

Open Report on behalf of Tony McArdle - Director of Adult Services

Report to:	Audit Committee
Date:	12 November 2012
Subject:	Assurance Status Report - Adult Social Care

Summary:

The aim of this report is to provide the Audit Committee with an insight on the assurances across all critical services and key risks in Adult Social Care

Recommendation(s):

That the Committee:

1. notes the current status of the Adult Social Care assurance regime and make recommendations on any further scrutiny required; and
2. provide feedback on any changes it may wish for future reports of this type.

Background

This is the first combined assurance report for the Council. It focusses on Adult Social Care.

We have co-ordinated the assurance information from management, corporate functions / third parties and Internal audit to show what assurances the Council currently has in Adult Social Care.

We gathered and analysed assurance information in a control environment that:

- takes what we have been told on trust, and
- encourages accountability with those responsible for managing the service

Attached in Appendix A is the detailed report for consideration by the Committee.

We are undertaking a similar exercise across all Council Services with the aim of pulling together the overall position on the Council for its January 2013 meeting. As this is the first of its type we would welcome feedback from the Committee on the format and content of the report:

- Does it meet your expectations?
- Does it help provide you with an insight of the assurances in the service?

- Does it adequately identify what being done or needs to be done to improve the current level of assurance?

It is proposed to produce an annual status report for the Committee – with regular updates through the Internal Audit Progress report or specific briefings by Senior Management as requested by the Committee eg where concerns have been identified.

Conclusion

Spring 2012 represented a watershed moment for Adult Social Care (ASC) as two separate Divisions (Commissioning and Operations) were brought together, a new Directorate management arrangement came into place and the Chief Executive took the role of the Director of Adult Social Care (DAS).

At the same time ASC had a programme of work to reduce base budget pressures; significant savings were being made (£12M in 2011/12) with more to come. These were organised around Performance Improvement Projects (PIPs) with project support from the Programme Office. However, it soon became apparent that a fundamental review of ASC was required if the organisation and delivery of adult social care was to be placed on a sustainable footing. To this end 3 macro projects were initiated:

- looking at Learning Disability (the largest area of overspend against budget);
- reablement services, and
- '14 Forward' in which a small team of experts were pulled together to develop a blueprint enabling ASC to re-model itself.

The journey that ASC is on is lengthy and that, in part explains why the overall assurance status looks as it does.

Consultation

a) Policy Proofing Actions Required

N/A

Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Combined Assurance Status Report - Adult Social Care

Background Papers

No background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this report.

This report was written by Glen Garrod, who can be contacted on 01522-550808 or glen.garrod@lincolnshire.gov.uk.