

Report to:

**ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND HEALTH SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE**

Relevant Officer:

Mrs Sharon Davis, Scrutiny Manager

Date of Meeting:

28 September 2021

MEALS ON WHEELS SCRUTINY REVIEW FINAL REPORT

1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 To approve the final report of the Meals on Wheels Scrutiny Review and submit it to the Executive for consideration.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 To approve the final report.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

3.1 To allow the report to progress through the procedure agreed for scrutiny reviews.

3.2 Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council? No

3.3 Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council's approved budget? Yes

4.0 Other alternative options to be considered:

4.1 None.

5.0 Council priority:

5.1 The relevant Council priority is:

- Communities: Creating stronger communities and increasing resilience.

6.0 Background information

6.1 The following notice of motion was approved by Council in November 2020 and as a result the Adult Social Care and Health Scrutiny Committee established a scrutiny review to consider the issue in order to make a recommendation to the Executive:

Even before the pandemic, more than an estimated 1.3 million people over the age of

65 were thought to be malnourished. Malnutrition makes people more susceptible to physical and mental ill-health, extends hospital stays and makes re-admission more likely – malnutrition accounts for nearly £20bn of health and social care spending in England.

The COVID-19 pandemic has made it difficult for many people to access good food daily, not least, older people and disabled people, who were already at high risk of malnutrition. During the crisis, many older people and disabled people struggled to access good food every day and indeed this issue predated the crisis.

Whilst there are a number of ways to support people – like investing in lunch clubs or good care-home and hospital food – having a robust Meals on Wheels service locally is a cornerstone to tackling the issue. Meals on Wheels services provide a lifeline to people struggling to feed themselves in their own homes, ensure that older and disabled people at risk of malnutrition or social isolation can access regular social contact every day and at least one nutritious meal every day, and are cost-saving in the long-term to local authorities and NHS trusts.

Now more than ever the Council must support older and disabled people to be able to stay healthy, safe and nourished in their own homes.

This Council resolves:

To request the Adult Social Care and Health Scrutiny Committee to review the accredited Meals on Wheels local supplier scheme in Chorley and explore the benefits and challenges of adopting the same approach in Blackpool and recommend the Executive accordingly.

6.2 The Review Panel met to consider existing schemes in the town, schemes provided by other local authorities and spoke to a range of partners in order to establish the benefits and challenges posed by the potential introduction of a Council-run meals on wheels scheme as requested.

6.3 The recommendations of the review are contained within the report, Members are requested to approve the report and its recommendations for forwarding to the Executive and relevant NHS organisations.

6.4 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

7.0 List of Appendices:

7.1 Appendix 4(a): Meals on Wheels Scrutiny Review Final Report

8.0 Financial considerations:

8.1 As set out within the final report.

9.0 Legal considerations:

9.1 As set out within the final report.

10.0 Risk Management considerations:

10.1 None.

11.0 Equalities considerations:

11.1 None.

12.0 Sustainability, Climate Change and environmental considerations:

12.1 None.

13.0 Internal/external consultation undertaken:

13.1 As detailed within the final report.

14.0 Background papers:

14.1 None.