

## **Briefing Note for the Executive Partnership Board on 17<sup>th</sup> September 2012**

### **The Local Account 2012 to 2013**

#### **Background**

At the Executive Partnership Board Meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> November we asked for your help in producing our first Local Account. As a result we set up a working group, which was invaluable in helping us to determine the format and content of our local account and to identify what would interest people (and what would not!). Here is a brief update on progress.

#### **The Local Account**

The purpose of the Local Account is to enable residents to judge how well the Council is performing in meeting priorities for adult social care in Buckinghamshire and that value for money is being achieved with resources used for social care by the County Council. We needed to try to ensure it was meaningful, useful and interesting.

#### **The Process**

The working group met on a total of 5 occasions, with useful discussions which identified key principles and “does” and “don’ts”. In addition to the work of the Local Account Working group there was a consultation process carried out which included a questionnaire to Partnership Boards/Links. With regards to Carers, the questionnaire was sent out in an e mail to accompany the Carers Newsletter going out to approximately 5,000 people. For residents generally a website Questionnaire was set up on the council’s website with signposting to obtain feedback from Buckinghamshire residents. People could chose to respond to one straightforward question or had the choice of providing more in depth feedback.

The resulting draft Local Account was taken to Cabinet for agreement, where it received positive comments and was also discussed at the Health Overview and Scrutiny meeting which identified some useful areas for improvement in the next version. Similar learning points were also provided as a result of submitting the finished product to a South East regional “peer group” review. This was our first Local Account so we found all these comments useful in continuing to develop this key document. We have also built in a feedback form into the Local Account itself which will inform the production of our next Local Account.

#### **The Result**

The Local Account is now completed and available on the County Council website. A limited number of hard copies have also been produced. These have been distributed to public places such as GP surgeries, all county libraries. Copies were also provided to all partnership Boards for their own distribution arrangements. An easy read version has been distributed to partnership boards as requested and will also be available on the County Councils website. A link to the Local Account website will also be sent to key organisations such as parish councils to ensure local people are aware of its availability.

#### **Next steps**

The Local Account is not just a means to provide information to people about social care performance and priorities as a “snapshot” at one point in time. We will be using the key priorities set out in the Local Account as a basis for reporting progress. Using this approach we will be producing a newsletter and we have also set up a Local Account Panel comprising of

partnership board reps, people from the residents panel and a county councillor representing the Health Overview and Scrutiny Board. We would also welcome your renewed commitment to providing representatives from the partnership boards and links to help us look at how we can improve on this years Local Account and produce an even better one next year!

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