultation Questionnaire Appendix 3 Detailed feedback from Consultation	

