

Policy Committee Decision Report

Title of Report:	Adult Care and Wellbeing Local Account
Date of Decision:	11 th December 2024
Report To:	Adult Health and Social Care Policy Committee
Report Of:	Alexis Chappell, Strategic Director of Adult Care and Wellbeing
Report Author:	David Stevenson, Care Governance Officer

Executive Summary:

- The Local Account is intended to provide a picture of how adult social care is performing in Sheffield.
- It is proposed that the Local Account becomes a web based microsite instead of a written document.
- Members are recommended to endorse this approach and to authorise officers to develop the Local Account microsite, and to update it when new data becomes available.
- A microsite has several benefits. It can be updated when new data becomes available and is likely to reach more members of the public.



Council Plan outcomes:

[People live in caring, engaged communities that value diversity and support wellbeing](#)

Policy Committee remit:

This report is to be considered by the Adult Health and Social Care Policy Committee as its remit includes adult social work, care and support including specialist social work.

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? No



Recommendations:

Adult Health and Social Care Policy Committee is recommended to:

1. Note and Endorse the Adult Care Strategy and Local Account of Performance becoming a web based microsite
2. Approve and Authorise officers to develop the Adult Social Care Strategy and Local Account of Performance microsite and to update the microsite as new data becomes available

Financial Implications: No Approved by: Kay Simpson 25.11.24

Legal Implications: Yes/No Approved by: Patrick Chisholm 2.12.24

Equality and Engagement Implications: Yes Approved by Ed Sexton

Equalities Impact Assessment completed with EIA number: 2902

Climate Change Implications: No, Climate Impact Assessment #85 Approved by: David Stevenson

Background Papers: [Your Care and Support: Sheffield's Adult Social Care Local Account 22/23](#)

[DASS Local Account and Annual Performance report, Adult Health and Social Care Policy Committee, December 2023](#)

Appendices: Appendix 1: Outline structure of proposed Local Account microsite

1. Background to the issue

- 1.1 The Local Account of Adult Social Care Performance is a report to the public undertaken by a Local Authority to update local citizens on adult social care performance and strategic aims for the year ahead.
- 1.2 Publishing a Local Account is not a statutory duty but is recognised as best practice.
- 1.3 The most recent published Local Account for Sheffield was approved at Adult Health and Social Care Policy Committee in December 2023, reporting on performance in 2022/23.

2. Proposal

- 2.1 The Local Account has been previously presented as a written document. For reference the 22/23 Local Account is linked in the Background Papers section.
- 2.2 There are several limitations of presenting a Local Account as a written document:
- As the report is written in the autumn of each year, data is only available from the previous financial year, e.g. in September 2023 the report was written on performance for the 22/23 financial year. This means the Local Account is always looking back a year and not covering current live performance.
 - As a formal written report, the content of the Local Account may not be engaging for members of the public who are the intended audience
 - The Local Account is a static document and cannot be updated with new information and data throughout the year.
- 2.3 The Local Account provides one of the cornerstones of our engagement with the citizens of Sheffield, including the people who use our services but also the wider population who are interested in adult social care.
- 2.4 We are proposing that going forward the Local Account is presented as an online microsite with live pages of performance data and narrative on our performance on adult social care. The DASS quarterly report can refer to the performance data in the microsite making performance accessible.

- 2.5 The microsite can also present other public facing data and documents, for example the Adult Care and Wellbeing Strategy 2022-2030 and Market Position Statements on the care market in Sheffield, which will improve accessibility of information about adult social care to public and partners.
- 2.6 It can also provide case studies and examples of how we are making a difference to people lives and enable wider linkage to information and advice through connecting to our Sheffield Directory and TriX online.
- 2.7 In this way the microsite can act as a repository of data and information for anyone interested in adult social care in Sheffield such as those who receive care, carers, professionals, partners and other members of the community.
- 2.8 The microsite can be updated when new data becomes available ensuring the Local Account becomes a more relevant live view of Adult's performance. It is proposed that the microsite is updated throughout the year as new data becomes available.
- 2.9 The Adult Social Care Strategy and Local Account will be maintained by staff in the Care Governance and Business Planning team. This will ensure oversight and governance of the Local Account, ensuring there is a single route of updating the Local Account and that any data is verified for accuracy prior to publication.
- 2.10 We believe having the Local Account as a web-based microsite will overall increase public engagement with the Local Account and enable the Local Account to be linked to the Councils Website, Health and Wellbeing Board Microsite, Sheffield Directory and with that support the Future Sheffield Digital programme.
- 2.11 We are aware that some people living in Sheffield are digitally excluded and through our partnerships and work with individuals, carers, communities and partners we will consider ways that we can keep people involved, including providing printed copies where appropriate.
- 2.12 We will ensure that the microsite is designed so that it is accessible for people with disabilities, for example being compatible with screen readers.
- 2.13 A proposed outline structure of the microsite is included in Appendix 1.

3. How does this decision contribute to the Council Plan?

3.1 Council Plan outcome

3.1.1 The proposals in this report support the Council Plan outcome for People live in caring, engaged communities that value diversity and support wellbeing.

3.1.2 Within this outcome the proposals fit the Council Plan priority of high-quality care and support at the right time and place so people can be independent for longer and stay safe. This is met via sharing public facing data on adult social care performance in Sheffield which can be easily accessed.

3.2 People – Prosperity – Planet

3.2.1 We have considered these proposals against the Council's policy triple-lock (People, Prosperity and Planet). Utilising existing digital infrastructure to host the Local Account instead of a printed Local Account will save raw materials and reduce carbon emissions.

4. What community or partner engagement has been undertaken and how has it informed the proposal?

4.1 The Local Account for 22/23 was coproduced with a small group of people who receive care and carers. Members of the group were remunerated for their time.

4.2 This coproduction approach was beneficial but was limited to the number of people who were practically able to contribute time in person to a series of planned co-production workshops.

4.3 Going forward a digital Local Account will offer more opportunities for people who receive or provide care to engage with the Local Account. For example, for people who are not able to leave their home. This can also be on a planned or unplanned basis e.g. dedicated workshops feeding back on the Local Account or ad hoc feedback.

4.4 It is expected that the digital Local Account will be developed in an iterative process where the Local Account is developed by officers as a live microsite which can be continually updated and shaped based on feedback and co-production with people who receive care, carers and other sources. This will make the Local Account more of a live product which accurately reflects the current position of adult social care in Sheffield.

5. What alternative options did we consider?

5.1 Alternative Option 1:

Continue to develop the Local Account as a written report



For the reasons stated in the report we do not believe the Local Account should continue to be presented as an annual written report. We do not believe this approach maximises engagement and accessibility and creates issues around timeliness of data publication.

5.2 Alternative Option 2:

To not develop a Local Account

It is not a statutory duty to develop a Local Account. However we believe it is worthwhile and important to publish a Local Account. Publishing a Local Account sets out the performance and story of adult social care in Sheffield in a more accessible way than committee reports and other information sources. This supports the Efficient and Effective outcome in our Adult Social Care Strategy 2022-2030. The Director of Adult Social Services (DASS) can also demonstrate compliance with other statutory duties via publication of a Local Account.

6. How has equality, diversity and inclusion been actively considered?

6.1 An Equality Impact Assessment has been completed for this proposal.

6.2 The only significant area of potential negative impact is linked to digital exclusion. As the Local Account will be a digital microsite it can only be accessed by someone with a computer or mobile phone and an internet connection. As noted in 2.11 we will seek mitigations for this.

6.3 Conversely by being a live digital document there are numerous opportunities to improve and enhance the accessibility of the Local Account compared to a written document. Any feedback on accessibility can be used to quickly make amendments to the accessibility of the document.

6.4 By being a digital Local Account presents opportunities for enhanced accessibility compared to a paper document such as compatibility with screen readers and high contrast display settings.

7. Financial and Commercial Implications

7.1 The digital Local Account is to be developed in ESRI Experience Builder, as has been used to develop SCC's Joint Strategic Needs Assessment.

7.2 As this has already been purchased corporately there are no additional costs of using this software to develop the Local Account. Existing staff resource in the Care Governance and Business Planning team will be used to keep the Local Account updated.

7.3 A small budget of £2,000 in 24/25 is available for any small costs linked to the Local Account, this has so far not been spent.

7.4 Any financial information reported in the Local Account will be verified with finance prior to being published

8. Legal Implications

8.1 It is not a statutory duty for a Local Authority to develop and publish a Local Account for adult social care.

8.2 The Director of Adult Social Services (DASS) has a range of statutory duties. The DASS has a professional responsibility to ensure that the Council has a local offer which meets statutory duties in relation to performance e.g. measuring effectiveness of services. Most Local Authorities choose to publish a Local Account for adult social care to help fulfil DASS duties.

9. Climate and Environmental Implications

9.1 Publishing the Local Account as a digital microsite instead of a paper document will reduce the Council's usage of raw materials and associated carbon emissions.

9.2 A Climate Impact Assessment has been completed to this effect ID #85

10. Reasons for decision

10.1 Developing and publishing the Local Account as a digital microsite will ensure that it can be updated as data becomes available making it a more live and relevant product. As a microsite amendments can be readily made in response to engagement and feedback and using a digital platform will maximise opportunities for engagement with people who receive care and carers as well as anyone else interested in adult social care in Sheffield.