



INDIVIDUALS OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY SUB-COMMITTEE – 13th JULY 2021

Subject Heading:	Health and Social Care Bill - Update
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Policy context:	This briefing is around the new Health and Social Care Bill. A new policy for the council will need to be implemented upon royal ascent being granted in 2022.
Financial summary:	The briefing does not have any financial implications for the council

The subject matter of this report deals with the following Council Objectives

Communities making Havering	[x]
Places making Havering	[x]
Opportunities making Havering	[x]
Connections making Havering	[x]

SUMMARY

On the 11th February 2021, the Department of Health and Social Care published a white paper, Integration and Innovation: working together to improve health and social care for all. The paper sets out legislative proposals for a health and care bill, which has been summarised into the attached briefing for members.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The document is for information only so it is recommended that members take note of this briefing. Comments or questions can be sent to John Green, Head of Joint Commissioning: john.green@havering.gov.uk

REPORT DETAIL

In the white paper, the Government presents several arguments for why it feels legislation is needed. These include: the need to embed the co-operation seen across the NHS in response to the Covid-19 pandemic; the need to remove longstanding barriers to collaboration; reversing competition rules that create unnecessary bureaucracy by forcing commissioners to put their services out to tender; and a desire to clarify and increase political accountability for the NHS.

The proposed legislation aims to avoid a one-size-fits-all approach and leaves many decisions to local systems and leaders. This is appropriate given the great variation across England in terms of history, demography and local health challenges. For example Havering has a higher proportion of older people (18% of the population are over 65 in Havering compared to 12.1% in London¹) and a low number of Non-UK Nationals (7.3% in Havering, compared to 22.3% in London, 23.3% in B&D and 25.4% in Redbridge). This means that the hospitals can use the data about the areas and see which services are required where, giving the residents a better service.

At its heart, however, this bill is about backing our health and care system and everyone who works in it. It outlines steps to support everyone who works to meet people's health and care needs, which taken together, will help build back better services after COVID.

The white paper establishes that, subject to Parliamentary business, the Government wants the legislative proposals it has set out to begin to be implemented from April 2022 – a relatively tight timescale.

IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

Financial implications and risks:

There are no immediate financial implications arising from this report which is a briefing for information only. However, the implementation of this legislation will have financial implications for the Council and this will be subject to scrutiny as part of the planning and implementation in advance of April 2022.

Legal implications and risks:

There are no apparent legal implications in noting the content of the Report.

¹ [Havering – Population / Demographics \(haveringdata.net\)](https://www.haveringdata.net/)

Human Resources implications and risks:

The recommendations made in this report do not give rise to any immediate HR risks or implications that would affect either the Council or its workforce. However the implementation of this legislation may have implications for the Council's employees in the future and these will be subject to scrutiny as part of the planning process leading up to implementation in April 2022. Any HR implications will be managed in accordance with the Council's HR policies and procedures.

Equalities implications and risks:

The Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 requires the Council, when exercising its functions, to have 'due regard' to:

- (i) The need to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Equality Act 2010;
- (ii) The need to advance equality of opportunity between persons who share protected characteristics and those who do not, and;
- (iii) Foster good relations between those who have protected characteristics and those who do not.

Note: 'Protected characteristics' are age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnerships, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex/gender, and sexual orientation.

The Council is committed to all of the above in the provision, procurement and commissioning of its services, and the employment of its workforce. In addition, the Council is also committed to improving the quality of life and wellbeing for all Havering residents in respect of socio-economics and health determinants.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None