

## Briefing Note CQC Assurance – Adults Social Care

As you are probably aware, *ALL* Council services across Adults Social Care are now required to meet Care Quality Commission (CQC) assurance standards and demonstrate how effective they are in discharging their duties under the Care Act. Councils will be inspected by CQC officers anytime from December 2023.

The assurance standards are categorised under four themes:

### **1. How the Council works with people**

How people's needs are assessed and how people are supported to live healthier lives.

### **2. Providing Support**

How we deliver equity for people's experiences and outcomes and how we integrate and work with communities and partnerships.

### **3. How the Council ensures safety within the system**

How we provide safe systems, pathways, and transitions, and how we safeguard vulnerable people.

### **4. Leadership and workforce**

Including governance, learning, improving and innovation.

There are 94 statements across these themes.

## How is Kirklees Council preparing?

We have conducted a self-assessment, rating ourselves against the 94 statements as to how well we feel that we are performing. Alongside this, we are compiling an evidence library to support our assessment.

We have also been presenting information around preparation for inspection at various service user, carer, and provider groups. This has helped to gain some views from various sources on how well they think that the Council performs. These meetings have been followed up by some surveys to gather more individual comments and thoughts.

We are continuing to connect with other forums, groups, and partners to check that we *'know ourselves well'*.

Our own staff have been receiving regular briefings to help them to build their confidence and knowledge around CQC inspections.

## *Feedback from pilots*

Five Councils volunteered to be pilots for CQC to test their inspection approach. These were Birmingham, Lincolnshire, North Lincolnshire, Nottingham, and Suffolk. We have read the reports from these pilot inspections and are currently reviewing our own services against the comments made.

## Next steps

The rich information that we are receiving from consulting with groups and individuals is helping us to build a clearer picture. This is being used to both review our self-assessment and to inform our development plan. The plan will identify key areas for further exploration and potential improvement. This will be reflected in our refresh of the Kirklees Adults Social Care Vision during the early months of 2024.

## Your support

We would appreciate your support in continuing to refine our self-assessment and development plans and in gathering further evidence and case studies. The more intelligence we have around our performance, people's experiences, and suggestions for further development work, the better.

There is also a possibility that CQC inspectors will want to speak to you as part of their assessment of Kirklees Adult and Health services.

If you would like us to come along and meet with you or send further information, please contact us at the details below. Also, if you have some information that you think would help us to build a more accurate picture of our services, please also get in touch.

Further briefing notes will be provided as we work towards readiness for inspection.

**TO CONTACT US PLEASE EMAIL [cqcinspection@kirklees.gov.uk](mailto:cqcinspection@kirklees.gov.uk)**