

Report to:

EXECUTIVE

Relevant Officer:

Sharon Davis, Scrutiny Manager

Relevant Cabinet Member

Councillor Jo Farrell, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health

Date of Decision

11 October 2021

MEALS ON WHEELS SCRUTINY REVIEW FINAL REPORT

1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 To consider the Meals on Wheels Scrutiny Review final report.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 To consider the report and offer a response to the recommendations contained within the Action Plan.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

3.1 The recommendations contained within final report seek to deliver improvements in service.

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 The Executive must consider the recommendations outlined in the Scrutiny Review but may accept them, reject them or vary them.

5.0 Council Priority:

5.1 The relevant Council priority is: "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 final report details the findings and recommendations of the Panel and is attached at Appendix 3(a).

6.4 In accordance with the Overview and Scrutiny / Cabinet Member Relations Protocol, the final report has been considered by the Adult Social Care and Health Scrutiny Committee, which approved the report for consideration by the Executive, and subsequently relevant partners. Councillor Jo Farrell as the relevant Cabinet Member, has provided her comments on the recommendations contained within the report.

6.5 The Chairman of Adult Social Care and Health Scrutiny Committee, Councillor Adrian Hutton, has been invited to the Executive meeting to make representations on behalf of the Committee.

6.6 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

7.0 List of Appendices:

Appendix 3(a): Meals on Wheels Scrutiny Review final report.

8.0 Financial considerations:

8.1 Contained within the body of the report.

9.0 Legal considerations:

9.1 Contained within the body of the report.

10.0 Risk Management considerations:

10.1 Contained within the body of the report.

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 Contained within the body of the report.

14.0 Background papers:

14.1 None.

15.0 Key decision information:

15.1 Is this a key decision? No

15.2 If so, Forward Plan reference number:

15.3 If a key decision, is the decision required in less than five days? No

15.4 If **yes**, please describe the reason for urgency:

16.0 Call-in information:

16.1 Are there any grounds for urgency, which would cause this decision to be exempt from the call-in process? No

16.2 If **yes**, please give reason:

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE

17.0 Scrutiny Committee Chairman (where appropriate):

Date informed:

Date approved:

18.0 Declarations of interest (if applicable):

18.1

19.0 Executive decision:

19.1

20.0 Date of Decision:

20.1

21.0 Reason(s) for decision:

21.1

22.0 **Date Decision published:**

22.1

23.0 **Executive Members present:**

23.1

24.0 **Call-in:**

24.1

25.0 **Notes :**

25.1