

**REPORT FOR: OVERVIEW AND
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

Date of Meeting: 20 Sept 2016

Subject: Local Assurance Test [LAT] Review

Responsible Officer: Chris Spencer
Corporate Director, People Services

**Scrutiny Lead
Member area:** Policy Lead Member, Children &
Families - Councillor Richard Almond
Policy Lead Member, Community,
Health and Wellbeing - Councillor
Chris Mote

Exempt: No

Wards affected: Please list Ward(s).
All

Enclosures: Appendix 1: 25.06.16 LAT – Progress
Review Letter to M. Lockwood

Appendix 2: Harrow TEASC Report March
2016

Section 1 – Summary and Recommendations

This report sets out further progress made since the Local Assurance Test (LAT) Progress Review undertaken in April 2016, by the Local Government Association (LGA) following the establishment of the People Services Directorate.

Recommendations:

For information and to note progress made.

Section 2 – Report

Background

Prior to the establishment of the People Services Directorate an independent Local Assurance Test [LAT] was commissioned from the Local Government Association [LGA] to consider the proposals in the light of statutory guidance for the roles of Director of Children Services and the Lead Member. This was undertaken in May 2015, by the LGA Children's Improvement Advisor. It concluded that the proposals did meet the local assurance test and made a number of recommendations to support a smooth transition to the new directorate.

In accordance with one of the recommendations, the respective LGA Improvement Advisors for Children and Adults Services were commissioned to undertake an early review of progress over the nine months following, to confirm that good progress had been made to date. This review also looked into the findings and recommendations from the Towards Excellence in Adults Social Care [TEASC] Review that was undertaken in March 2016.

The April 2016 LAT Review considered progress made from the original LAT (May 2015), commissioned again from the LGA, and with the same two senior managers. Documentary evidence and a series of meetings with key staff were agreed in advance.

Current situation

The LGA letter (25.04.16_Appendix A) summarises the findings on progress made against the original 5 key recommendations from May 2015, and also identified 4 further key recommendations [KR].

Progress against the four new recommendations are summarised below:

KR1 (new): *Develop an integrated Directorate delivery plan (with a high level 'Plan on a Page' format) setting out clear priorities, programmes of work, measurable qualitative and financial impacts that demonstrate how and when outcomes will be achieved – whether from integration of adults and childrens' services; from delivering all age commissioning strategies; or from service transformation.*

- 27.09.16 Harrow Social Work Conference (Adults and Children's) in advanced stage of planning including draft programme and place bookings being taken.
- Principal Social Worker for Adults and Children (joint) – recruitment in progress. [Internal expressions of interest advert closed 27.08.16, interviews planned week beginning 03.09.16].
- Integrated 0-25 years Children and Young Adults Disability Service established, including Away day for staff held (May 2016). Managing change process continues.
- Sept 2016 Local Safeguarding Children Board [LSCB] independent audit of Children's cases within integrated disability service – commissioned externally.
- Increase the take up of personal budgets /Direct payments ,especially for younger people to provide greater choice and control and this will be achieved by streamlining the current process by 31.03.17.

KR2 (new): *Ensure that there is effective oversight of the management of key performance risks in Children's Services.*

- Multi-agency Safeguarding Hub [MASH] second MASH review completed July 2016 identified significant improved progress;
- First Response Team staffing, workload and performance are kept under active review through regular audits;
- Proposals to develop a new Early Intervention Service [EiS] model have been completed; Cabinet Report 14.07.16 on Redesign; formal staff consultation closed 31.08.16. The proposed model will ensure that the Local Authority retain a comprehensive early intervention offer.
- Maintenance of effective relations with Schools despite decreasing capacity

KR3 (new): *Volunteer for a London ADASS peer review in 2016/17 on the new integrated approach to commissioning, focussing on forecasting local needs and shaping the market to provide services for vulnerable children and adults to provide greater choice and reduce costs. (Building on the TEASC recommendation to self-assess using the Commissioning for Better Outcomes tool).*

- The integrated commissioning (Adults and Children's) service has been established and, from July 2016, sits within People Services, Divisional Director level;
- Volunteering for ADSS Peer Review will be explored later in 2016/17, once the realignment has embedded;
- Divisional Director of People Services Strategy: Commercialisation and Regeneration remit is looking at regeneration, commissioning and commercialisation and working closely with corporate commissioning as a one council approach;
- The new integrated service will review all strategies and market position statement to further develop and refine activity, building on strategic vision.

KR4 (new):

Develop joint plans with health partners, building on the Better Care Fund work, to meet health and social care integration ambitions that transform services, improve user experience and deliver savings across the system.

- ❖ The funding for the protection of adults social care within the Better Care Fund [BCF] has been fully agreed and the Q1 template is being reviewed by the Council and the Clinical Commissioning Group [CCG] and progress will be reported;
- ❖ Identified milestones within BCF and good progress being made against milestones and the progress will be reported once the template is agreed;
- ❖ Health and Wellbeing Board closely monitor BCF targets;

- ❖ BCF will continue to maintain and protect social care provision and explore further integration with health wherever possible: including through the Sustainability and Transformation Plan [STP] for NW London and the local Harrow STP;
- ❖ Future In Mind Cabinet Report will be presented Oct 2017 concerning joint procurement of clinical services to promote the mental health needs of vulnerable children in the Borough;
- ❖ Active member of the NW London Health cluster and committed to the STP and the exploration of a local Accountable Care Partnership [ACP].

Financial Implications

There are no new specific budget issues associated with this report. However, the new People Services Directorate continues to realise strategic advantages which will lead to efficiencies and improved quality of services.

Performance Issues

There are no new specific particular performance issues associated with this report. However, the Review shows that statutory responsibilities across both Children and Adult Services are being adequately met.

Environmental Impact

Not applicable

Risk Management Implications

Risk included on Directorate risk register? EIS Redesign - Yes

Separate risk register in place? No

Equalities implications

The Directorate provides services to a diverse group of people. Ensuring that support is provided to those who are vulnerable and in need is of the utmost priority and was given a high profile when considering the results of the assurance review and implementing its recommendations.

Council Priorities

The Council's vision:

Working Together to Make a Difference for Harrow

People Services Directorate contributes to all the administration's priorities, particularly Making a difference for the vulnerable and families.

- **Making a difference for the vulnerable**
- **Making a difference for communities**

- Making a difference for local businesses
- **Making a difference for families**

Section 3 - Statutory Officer Clearance

Name: Jo Frost	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the Chief Financial Officer
Date: .01.09.16		
Name: Sarah Wilson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the Monitoring Officer
Date: 02.09.16		

Ward Councillors notified:	NO
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Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers

Contact:

Visva Sathasivam, Head of Adult Social Care, Tel: 02087366012
 Paul Hewitt, Divisional Director, Children & Young People Service, Tel: 02087366978

Background Papers: List **only non-exempt** documents (ie not Private and Confidential/Part II documents) relied on to a material extent in preparing the report (eg previous reports). Where possible also include a web link to the documents.

- 05.06.15 Proposals to establish a People Directorate: Independent Local Test of Assurance. LGA outcome letter to M. Lockwood
<https://www.harrow.gov.uk/www2/documents/s128871/Annexe%203%20-%20Local%20Assurance%20Test%20Feedback%20Letter.pdf>
- 17.06.15 Cabinet Report on Senior Management Restructure
<https://www.harrow.gov.uk/www2/documents/s128811/Snr%20Management%20Restructure%20-%20Main%20Report.pdf>