

Hertfordshire County Council Adult Care Services Report for Health in

Herts. County Council's (HCC's) Adult Care Services Panel held a meeting on 2nd February 2023.

The adult care related parts of HCC's Integrated Plan 2023/24 to 26/27, which includes the 2023/24 HCC Budget, were discussed.

The Council Tax increase of 4.99% will include 2% to support Adult Social Care. The Budget achieves the aim of protecting services for residents. It includes £38 million to ensure that adult care providers can continue to support residents, including a 9.68% wage rise for care staff to help recruitment and retention. It will continue to ensure that Hertfordshire care wages are well above the national and real living wages. Care providers are monitored by HCC to ensure that the funding does get to the staff in wage increases.

The 2022 Adult Safeguarding Peer Review was considered. The review was reciprocal and over two days in October 2022, HCC's adult safeguarding was reviewed by two senior officers from Essex County Council and an independent social worker. The review was undertaken via a series of case audits, interviews with HCC officers and Hertfordshire Safeguarding Board members and a review of local policies.

The review highlighted a number of positive findings, including an understanding of the Making Safeguarding Personal principles – empowerment, prevention, proportionality, protection, partnership and accountability. It also highlighted a number of areas for development, including the use of Making Safeguarding Personal in the assessment forms, to reflect practice.

Peer reviews are useful to give an outside perspective of a service in a way in which the reviewers can act as “critical friends”.

C/Cllr Fiona Guest