

## **Hertfordshire County Council Adult Care Services Report for the Health in Dacorum Meeting of 29<sup>th</sup> September 2021**

At its 23.06.21 meeting, Hertfordshire County Council's (HCC'S) Adult Care, Health and Wellbeing Cabinet Panel looked at the Adult Care Services (ACS) performance report for quarter 3 (October-December 2020). It included the Hertfordshire Care Standard (HCS). As approximately 80% of services commissioned by ACS are provided by external bodies, commissioned services' quality impacts on services that residents receive, so these services are monitored closely by the HCS.

The Panel received a motion that had been referred by full Council on addressing the crisis of funding and sustainability in ACS. The Panel resolved that HCC continue to lobby for social care reform through the Local Government Association (LGA) and Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS), and that the Director of ACS and the Executive Member for Adult Care, Health and Wellbeing write to the Prime Minister pointing to the urgency for social care reform as part of the comprehensive review.

At the Panel's 15.07.21 meeting, the Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Strategy 2022-25 was discussed.

There was an update on the ACS capital programme. ACS has a good relationship with the boroughs and districts. 3 years ago, a Supported Housing Strategic Board (SHSB) of HCC and borough and district officers was created.

The Panel looked at the ACS Annual Complaints Report 01.04.20-31.03.21. Performance was likely to be anomalous due to Covid.

At the Panel meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> September 2021, the performance monitor for quarter one of the financial year 2021-22 (April-June 2021) was considered.

The financial and operational costs of social care during Covid were looked at. Covid's financial impact on care providers has been significant and the financial support from HCC has been well-received. However the care market is still fragile and will continue to require support during the current financial year.

As a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, many of Hertfordshire's residents have had their opportunities to thrive reduced. HCC officers have identified a proposed governance structure, themes and approach to supporting and improving residents' life chances over the next 3-5 years, under the title of Building Life Chances.

C/Cllr Fiona Guest

