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# Care Quality Commission Local Authority Assessment 2024

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**Report being considered by:** Health and Wellbeing Board

**On:** 11 July 2024

**Report Author:** Paul Coe

**Report Sponsor:** Councillor Patrick Clark

**Item for:** Information

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## 1. Purpose of the Report

To provide an update on the recent Care Quality Commission's (CQC) Local Authority Assessment in West Berkshire.

## 2. Recommendation(s)

That West Berkshire Council's Adult Social Care (ASC) Department leads work to deliver the following actions:

- (a) Develop and implement an action plan to progress issues identified through the assurance process. The plan will include engagement with relevant colleagues including Commissioning & Procurement, Human Resources, Digital and the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Lead. Wider work with partners and stakeholders will take place.
- (b) Incorporate CQC feedback into the updated ASC Strategy.

## 3. Executive Summary

3.1 The CQC's 'Local Authority Assessment' covers the work of the Council's ASC department, alongside some wider work by linked departments, notably Commissioning and Procurement. It also explores a range of partnership-working arrangements.

3.2 The CQC undertook a Local Authority Assessment of West Berkshire Council in February 2024. The assessment included a review of a large amount of information, interviews with a range of stakeholders, a site visit, and 'case tracking' activity.

3.3 CQC have now issued the report. It is available here:

[West Berkshire Council: local authority assessment - Care Quality Commission \(cqc.org.uk\)](https://www.cqc.org.uk/local-authority-assessment-west-berkshire-council)

3.4 CQC makes provision for challenge. We have made no challenge.

3.5 The overall rating for West Berkshire Council is 'Good'. Options are 'Inadequate', 'Requires Improvement', 'Good', and 'Outstanding'.

3.6 A draft action plan has been developed.

## 4. Supporting Information

- 4.1 The Care Quality Commission introduced a new Assurance framework for Local Authorities in 2023. Five pilot inspections were conducted in late 2023. West Berkshire Council was one of three Local Authorities identified as the first tranche to be inspected.
- 4.2 The assessment has now taken place, and West Berkshire Council has been rated as 'Good'. The other two assessed authorities were also rated as 'Good'.
- 4.3 Other assessments have taken place and reports will be issued in due course.

## 5. Options Considered

- 5.1 Some Local Authorities/Care Providers lodge a dispute with CQC. This is not justified on this occasion.
- 5.2 The timing of a future visit is unknown, but a best estimate is 2-3 years. Consequently, work on improvements could be delayed. This is not recommended, although certain elements may be prioritised based on resource impacts.

## 6. Proposal(s)

- 6.1 West Berkshire Council prepared for the Assessment with a Task Group led by ASC, and including colleagues from Commissioning and Procurement, Finance, Legal Services, and Human Resources. The same group will now review the areas for improvement as summarised in the draft Action Plan. Additional colleagues will be engaged as needed, e.g. the EDI lead, Digital and Public Health.
- 6.2 ASC is due to refresh its Strategy. The CQC feedback will be incorporated into that process.

## 7. Conclusion(s)

The CQC's Local Authority Assessment of West Berkshire Council has been completed. The report has been received, with a rating of 'Good'. It identifies a number of areas for improvement which will require input from officers across the Council.

## 8. Appendices

None.

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### Background Papers:

None

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### Health and Wellbeing Priorities Supported:

The proposals will support the following Health and Wellbeing Strategy priorities:

- Reduce the differences in health between different groups of people
- Support individuals at high risk of bad health outcomes to live healthy lives
- Help families and young children in early years
- Promote good mental health and wellbeing for all children and young people
- Promote good mental health and wellbeing for all adults

The proposals contained in this report will support the above Health and Wellbeing Strategy priorities by ensuring that Council services respond to the needs of the local population, and that they are delivered in a partnership model with effective leadership and governance arrangements.

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