

<b>Committee(s)</b>	<b>Dated:</b>
Community and Children's Services Committee	<b>11 September 2015</b>
<b>Subject:</b> Care Act 2014 Update	<b>Public</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Director of Community and Children's Services	<b>For Information</b>

### **Summary**

Members have previously received reports on the Care Act 2014 and the City of London's work to implement this.

The Care Act received Royal Assent in May 2014 and introduced wide-ranging and significant reform of the adult social care system. Most of the provisions of the Act came into force in April 2015, with the remaining, mainly related to funding reform, due to come into force in April 2016.

The funding reform, which included the introduction of a cap on the amount people have to spend on their care, has now been delayed nationally until 2020.

An independent appeals process, which was also due to come into force in April 2016, will be reviewed by Government as part of the Comprehensive Spending Review but is likely to also be delayed.

### **Recommendation**

Members are asked to:

- Note the report.

### **Main Report**

#### **Background**

1. The Care Act received Royal Assent in May 2014 and introduced wide-ranging and significant reform of the adult social care system.
2. The City of London established a Care Act Implementation Group, consisting of Officers from across the organisation, to oversee implementation of the Act. The majority of the Act came into force in April 2015 and the City of London has implemented this successfully.

3. Part two of the Act focused on funding reform and was due for implementation in April 2016. This included:
  - a cap on the amount anyone would have to pay towards meeting their eligible care needs regardless of their income and savings. This had been set at £72,000 for those over working age
  - an extended means test to accompany the cap
  - a duty to help self-funders arrange residential care if they required assistance.
4. Part two of the Act also included the introduction of an independent appeals process.
5. On 17 July 2015, the Department of Health announced that implementation of the funding reforms in the Care Act would be delayed until 2020. The Government will review the timetable for implementation of the appeals process as part of the Comprehensive Spending Review and make a decision about implementation.
6. The funding reforms in the Care Act have been delayed for a number of reasons:
  - the costs of implementing the reforms in the current financial climate and the lack of development of a private insurance market that had been expected
  - the potential impact on the care market of arranging care to meet the eligible needs of self-funders in care homes
  - concerns about the challenges of delivering this funding reform and readiness to do so
  - to consider what else might be developed to support people to prepare for later life, including the risk of needing care and support.

### **Current Position**

7. Work had been under way at a local and regional level to prepare for the implementation of funding reforms in April 2016. Much of this work had been dependent on other organisations such as IT providers developing specific products to deliver the reforms.
8. Further information is awaited on the status of any regional work. Local work will be influenced by this and the development of other areas of work such as IT.

### **Corporate & Strategic Implications**

9. The *City Together Strategy* seeks a world-class City which supports vulnerable members of the community so that they can remain at home and maintain their independence and which gives support and recognition to the role of carers. It also aims to ensure that everyone can meet their full potential in every aspect of their daily lives by taking a preventative approach.
10. KPP4 of the *Corporate Plan* aims to maximise the opportunities and benefits afforded by the City of London's role in supporting London's communities.

11. The Department of Community and Children's Services Business Plan includes a commitment to ensure readiness for implementation of part two of the Care Act by March 2016. This will now be reviewed in light of the delay.

### **Implications**

12. There are no implications associated with the delay in the implementation of the Act.

13. Potential financial implications of the reforms may still be a risk when the reforms are implemented. These relate to meeting the costs of care once people have reached the £72,000 cap.

### **Conclusion**

14. The City of London has successfully implemented part one of the Care Act 2014 and was preparing for implementation of part two in April 2016. This has now been delayed until 2020. Members will be updated with plans for implementation as they emerge.

### **Appendices**

- None

### **Background Papers**

- 12 September 2014 Item 6
- 13 February 2015 Item 8

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