

CABINET

21 DECEMBER 2010

ANNUAL PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT – ADULT SOCIAL CARE – ADDENDUM REPORT

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Tom Mason, Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care

Report from: Rose Collinson, Director of Children and Adults

Author: Rosie Gunstone, Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinator

Summary

To report on the discussion at the Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 16 December 2010 in relation to the Annual Performance Assessment – Adult Social Care.

1. Background

- 1.1. The Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee met on 16 December 2010 to consider the Annual Performance Assessment – Adult Social Care.
- 1.2. The Director of Children and Adults introduced the report and stated that the Care Quality Commission, having conducted an annual review of performance and categorised the Council as 'Performing Well'. The overall grade remained the same as last year but reflected an improvement for Outcome 7, Maintaining Personal Dignity and Respect, from 'adequate' to 'performing well'.
- 1.3. She stated that she was pleased with the improvements in safeguarding but there was no room for complacency and for the residents of Medway they would be looking for a seamless service across health and social care. The Committee were informed that the judgement followed a self-assessment by the Council and she emphasised the importance of having integrity and robustness in self-assessment. She also emphasised the importance of listening to the voice, views and needs of carers.

1.4. The Assistant Director, Adult Social Care and the Director of Children and Adults responded to Members' questions. Members complimented the Directorate in achieving the 'performing well' judgement and the following responses were received to questions raised:

- This would be the last annual performance assessment and although the Care Quality Commission would still regulate local authorities, health and care homes, the regulations were changing. In future if a Council wished to assess itself as providing an excellent service there would be a process whereby, on payment of a fee, the Council could put itself forward but only 5% across the country would achieve that status. On this basis the Assistant Director, Adult Social Care, felt it was more important to continue performing well;
- The 'additional resources' referred to in paragraph 4.2 of the report referred to the social care reform grant and the government had stated that local authorities could carry over to next year any under-spend on the basis of it being used for its intended purpose;
- It was accepted that more needed to be done with regard to the high proportion of people with learning disabilities in long term residential care to promote their independence;
- Increased emphasis was being placed on communicating with carers to ensure that residents of Medway were aware of what services were available;
- In spite of the present financial position for the authority it was stated that every effort was made to ensure that no-one was excluded when applying for work and that Medway Council had a responsibility to lead the way in employing people with a learning disability.

1.5. The Committee then congratulated officers for the judgement and noted the report.

2. Recommendation

2.1 Cabinet is asked to consider the comments from the Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Lead officer contact

Author: Rosie Gunstone, Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinator,
Gun Wharf, 01634 332715 rosie.gunstone@medway.gov.uk