

Committees: Safeguarding Sub Committee – For Information Department of Community and Children’s Services Grand Committee – For Information Health and Wellbeing Board – For Information	Dated: 19/06/2023 15/06/2023 29/06/2023
Subject: Adult Social Care Inspection Framework – Care Quality Commission (CQC)	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation’s Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	1,2,3
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	N
If so, how much?	N/A
What is the source of Funding?	Better Care Fund
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain’s Department?	N/A
Report of: Judith Finlay, Executive Director of Community and Children’s Services	For Information
Report author: Emma Masters, Transformation Programme Manager, Adult Social Care	

Summary

The [Health and Care Act 2022](#) gives new powers to the Care Quality Commission (CQC) to provide a meaningful and independent assessment of care at a local authority and integrated care system level, starting in April 2023.

In response to the requirement, Adult Social Care is undertaking a self-evaluation against the [Assessment framework for local authority assurance](#) and its four quality themes.

Below, we outline the CQC’s launch plan, and an update on our progress and ongoing approach to local authority and integrated care system assessments.

Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- Note the report.

Main Report

Background

1. The Health and Care Act received Royal Assent in April 2022 and introduced significant reforms to the organisation and delivery of health and care services in England, including the return of CQC assessment of local authority Adult Social Care services.
2. From 1 April 2023, the CQC will have new powers to assess local authorities in England and will be looking at how we meet our duties under the Care Act (2014). The CQC has

published an implementation plan, with a view to start full inspection activity from September 2023.

3. From 1 April 2023 through to September 2023, the CQC will start to review data and published documentary evidence across all local authorities. The data and evidence from this activity will be published at an overall national level as a collection of evidence, for example, in the CQC's annual statutory State of Care report to Parliament. This national review will be the first element towards full assessment of two quality statements. It will constitute the CQC's first steps in developing judgements for individual authorities. It will also provide valuable context and an opportunity to benchmark national data.
4. During the same period, the CQC will commence pilot assessment activity for up to five local authorities, on a voluntarily basis. Publication of the findings from these pilots are subject to further determination between the CQC and the local authorities involved. City of London Adult Social Care have not requested to participate at this time.
5. From September to December 2023, the CQC will start the roll-out of formal inspection activity for all local authorities, with an aim to conduct up to 20 assessments during this period. City of London may be chosen as one of the local authorities in this tranche. We would have around four weeks' notice to plan and start activity.
6. From early 2024 onwards, the CQC will continue to conduct further formal assessments and report on their findings. The Government has requested that the CQC publish individual ratings of local authorities following the pilots and assessments. The CQC plan to work with local authorities and Department of Health and Social Care during this time to inform how findings are published and rated.

Current Position

7. We are finalising our self-assessment against the four quality themes and collating the required supporting data and evidence. Our aim is to have a final draft completed by early June 2023.
8. On 13 and 14 June 2023, a peer review will be conducted via the Local Government Association to provide additional input into and scrutiny of our Adult Social Care self-assessment and inspection readiness. This activity is expected to provide further opportunity for insight and reflection to enhance our final self-assessment, and strengthen our improvement plans to ensure compliance.
9. Alongside the self-assessment, we have a draft Adult Social Care Improvement Plan, which is required as supporting evidence. Our aim is to know ourselves and know ourselves well, ensuring that any identified plans for improvement are well documented, governed and have delivery plans. The Adult Social Care Transformation Programme is currently documenting and providing the governance for this.
10. The initial data requirement to accompany the self-assessment is the Client Level Data (CLD) return. From April 2023, the Government has introduced person-level data collection to provide better insights into care journeys and outcomes to show which interventions work best and how we can improve how people move between health and social care. This is new nationally, and a significant piece of work, with the first return

due in July 2023. We currently have this project in delivery and will assess outputs in May 2023.

11. On completion of the peer review activity, we will share the outcomes. The findings, expected to be both positive and self-reflecting, will inform the production of our final Self-Assessment document.
12. In addition to the completion of documentation and evidence, we are producing a practical plan, similar to our Ofsted inspection approach, which outlines clear responsibilities, roles and resources required to manage the inspection activity.
13. This is the start of how things will change for Adult Social Care with a continuous rolling plan.
14. **Financial implications:** The cost of the peer review is £5,000.00 plus expenses and is met via Adult Social Care grant funding.

We anticipate that additional resources may be required to support improvement delivery. Adult Social Care grant funding has been identified to meet the current pressures.
15. **Resource implications:** The extent that the Adult Social Care statutory inspections will impact on Adult Social Care resources will be determined by the ongoing pressures of inspection activity. While we are seeking synergies across Children's and special educational needs and disability (SEND) inspections, the additional governance and resourcing requirement are expected to have impact in the longer term.
16. **Legal implications:** This is a legislative change for Adult Social Care service delivery. The City of London will need to ensure that there is legislative compliance.
17. **Risk implications:** The CQC's assessment of local authority Adult Social Care services represents a reputational risk on a par with the Ofsted assessment of Children's Services.
18. **Equalities implications:** The Government has conducted Equalities Impact Assessments on all reform initiatives.
19. **Climate implications:** N/A
20. **Security implications:** N/A

Conclusion

21. The implementation of the new Adult Social Care Inspection Framework carries with it a level of reputational, legal, and financial risk over the next few years. The City of London has put in place a programme structure to effectively plan for and deliver the requirements of inspection outlined in the CQC's launch plans. There remains a level of uncertainty across the Adult Social Care sector regarding the future funding of this additional responsibility.

Background Papers

- [Health and Care Act \(2022\)](#)
- [Assessment framework for local authority assurance](#)

Emma Masters

Transformation Programme Manager, Adult Social Care

T: 020 7332 3129

E: emma.masters@cityoflondon.gov.uk