CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Cabinet

Date of Meeting: 3rd March 2015
Report of: Head of Corporate Resources and Stewardship
Subject/Title: Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Assistive Technology Task and Finish Group Report
Portfolio Holder: Councillor Janet Clowes, Care and Health in the Community

1.0   Report Summary

1.1   This report introduces the Assistive Technology Task and Finish Group's (the Task Group) Report on its findings, conclusions and recommendations following its review.

2.0   Recommendations

2.1   That Cabinet receive the Task Group's Report (attached).

2.2   That Cabinet note the Task Group's recommendations, which are contained in the attached report at page 14, paragraphs 6.1-6.11.

2.3   That a response to the Task Group's report be submitted to the Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee once the recommendations have been fully considered.

3.0   Reasons for Recommendations

3.1   The Task Group was established to consider future policy direction in relation to assistive technology. The Task Group's findings and recommendations are provided to advise Cabinet and Officers in the development of future strategies and services.

4.0   Wards Affected

4.1   All

5.0   Local Ward Members

5.1   All

6.0   Policy Implications

6.1   The Task Group's report provides recommendations on a number of policy areas. These include: planning policy (in relation to extra care housing), adult social care

charging policy, the commissioning of social care services and the development of policy in relation to service users with low to medium care needs.

7.0   Financial Implications

7.1   Consideration of financial implications is not required at this stage.

8.0   Legal implications

8.1   Consideration of the legal implications is not required at this stage.

9.0   Risk Management

9.1   The role of assistive technology in social care services has continued to develop over recent years and can provide many benefits to service users and the Council. Assistive technology also plays an important role in early intervention and prevention of illness and the loss of independence which results in the need for care services. Failure to put effective strategies in place to increase the use of assistive technology to enable independence and prevent illness could result in increased pressure on Council social care services as the Borough ageing population grows.

10.0   Background

10.1   Prior to Council agreeing changes to its decision making and governance arrangements in May 2014, the Adult Social Care Policy Development Group (PDG) set up a sub group to look at Assistive Technology (AT) and how its use could be developed throughout adult social care services to help people remain independent and healthy in their own homes for longer. The sub group was set up following a PDG meeting in February 2014 where a report about the potential to develop the use of assistive technology in adult social care was received. The Sub Group had the following membership:
- Councillor Jos Saunders (Chairman)
- Councillor Janet Jackson
- Councillor Brendan Murphy

10.2   At the Council's Annual Meeting on 14 May 2014 the Council decided to replace the previous scrutiny committee and policy development group system with a new Overview and Scrutiny Committee system. The responsibilities of the Adult Social Care PDG were taken up by the Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee; the Committee decided to continue the work of the PDG's sub group by setting up a task and finish group with a new membership:
- Councillor Jos Saunders (Chairman)
- Councillor Carolyn Andrew
- Councillor Laura Jeuda

10.3   The PDG sub group which subsequently became the Overview and Scrutiny Task and Finish Group (the Group) has held several meetings and site visits over the course of the review including:

- A site visit to Liverpool Museum to see the Mi Smarthouse Exhibit to discover more about the types of AT that are currently available and how they work to help people live independently or assist carers with caring duties.
- A visit to Peaks and Plains Housing Trust to discuss the provision of the Council's Telecare service and the additional services provided by P&P to their tenants and other private customers.
- Meeting with officers to discuss financial aspect of Assistive Technology.

10.4 During the review the Group considered three policy areas suggested in the original report to the PDG which are:
- Effectiveness: - how effective is assistive technology in achieving good outcomes for prevention and early intervention of illness to help maintain independence?
- Universal Accessibility: - how accessible should the Council make AT? Should it be reserved for the few with critical and substantial needs or should it be made available to everyone who could benefit from it?
- Charging: - Who should pay and how much; what is financially sustainable for the Council and what are the cost benefits of providing AT?

10.5 The Group's report documents its findings, conclusions and recommendations.

11.0 Access to Information

The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting the report writer:

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