



Department
of Health &
Social Care

Local Authority Assurance

LGA Webinar, 17th October 2022

OFFICIAL SENSITIVE

The enhanced assurance and improvement framework is key to delivering on the vision outlined in our adult social care white paper, 'People at the Heart of Care'

The white paper puts **personalised care at the core** of the Government's vision. This is underpinned by **three main principles**:



People have choice, control, and support to live independent lives



People can access outstanding quality and tailored care and support



People find adult social care fair and accessible

Among the measures outlined in the White Paper to help reform the system, we **will support local authorities to deliver this vision** through new assurance, improvement and data measures, including:

- An **adult social care data framework** to improve the quality and availability of data nationally, regionally and locally.
- A **duty for the Care Quality Commission (CQC) to independently review and assess local authority performance** in delivering their adult social care duties from 2023/24.
- New legal powers for the **Secretary of State to intervene in local authorities to secure improvement**.
- An **increase in improvement funding** to support local authorities to improve and deliver reforms.



The Health and Care Act 2022 puts CQC assessment of local authorities on a statutory footing

High level enabling legislation amending the Health and Social Care Act 2008

Creates a **new duty** for the CQC to review local authorities' performance in discharging their adult social care **functions under the Care Act 2014**

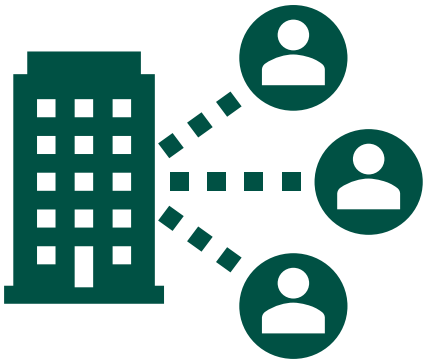
The CQC will take into account **priorities and objectives set by the Secretary of State for DHSC**

Exact scope of the review framework to be set out in **secondary legislation early next year**

We have worked closely with the LGA, ADASS and the CQC to co-design LA assessment

We want to:

- Provide LAs with clarity about **what they are doing well**
- Be genuinely useful to an LA, and **offer constructive suggestions** about where LAs could improve
- Be informed by **what matters to people who draw on care and support**
- Provide an **independent view** of an LA's capacity to improve
- **Not duplicate** CQC assessment of ICSs



In the White Paper we set out a vision for data transformation across a much wider set of ASC issues:



Transparent and accessible by all who need it



Used intelligently to support high-quality commissioning and delivery of services



Support system assurance and the management of risks at local, regional and national levels



Proportionate and not overly burdensome

Our proposals – to be implemented over the next 3 years – will be guided by three key principles:

1. Transforming our use of data in decision-making

- Timely access to appropriate high-quality data will allow policymakers, commissioners and providers to make robust decisions to improve the lives of people who receive care
- Informed and unbiased data analytics that will drive forward future innovation

2. Making data sharing the norm

- Integration of health and care data to improve the ability of providers and people who need care and support to navigate the entire system and ensure the best possible care is provided/received

3. Using data to drive innovation and transparency

- Improving care quality by holding providers and commissioners to account
- Helping shape the market by informing and empowering people who need care and support



We are aiming to build on what the sector-led improvement programme has already achieved. Our priority is to support LAs lead their own improvement wherever possible

White Paper and Health & Care Act 2022

- We know the **resources, training, expert advice and support** provided to local authorities are valued by those who use them.
- Recognising the value of sector-led improvement, our approach remains to **enable the sector to drive its own improvement.**
- We will **increase the scale and reach** of the support offer available.
- DHSC intends to play a more proactive role in ensuring support is targeted where it is needed most, informed by **data, intelligence, and the views and experience** of people who draw on care and support and their carers.
- New **powers of intervention** for Secretary of State where we are satisfied local authorities are failing to discharge their duties under part 1 of the Care Act 2014.



Developing support and improvement

- **More support to local authorities** to help improve frontline practice, service delivery and implement reforms.
- Increased government **scrutiny of awards and drive towards competitive tendering** to maximise impact and draw on skills and experience of a more diverse range of organisations.
- **Establishing assurance and support governance mechanisms** to facilitate good stewardship and better collaboration in targeting support.
- Developing intervention regime to secure improvements in LAs that have not been able to keep people safe.



Any questions?