

TITLE	Adult Social Care's Social Care Future vision and Charter
FOR CONSIDERATION BY	Council on 18 January 2024
WARD	None Specific;
LEAD OFFICER	Executive Director Children, Adults and Health - Matt Pope

OUTCOME / BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY

Social Care Future (SCF) is a national movement for change that is working to ensure the care and support that we want for ourselves and our families meets our needs and is fit for the future we want.

This will help promote the following Health and Wellbeing Strategy priorities:

- Reduce the differences in health between different groups of people
- Promote good mental health and wellbeing for all adults

Updates will be reported via the Health and Overview Scrutiny Committee and Health and Wellbeing board every 6 months.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Note our commitment to the SCF vision
2. Consider how we can best deliver the SCF vision and work with people who use adult social care and family carers to achieve positive outcomes for our community
3. Members attend briefings (dates TBC)
4. Note the principles included within Wokingham Borough Council's SCF Charter

SUMMARY OF REPORT

Adult Social Care (ASC) is an important issue for everyone, regardless of age, health or personal circumstances. The ASC Strategy was approved by Executive in 2020 and sets out our vision and the strategic priorities and identifies the actions we want to achieve in the context of challenging budgetary and demographic pressures.

People experience social care unequally, with some groups more likely to receive poorer care. The social care system has lacked adequate investment for decades., COVID-19 has highlighted the extent of this, during lockdown it was recognised that many people who use services live in permanent lockdowns and experience inequality every day. SCF is about ensuring that everyone is included and change only happens in people's lives with their say. We believe that a cross party approach to doing this can have the best outcomes for residents and ensure continuity and stability.

By adopting the SCF movement, Wokingham Borough has joined more than 40 other Local Authorities who are a part of this innovative approach to social care. Since SCF launched their vision in November 2021 it has gained widespread support. It encapsulates succinctly a set of ideas, and values that have been developed with people who draw on care and support and which have been reflected in other documents over

time including [The Think Local Act Personal's \(TLAP\) Making it Real framework](#) as well as the [ADASS Time to Act](#).

Our existing ASC strategy and priorities will remain in place, but we will reframe our strategic vision and incorporate the new ideas of SCF and call for big change in how public service resources are used alongside citizens and community assets.

To support this cultural shift in Wokingham Borough, we have developed a Charter that we believe will help embed the culture of SCF movement within the practices of Wokingham Borough Council ASC and within our partner organisations. Our Charter focuses on what matters to the people of Wokingham Borough and includes the core principles that enable us to deliver the SCF vision. The Charter has been developed in partnership with our SCF Group and the wider community.

Our Charter therefore focuses on what matters to the people of Wokingham Borough and summarises the values we must all work towards to make the vision a reality and bring about positive change.

Adopting the SCF vision will require commitment from across the Council including transport, housing and planning. In addition, our partners in health, independent care providers and the voluntary, community and faith sectors are fundamental in this journey to work together and do social care differently to put control into the hands of people and communities, connecting people and resources together.

We hope that through the SCF initiative we can all unite and work together to do the best we can so that everyone can enjoy a 'gloriously ordinary life'.

Background

ASC is an important issue for everyone, regardless of age, health or personal circumstances. ASC provides support in a variety of ways to people living in Wokingham Borough who have the highest level of need, for example those with a disability or a long-term illness, older people, and to unpaid carers. It helps people do everyday things, and safeguards people from significant harm and enables them to live a normal life. During 2022/23 the Council received 5,758 requests for its services and approximately 2,684 people received a paid for care package. It is also one of the highest areas of spend for the Council.

The ASC Strategy was approved by Executive in 2020 and sets out our vision and the strategic priorities and identifies the actions we want to achieve in the context of challenging budgetary and demographic pressures.

Wokingham Borough Council fully appreciates the financial pressure that the sector is under and the exceptional challenges within ASC. ASC has been historically underfunded with insufficient funding made available to meet demography and inflation social care system has lacked adequate investment for decades. Successive governments have tried to reform the system but have not been able to do so. COVID-19 has highlighted the extent of this under investment, during lockdown it was

recognised that many people who use services live in permanent lockdowns and experience inequality every day¹.

People experience social care unequally, with some groups more likely to receive poorer care. We want to change this. SCF is a national movement that ensures everyone is included and change only happens in people's lives with their say. Drawing on learning from diverse social movements, and building on our work to date, our move towards the SCF vision sets out our plans and resource requirements for an initiative to ignite what we hope will be an unstoppable movement for change, capable of mobilising public support to make our vision a reality. We must all unite and work together to do the best we can so that everyone can enjoy a 'gloriously ordinary life'.

By adopting the SCF, Wokingham Borough has joined more than 40 other Local Authorities who are a part of this innovative approach to social care. Since SCF launched their vision in November 2021 it has gained widespread support. It encapsulates succinctly a set of ideas, and values that have been developed with people who draw on care and support and which have been reflected in other documents over time including [The Think Local Act Personal's \(TLAP\) Making it Real framework](#) as well as the [ADASS Time to Act](#).

Our existing ASC strategy and priorities will remain in place, but we will reframe our strategic vision and incorporate the new ideas of SCF, calling on big change in how public service resources are used alongside citizens and community assets.

SCF recognises the need for additional funding but appreciates that it is also about using existing money in ways that make a difference.

The SCF movement has suggested 5 key changes to unlock an equal life and identify and challenge these unacceptable inequalities and to reduce them. These are;

1. Communities where everyone belongs
2. Living in the place we call home
3. Leading the lives we want to live
4. More resources, better used
5. Sharing power as equals

To support this cultural shift in Wokingham Borough, we believe that our Social Care Charter will embed the movement within the fabric of ASC and our partners. The Charter has been developed in partnership with our SCF Core Group and wider community partners. The Charter was also consulted on at a public event in July 2023, at which 100 people attended. [Looking to the future of adult social care in Wokingham Borough | Wokingham](#)

Our Charter therefore focuses on what matters to the people of Wokingham Borough and summarises the values we must all work towards to make the vision a reality and bring about positive change. These are:

- Working together as equal partners
- Treating everyone with honesty and fairness
- Respecting the diversity of people

¹ <https://socialcarefuture.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/SCF-Glorious-Ordinary-Lives-f-1-1-2.pdf>

- Including and listening to everyone
- Building on people’s strengths, their networks, and resources from the local community
- Using clear, kind and easy to understand communication and information
- Being open when things are difficult to do, and work out what we can do together
- Focusing our efforts on what is important to people and make sure it is happening

The aim when producing our Charter has been to ensure that it is accessible and meaningful to anybody who reads it. The Charter will be available for signing and downloading on our website by local residents, elected members, providers of social care, statutory and voluntary partner organisations.

Analysis of Issues

The SCF vision advocates for a way of working that ensures the care and support that we want for ourselves and our families meets our needs and is fit for the future we want. As this sits alongside our ASC Strategy 2020-25 there are no known risks associated with this decision (legal; financial; or otherwise). The SCF Vision will continue to be delivered within the ASC MTFP financial envelope. Along with most local authorities in the country, WBC are facing an extremely challenging financial position caused by high inflation, increasing resident needs and years of continuous low funding from Government. Whilst ambitious, we hope to achieve SCF through using existing money in ways that make a difference.

The themes of our Charter focus on inclusivity, treating people as equals and respecting the diversity of people. An Equalities Assessment has been completed and it is hoped that SCF will improve the lives of every resident in borough and take into account the Equality Act 2010.

SCF is expected to have a positive impact, as reflected by some of the recent successes of ASC services. Also, in its adoption of a new strategic vision that is easier for local people to understand and remember, as a result of the input of SCF Core Group.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATION

The Council faces unprecedented financial pressures as a result of; the longer term impact of the COVID-19 crisis, Brexit, the war in Ukraine and the general economic climate of rising prices and the increasing cost of debt. It is therefore imperative that Council resources are optimised and are focused on the vulnerable and on its highest priorities.

	How much will it Cost/ (Save)	Is there sufficient funding – if not quantify the Shortfall	Revenue or Capital?
Current Financial Year (Year 1)			
Next Financial Year (Year 2)			

Following Financial Year (Year 3)			
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Other financial information relevant to the Recommendation/Decision
Along with most local authorities in the country, the Council are facing an extremely challenging financial position caused by high inflation, increasing resident needs and years of continuous low funding from Government. Whilst ambitious, we hope to achieve SCF through using existing money in ways that make a difference.

Cross-Council Implications (how does this decision impact on other Council services, including properties and priorities?)
Adopting the SCF vision will require commitment from across the Council including transport, housing and planning. In addition, our partners in health, independent care providers and the voluntary, community and faith sectors are fundamental in this journey to work together and do social care differently to put control into the hands of people and communities, connecting people and resources together

Public Sector Equality Duty
Equality Impact Assessment has been attached

Climate Emergency – This Council has declared a climate emergency and is committed to playing as full a role as possible – leading by example as well as by exhortation – in achieving a carbon neutral Wokingham Borough by 2030
N/A

Reasons for considering the report in Part 2
N/A

List of Background Papers
1. SCF briefing - Our plans for a better future 2. Equality Impact Assessment

Contact Iftkhar Ahmed	Service Adult Social Care
Telephone No	Email iftkhar.ahmed@wokingham.gov.uk

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