

Adult Social Care LGA Peer Challenge

Background

- The Local Government Association offers all councils an Adult Social Care Preparation for Assurance Peer Challenge seeks to help councils deliver good support to local people and thereby prepare effectively for Care Quality Commission Inspections.
- The peer challenge is a tried and trusted method of improvement; it provides councils with a robust and effective improvement tool which is owned and delivered by the sector, for the sector.
- Peers remain at the heart of the peer challenge process and are invited into Councils as a 'critical friend' taking a 'no surprises' approach
- Four themes for all Adult Social Care Preparation for Assurance Peer Challenges have been adopted from the approach taken by the Care Quality Commission (CQC) Adult Social Care Assurance process which are
 - Working with people
 - Providing Support
 - Ensuring Safety
 - Leadership

Care Quality Commission Assurance themes

Theme 1: Working with people.

This theme covers:

- Assessing needs
- Planning and reviewing care
- Arrangements for direct payments and charging
- Supporting people to live healthier lives
- Prevention
- Wellbeing
- Information and advice
- Understanding and removing inequalities in care and support
- People's experiences and outcomes from care.

Theme 2: Providing support.

This theme covers:

- Market shaping
- Commissioning
- Workforce capacity and capability
- Integration
- Partnership working.

Theme 3: How the local authority ensures safety within the system.

This theme covers:

- Section 42 safeguarding enquiries
- Reviews
- Safe systems
- Continuity of care.

Theme 4: Leadership

This theme covers:

- Strategic planning
- Learning
- Improvement
- Innovation
- Governance
- Management
- Sustainability.

Scope

- The scope for these peer challenges is going to be driven by the LGA / ADASS self-assessment we complete to prepare for CQC assurance inspections
- It will create a narrative that has identified where we have strengths, where we can improve, what plans we have to improve and the evidence to support these views
- The peer team have been asked to look at particular areas of the service both strengths and areas for improvement, these are;
 - Gateshead's improvement plans
 - Front door, prevention, and early intervention
 - Home care commissioning plans
 - Housing and accommodation plans

Timing and duration

- A peer challenge takes around a 3 months lead-in time, including to secure time in peers' diaries and complete the collation of the self-assessment, and accompanying documents
- Dates for the onsite element of the peer challenge is 19th to 21st March 2024
- 1 peer reviewers will undertake case file audits prior to the peer review team being onsite
- All documentation has to be prepared and sent to the peer review manager 2 weeks prior to the challenge dates

The Process

- The peer team will meet with a range of those with a lived experience and carers, officers and members over the course of the peer challenge, as well as a range of external stakeholders such as colleagues in the NHS and the voluntary, community and social enterprise
- There will be informal feedback to the Challenge Sponsor at the end of each day
- During the morning of the last day the peer challenge team will finalise the presentation and time should be built into the day to give a 'no surprises' feedback to the Challenge Sponsor
- During the afternoon of the last day the peer challenge team will present its findings to the Councils Leadership Team including relevant members
- This will be followed by a report building on the presentation delivered on the last day of the peer challenge and written by the peer challenge manager with input from the peer team. The council will receive the draft report in approximately 4 weeks
- The Council is encouraged to publish the report to support openness, transparency, and shared learning across the sector. The LGA will publish this once it has been placed in the public domain through your Council's own procedures

The Peer Challenge Team

- Lead Peer – Director of Adult Social Services – Sue Wallace Bonner – Halton Borough Council
- Member Peer – Leader or Portfolio Holder – Keith Cunliffe - Deputy Leader of Wigan Council. He has held the Portfolio for Health and Adult Social Care since 2008 and is Chair of the Wigan Health and Wellbeing Board.
- Senior Officer Peer 1 – Assistant Director – Tracey Harrison - Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council
- Senior Officer Peer 2 – Head of Service / Commissioning Lead – Wendy Shepherd – West Sussex Council
- Senior Officer Peer 3 – Principal Social Worker – Angela Conner – Stockton Council
- Senior Officer Peer 4 – Michaela Pinchard – LGA Associate
- LGA Peer Challenge Manager – Kathy Clark

Questions?