

# Walsall Adult Social Care

## Market Position Statement - Financial year 22/23 update



### Overview

**At a national level, the effect of the COVID19 pandemic has meant significant change across the care sector over the last two years and the effect on local provider markets such as our very own here in Walsall has not gone unnoticed. Locally we continue to face a lot of uncertainty and ongoing challenges, in relation to growing needs for capacity to meet demand, lack of clarity regarding funding and the effects of increased vacancies across our residential, nursing and domiciliary care sector.**

As a directorate, Adult Social Care continues to learn from the challenges to strengthen our systems and services, with involvement from provider, voluntary/community organisations and continued engagement with our Customers and their Carers. We also want to continue to strengthen our support offer to our adults across the Borough by continuing our approach to Strength Based practice, which focusses on being holistic and multidisciplinary, working with the individual to promote their independence, health and wellbeing. In Walsall we are committed to embedding strengths based practice and improving the experiences of adults with care and support needs and their Carers. As we move through this financial year, commissioners will consider Strength Based Practice across all services, including Day Care and Social Clubs. Some of our traditional services such as Day opportunities were severely affected during 2021/2022 with many of our customers unable to utilise services they needed and traditionally relied upon. However, we recognise that our resilient providers delivered their services in less traditional ways and used innovative models to deliver alternative types of support to people who use these services and their carers during this challenging time.

The care and support market is changing as the needs of our local population evolve. We are mindful for the need to respond to the changing need and demographics for example those young people transitioning and preparing for adulthood. There is a clear focus on early intervention, prevention, staying independent and building resilient and responsive communities. Walsall Together, our local integrated model with partners across Health, remains the most appropriate enabler to ensure we have integrated commissioned services and opportunities across all areas including Learning Disabilities and Autism. Following direction at national level, local areas are working towards the development of Integrated Care Systems, bringing together NHS Organisations, Councils and others to work together to achieve the vision of improving health and wellbeing. Walsall is part of the Black Country Integrated Care System with two main elements in development:

- **Black Country Integrated Care Board** – leading integration, planning and services
- **Black Country Integrated Care Partnership** – established by the NHS with the Council as a partner



Internally in support of changes at system level, we are making strides to develop an Integrated Commissioning Hub. This will provide the market with a streamlined corporate approach to meeting the needs of our Customers of all ages with commissioning activity made available as opportunities to the market. As plans to develop Integrated Care Systems and the Integrated Care Board continue, the aim to ensure personalised care relevant to the individual remains the focus and is the golden thread for Adult Social Care by considering Strength Based practice as an approach.

In line with our Directorate Transformation Plan, commissioning intentions have been agreed which outline activity over the next financial year. These intentions include commissioning reviews and new procurements providing opportunities for the market. We are in a similar position to last year, where we continue to reflect, learn and grow. As a result, we will see the exit of additional short term commissioned contracts where short term funding was utilised as a response to the pandemic

**The following activity details our Adult Social Care commissioning intentions from the Directorate business plan for financial year 2022 – 2023:**

### Procurement opportunities for the market



We will be reviewing and recommissioning services in line with changes highlighted locally, and at national level. The national announcement regarding the new code of practice for Liberty Protection Safeguards informed Councils of the delay in its publication until 2023. To ensure services in Walsall are in place, a re-procurement exercise for four statutory Advocacy services will commence shortly, with potential start dates in October 2022. The services will specifically be IMCA, IMHA ICAS and Care Act contracts.

Following analysis of local data and national aims last financial year, recommendations concluded a need for additional beds across our Intermediate Care pathways for our customers who are considered complex based on need. To meet needs appropriately and to support safe and timely hospital discharges, there will be an opportunity for our bed-based market to tender for intermediate Care step down beds. This tender will commence during financial year 2022/2023.

The Carers Hub Service went out to tender at the end of February 2022 with the closing date for tender returns at the start of March 2022. It is the intention the new Carers Hub Service will commence 1st July 2022 once the standstill period is complete and the provider will be notified with a contract award letter to prepare the service.

### Outcome led models of care



We will work with the market to review existing domiciliary care models and contracts, taking us to re-imagining what care can look like for those remaining at home and requiring a package of care. We aim to move the market towards an outcomes led model, as our approach to micro commissioning changes to a strength based approach across the borough. Commissioners will also review the benefits of a 'specialist' re-ablement provider to deliver short-term services across the borough. This will be considered as a separate service to long-term domiciliary care services and frameworks.

Commissioning will dedicate a resource to review the current Community Based Services framework. This will include a review of our re-ablement capacity, will align to work taking place to review and embed intermediate care provision, and will compliment strength-based practice by moving towards an outcomes focussed model of care.



## Commissioning reviews



As we reflect on the last two years and apply learning, commissioning leads will review some of our commissioned services over the next 12 months to support recommendations and next steps.

**Nursing and Residential** framework review of contractual terms and consideration of implementing a schedule of rates will commence with the aim of implementing by March 2023.

**Supported Living** framework review will commence during 2022/23 starting with stakeholder engagement and present recommendations for consideration in relation to how the framework should support strength based practice and meet outcomes for its services users.

**Advocacy for Parents** service. This will be a joint review in partnership with our colleagues from Children's Services to ensure we are meeting outcomes and strive to continually improve customer satisfaction

**Day Opportunities** - A recent review of meaningful day opportunities found that for some people they wished to continue receiving their support differently and using non-building based services that they had accessed during the pandemic. We have also been working alongside our commissioning colleagues and partners across the West Midlands and beyond to see what models have been effective and valued by customers and carers. We are working at a regional level to identify good practice and models of delivery and will be responding to the new toolkit, which will be issued by the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services in England (ADASS). We have consulted with our citizens and carers about how we could re-shape our current and future provision and that delivered by our partners to provide services based on outcomes and individual's strengths. The consultation findings reinforced the importance of others such as resilient communities, leisure services and the voluntary and community sector and we are actively working with these partners to bring about change and development. We also consulted with our young people and their carers and other stakeholders about their thoughts for the future model; this engagement will be ongoing in 2022/23.

We will also continue to develop and roll out our **All Age Disability Model**, which aims to improve transition from Children to Adults services and improve the experience and outcomes for our young people with complex needs.

Specifically for **Autistic Adults** we will be reviewing our offer at a Place level in order to respond to the "national strategy for children, young people and adults 2021 to 2026" and at a System level by engaging across the Black Country as required.

## Next steps



Co-production opportunities will be available to the market to develop models. Commissioners will continue to communicate with the market through current methods such as provider forums, regular email updates, quarterly provider updates and procurement opportunities will be available through the Intend system.

