

Meeting of the Cabinet - 10th December, 2008

Report of the Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services

Annual Performance Assessment of Social Care Services for Adults in Dudley

Purpose of Report

1. To report to Cabinet that the highest grade within the **Three Star-rating** has been retained for the second year-running by the Council's Adult Social Care Services. This Report to Cabinet is required by the Commission for Social Care Inspection's (CSCI) Annual Performance Assessment letter dated 27th October 2008 and attached as an Appendix to this Report.

Background

2. Adult Social Care Services in Dudley have maintained the high standard of performance in continuing to demonstrate **Three Star**-level performance for 2007/08.
3. In the Annual Performance Assessment (APA,) CSCI have judged Adult Social Services in Dudley to be **excellent** in the two judgement areas -
 - Delivering outcomes and
 - Capacity for Improvement – leadership, commissioning and use of resources.
4. It is demanding to maintain performance at such high levels and whilst no higher score is possible within the current performance assessment regime by CSCI, this performance reflects extremely well on the continued tremendous commitment and dedication of all staff, managers and support staff as well as the strength of corporate support and our partnerships, particularly with Dudley's NHS partners, in sustaining improved outcomes for vulnerable adults in Dudley. In this way, the Directorate continues to recognise that success is not just built on the strengths of Adult Social Care Services but on the corporate and partnership commitment to the adult social care agenda.
5. CSCI's current methodology for judging performance has evolved to reflect a welcome focus on the outcomes for people receiving social services. Ref page 2 of appendix 1:
6. In achieving such excellent performance, we continue to be aware that there are areas that we want to develop such as embracing the "Transforming Social Care" initiative which Cabinet considered at their September meeting, any improvement arising from the recent Joint Learning Disability Commissioning Review we are

already and acting to improve those areas for improvement mentioned by CSCI in their letter of 27th October 2008.

7. Continuing to maintain success at this level through change in the provision of a personalised service that promotes the independence and well-being of all adults and their families in Dudley in the coming years is not without its challenges but the service has an excellent base from which to move into the next stage of its development.
8. It should be acknowledged that the CSCI are merging with the Healthcare Commission and the Mental Health Act Commission to form a new regulatory and inspection agency for the social care and health sector, the Care Quality Commission from April 2009. This will undoubtedly mean further changes in inspection methodology over time in the context of a commitment to “reducing the burden” on Local Authorities.

Finance

9. Any financial implications arising from addressing the areas for improvement will be met from within existing budgets and budget planning.

Law

10. CSCI was created by the Health and Social Care (Community Health and Standards) Act 2003 and exercises its functions to inspect and have regard to standards under that Act.

Equality Impact

11. CSCI's Annual Performance Assessment letter specifically addresses permeating the other outcome areas. Such positive overall achievements would not have been possible without commitment to and provision of services, in a fairly and equitably way.

Recommendation

12. That Cabinet formally received and comments upon the CSCI Annual Performance letter which awards **Three Stars** performance rating for this Council's adult social care services.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Linda Sanders". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial 'L'.

Linda Sanders
Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services

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Background Papers

Performance Ratings for Adult Social Care Services letter from CSCI dated 27th October 2008

CSCI Summary Report of 2007-08 Annual Performance Assessment of Social Care Services for Adults Services for Dudley