

LONGLIST OF INDEPTH TOPICS SUGGESTED BY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEES 2018/19
PROPOSED TOPICS FOR TASK GROUP IN-DEPTH REVIEWS

<p>Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee</p>	<p>Suggested topic: Support and resources for Carers</p> <p>Reason for Review: This is a Member suggestion which has been put forward due to concerns regarding meeting Key Performance Indicators (KPI's) for Carer Assessments.</p> <p>The Care Act 2014 created a single, modern law which makes it clear what kind of care people should expect and what they will receive. The Act introduced new responsibilities for Local Authorities in managing the social care needs of their local population. This included new rights for carers, including the right to an assessment of their needs.</p> <p>The Task Group review undertaken earlier this year “How Far Has Medway Gone in Becoming a Dementia Friendly Community?” heard concerns raised by carers of people living with dementia with regard to difficulties accessing carer support and a lack of flexible respite provision.</p> <p>Potential for impact on one or more sections of the population? Yes – People of all ages are carers.</p> <p>Is this an issue of corporate concern and/or an issue for partners? Yes – This is an issue for the Council and partners. The Council has agreed to implement a number of initiatives over a period of time and within budgetary constraints to ensure an overall improvement in provision.</p> <p>Will it add value/lead to effective outcomes? The topic would support Medway’s priority of “supporting Medway’s people to realise their potential” which would support the outcome under this priority of “older and disabled people living independently in their homes.” It also supports the way of working, “Working in partnership where this benefits our residents.” In order to maximise the effectiveness of outcomes, care would need to be taken not to duplicate existing workstreams.</p>
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Will the review duplicate other work? This depends upon the focus of review. The Medway Adult Social Care Strategy 2016-20 sets out a commitment to support carers to maintain their caring role and stay well. The Delivery Plan of the Strategy includes reviewing support for carers, especially those providing significant unpaid care or those caring for people with dementia and commissioning services that are appropriate for their needs.

Current work related to carers currently in progress includes:

- Carers' assessment, support plan and review forms are in the process of being revised to ensure they reflect a personalised, holistic approach to assessing the needs of carers. Further supporting a personalised approach to carers' support, the current provision of the Carers' Breaks services is being adapted to allow greater capacity to offer a direct payment in place of a commissioned service to allow flexible plans to be developed to support the complex individual needs of informal carers.
- The Community Interest Companies of 'WALT' and 'WHoo Cares' are currently running a pilot focussed on improving outcomes for carers through understanding the individual needs, giving carers further input into how they are supported by Adult Social Care and increasing the choice around personalised support that can be delivered in the local community.

The topic of carer support was previously investigated via themed meetings in 2010/11. In addition, some of the recommendations of the Mental Health Task Group in 2014 related to carers.

Is it timely/ do we have the resources? The topic could be considered timely, but as stated above, careful consideration is needed to ensure that duplication of existing work strands is avoided and that all initiatives will be delivered within existing budgetary constraints. The review could draw upon existing resources but given constraints close cooperation would be needed with the voluntary sector.

Will the review provide scope for service improvement? Yes, review of existing work-streams and previous scrutiny work could identify any gaps.