

The HSCIC and adult social care

Linda Whalley, Assistant Director for Strategy and Policy
August 26th 2014

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Introduction

1. This paper provides an update on current work being undertaken in order to review and refresh the HSCIC's "offer" to adult social care.

The context for this work

2. The context for this work is the refresh of the HSCIC's strategy. We are working to clarify our "offer" to the wider health and care system. We are especially interested in the integration agenda, and this means we must take a critical look at the way we as an organisation engage with local government and adult social care. We have therefore engaged an external consultant with extensive expertise in this area to help us test out some thinking about the future needs of the care and wellbeing agenda, with a particular focus on the implications of the Care Act for local authorities and for citizens in need of services.
3. The first phase of this work is nearing completion, and will be presented to the Board at its October meeting.

Key points

4. The work has involved extensive interviews with key internal stakeholders, including the Chair, CEO, executive and non-executive directors, and programme heads for our information and technology services that currently engage with adult social care.
5. There have also been a smaller number of interviews with external stakeholders, in the Department of Health and the Association of Directors for Adult Social Services.
6. The main messages emerging from these conversations suggest that:
 - The sector as a whole is grappling with the challenges presented by the Care Act;
 - Our external stakeholders would welcome more engagement and involvement from the HSCIC at a strategic and policy level;
 - This work needs to be set in the context of our engagement with local authorities more generally, given their extended role in regard to public health and children's services;
 - Our internal arrangements would benefit from increased co-ordination.
7. A more detailed update will be presented to the October Board meeting, which will be focussing on our strategy.

Actions Required of the Board

8. The Board is asked to note this update.