

Item 3

Productivity Programme Update: Opportunities for efficiency savings in Adult Social Care

Purpose of report

For discussion and direction.

Summary

This report updates the Improvement & Innovation and the Community Well Being Boards on the progress being made in with the Adult Social Care Efficiency programme. A presentation will be given by John Bolton, visiting Professor at the Institute of Public Care.

Recommendation

To note the work being undertaken as part of the Adult Social Care Efficiency programme and to receive a presentation given by John Bolton.

Action

Officers to action as directed.

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Productivity Programme Update: Opportunities for efficiency savings in Adult Social Care

Background

1. The Board have approved the Productivity Programme to develop and operate a range of programmes to improve productivity and efficiency in councils. The Adult Social Care Efficiency (ASCE) Programme was launched in November 2011 and runs until summer 2014. The programme aims to help Councils to develop and implement new and innovative approaches to improve efficiency in adult social care in line with the broader policy vision.

Adult Social Care Efficiency Programme

2. 52 projects applied to be involved in the Programme and 44 of those were successful. 40 of these are individual projects, two are joint projects (Barking and Dagenham and Havering; Darlington, Redcar and Hartlepool) and 2 are regional or sub-regional projects (Yorkshire and Humberside with Wakefield leading; Berkshire with Wokingham leading). Participating authorities were awarded £15-20k each. Overall the LGA will be providing c £1million to fund the programme, including £300k from the Department of Health.
3. Phase one of the programme involved participating authorities undertaking a diagnostic of their adult social care services. In June and July John Bolton visited all 44 projects to evaluate this work and confirm the focus of the projects to be undertaken as part of the ASCE Programme. He has since produced a report summarising the emerging lessons arising from the programme and drawing on other national and international studies to build on the learning. As with other recent reports on efficiencies in social care, authorities are exploring approaches to achieving efficiencies in three key ways - by reducing the numbers of people who need care; by reducing the costs of care; and reducing the bureaucracy of care.
4. The projects address a range of themes from whole systems efficiency reviews through to more focused projects looking at re-ablement, assistive technology or employee performance. Others focus on demand management or developing greater collaborative relationships with key partners.
5. Early discussions identify a number of common issues that are being explored through the programme. These include how partnerships with the voluntary sector can reduce demand for state funded services; how procurement takes place and helps to sustain good quality services; the role and nature of personal budgets; the practices of individual assessment staff and the impact this has on the costs of care for customers and the challenge of developing good outcome measures and how they help in getting the right help to people at the right time.

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6. An ASCE Programme event is being held on 27 November to launch the report, hear from a number of authorities that have made significant progress to date and to allow participating authorities to get together with others working to address similar challenges. The LGA will undertake a review of progress in summer 2013 and a final programme report will be available, including efficiency savings achieved, in 2014. Learning from the programme will be shared with the wider sector.
7. Professor John Bolton will give a presentation to the Boards on progress of the programme early lesson. John is visiting Professor at the Institute of Public Care, former Director of Adult Social Care at Coventry City Council and as Head of the Department of Health Productivity Team provides professional support to the programme.

Financial Implications

8. The business plans for 2012/13 includes resources to develop the productivity programme to support councils improve productivity. Capacity to support the programme has also been built into the LGA budgets and business plan.