

Executive Commentary – Review of Review of In-House Enablement Service

I would like to thank the Chair and members of Health and Adults Overview and Scrutiny Committee for this report and the options presented.

I would also like to thank Ian James from the Local Government Association, Health and Care Improvement Lead for the West Midlands Region for the support he provided to Overview and Scrutiny in particular sharing information on best practice in other local authorities and his assessment of work that is underway with the early intervention programme.

This is critical piece of work that is welcomed by the Executive and the independent review of the enablement service is a key piece of work in progressing improvements needed to best meet the needs and aspirations of our current and future service users.

The report echoes the direction of travel for adult social care as it recognises from the evidence gathering exercises carried out that citizens are better, happier and healthier when enabled to remain independent and enabled within their own homes. This early intervention services recognises the need to maximise family, friends and community connections to support citizens which is encompassed in our three-conversation approach to adult social care and our neighbourhood network scheme focusing on locality working.

There is a lot of good practice happening within other local authorities and the work we have done locally on our three conversations approach to adult social care and early interventions builds on the good practice highlighted in this report. The Executive welcomes the findings and the direction set out and is committed to ensuring that we continue to move forward with our service users, carer and residents integrally involved in co-production with a focus on improving outcomes and the health and wellbeing of our citizens.

I was pleased that the Independent Adviser highlighted in it's review of Birmingham's Older People's Programme (July 2019) recognised our bold approach with the range of programmes being progressed which will improve outcomes for older people in our City. The many aspects of best practise highlighted from other local authorities are already embedded in our pioneering prevention and early intervention work. In order to improve outcomes to our most vulnerable we recognise the need for a range of support options including family, friends, community support and social care provision including enablement, domiciliary and direct payments.

We have been working very closely with our staff group and our much-valued frontline staff through organisational development programmes the pioneers of our integrated early intervention programme.

I am humbled and so very proud of our resilient, hardworking and compassionate workforce who have been inspirational in recent weeks in responding to the challenges of COVID19 and have been at the heart of supporting our most vulnerable and shielded communities.

I welcome the four options presented and will ask officers to carefully consider each of these options post Covid19.

I am pleased that Overview and Scrutiny were able to see evidence of progress and I am committed to continue to build on this to improve the health and wellbeing outcomes of the citizens we serve.