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	<p style="text-align: center;">Executive 12 November 2012</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Report from Director of Adult Social Services</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Wards Affected: ALL</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">Adult Social Care Local Account 2011/12</p>	

1.0 Introduction

Recent changes to the legislative and national performance frameworks represent a radical shift from the past and shifted the emphasis towards sector-led improvement. In response, the Adult Social Care Programme Board was set up to take collective responsibility for the performance of the Adult Social Care sector as a whole.

In an effort to promote transparency, one of the first things the Board recommended was the publication of an annual council 'Local Account', as a means to demonstrate and describe local performance. The Board were purposefully non-prescriptive in terms of the design of the report, but did recommend that it should be short, accessible and produced by December each year.

The concept of producing a local account is not a new idea, rather it builds on work that councils are already doing in relation to local quality assurance and safeguarding. It is also aligned with developments taking place around sector led improvement in children's services. Local accounts are also mentioned in the Department of Health's Transparency in Outcomes framework and are conducive to wider government agendas e.g. localism and transparency.

The purpose of Brent's Local Account is to communicate priorities and to provide Members, residents and other stakeholders with an accountability mechanism by which self-regulation and improvement activities can be systematically monitored and reported.

2.0 Recommendations

The Executive is asked to:

- a. Note the performance and contextual information contained in this report.
- b. Consider the current and future strategic risks associated with the information provided.
- c. Challenge progress with responsible officers as necessary.

3.0 Executive Summary

3.1 There is increasing recognition at the national level of the critical importance of health and wellbeing to people's quality of life and long-term prosperity. National policy and the legislative framework sets out the coalition government's vision for transforming health and social care. This vision sets out two critical goals:

1. To create a more integrated approach to delivering health care services, which reaches beyond the treatment of illness to actually prevent the causes of ill-health and address the underlying social and economic determinants.
2. To provide services which are customer-focussed, personalised and sensitive to each individual's needs.

3.2 In response to this agenda, Adult Social Care has used the introduction of a new Customer Journey pathway in 2009/10 to embark on a programme of continuous improvement to modernise and transform services. The attached report offers detailed insight into the context within which these improvements are taking place. It highlights the department's successes during 2011/12 and the challenges expected over the coming year. Whilst these challenges undoubtedly pose risks, they also offer opportunities and the department is determined to use them to preserve and improve services.

4.0 Financial implications

These are set out in Section 10 of the report. The combined elements of reduced government funding, an ageing population, high cost placements and rising customer demand continue to place the Adult Social Care budget under sustained pressure. However despite these pressures the service delivered its efficiency savings target of £9.8m in 2011/12.

5.0 Legal implications

The provisions enshrined in the Health and Social Care Act 2012 reflect a number of changes to the health and social care sector. These represent a

radical policy shift and will have far reaching implications for how services are designed and delivered within the borough. Full details and the implications are not known at this time but chief officers will continue to work with key partners to ensure the best possible outcomes for the region.

6.0 Diversity implications

This report has been subject to screening by officers and there are no direct diversity implications. However it should be noted that the service improvements achieved in 2011/12 have all undergone Equality Impact Assessments prior to implementation.

7.0 Contact officers

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