

<b>TITLE</b>	<b>Social Care Future</b>
<b>FOR CONSIDERATION BY</b>	Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee on Monday, 6 November 2023
<b>WARD</b>	None Specific
<b>KEY OFFICER</b>	Matt Pope; Executive Director of Childrens, Adults and Health Services

## **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.

The social care community in Wokingham Borough has adopted the Social Care Future vision and we are seeking the support of Full Council to embrace this movement. This will include the adoption of our locally developed Social Care Future Charter and a political commitment to work together with people who use adult social care and family carers, to achieve positive outcomes for our communities.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

That the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee:

1. Note our commitment to the Social Care Future Vision
2. Consider how HOSC may best support the delivery of the Social Care Future Vision and work with people who use adults social care and family carers to achieve positive outcomes for our community.
3. For representatives of the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee to attend a Member briefing (Date TBC).
4. Note the principles included within Wokingham Borough Council's Social Care Future 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. Social Care Future 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.

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

The Social Care Future movement has suggested 5 key changes to unlock an equal life and identify and challenge these unacceptable inequalities and to reduce them. These are:

- Communities where everyone belongs
- Living in the place we call home
- Leading the lives we want to live
- More resources, better used
- Sharing power as equals

To support this cultural shift in Wokingham Borough, we believe that our Social Care Future Charter will embed the movement within the fabric of adults' social care and our partners. Our charter focuses on what matters to the people of Wokingham Borough and includes the core principles that enable us to deliver the Social Care Future vision. The Charter has been developed in partnership with our Social Care Future Group and the wider community.

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. The Charter will be presented to Full Council in January 2024.

Adopting the Social Care Future 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 Social Care Future initiative we can all unite and work together to do the best we can so that everyone can enjoy a 'gloriously ordinary life.

## **Background**

Adult Social Care (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 day<sup>1</sup>.

People experience social care unequally, with some groups more likely to receive poorer care. We want to change this. Social Care Future 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 Social Care Future 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 Social Care Future Movement, Wokingham Borough has joined more than 40 other Local Authorities who are a part of this innovative approach to social care. Since Social Care Future 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. [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 Social Care Future, calling on big change in how public service resources are used alongside citizens and community assets.

The Social Care Future movement recognises the need for additional funding but also advocates for thinking differently about how we use existing resources. Starting from working out how to support good lives in strong communities, not traditional services.

The Social Care Future movement has proposed 5 key changes to unlock an equal life, identify and challenge these unacceptable inequalities and 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

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

To support this cultural shift in Wokingham Borough, we believe that our Social Care Future Charter will embed the movement within the fabric of adults' social care and our partners. The Charter has been developed in partnership with our Social Care Future 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
- 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

### **Analysis of Issues (including any financial implications)**

The Social Care Future 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 Social Care Future 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 Social Care Future 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 Social Care Future will improve the lives of every resident in borough and take into account the Equality Act 2010.

Social Care Future 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 Social Care Future Core Group.

### **Partner Implications**

Locally we have a Core Group of partners working across ASC including people who use ASC support. The purpose of the Core Group is for stakeholders to explore their hopes for the network and contribute towards supporting an equal life for disabled and older people and to use the vision to steer local action.

Our Charter has been developed by our local Core Group and people who use services, with input from a wide range of partners, summarising how we want to deliver Social Care Future locally. As mentioned above, the Charter states the values stakeholders must all work towards to make Social Care Future a reality.

This is the beginning of our journey and our Core Group meets monthly. It is proposed that our Core Group will provide an annual progress review for the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Full Council, against the core principles of Social Care Future.

Our Social Care Future Charter will be hosted on the Council's website, all partners will be invited to sign up to this and help embed this into their work.

<b>Public Sector Equality Duty</b>
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Equality Impact Assessment has been attached
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<b>Reasons for considering the report in Part 2</b>
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N/A
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<b>List of Background Papers</b>
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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. SCF briefing - Our plans for a better future</li><li>2. Equality Impact Assessment</li></ol> |
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