



Title of Paper:	New assurance framework for adult social care
Author (including organisation):	Stephen Beet, Bristol City Council
Date of Board meeting:	25th May 2023
Purpose:	information and discussion

1. Executive Summary

The Health and Care Act 2022 gave the Care Quality Commission (CQC) new regulatory powers to undertake independent assessment of local authorities' delivery of regulated care functions set out in Part 1 of the Care Act 2014. The CQC will undertake the assessment and will start assessing local authorities from 1st April 2023. It also introduces a requirement for the CQC to assess integrated care systems (ICSs).

The CQC's new Single Assessment Framework provides the framework for the assessment of providers, local authorities and integrated care systems. The assessment framework for local authority assurance was published in March 2023 and includes four themes and nine quality statements.

The lead officers for assurance in each of the BNSSG local authorities meet monthly to share information, learning and details of preparation activity. This group has recently been extended to include lead officers from the ICS. The development of the of the assurance framework for ICSs has been slower and implementation has been delayed to April 2024

2. Purpose of the Paper

To provide the Health and Wellbeing Board with an introduction to the new assurance framework for adult social care including the legislative background and the details against which the Council's adult social care practice will be assessed.

3. Legislative context and assurance framework

Legislative context

The Health and Care Act 2022 gave the Care Quality Commission (CQC) new regulatory powers to undertake independent assessment of local authorities' delivery of regulated care functions set out in Part 1 of the Care Act 2014. High level enabling legislation was introduced through amendments to the Health and Social Care Act 2008. This created a new duty for the CQC to review local authorities' performance in discharging their adult social care functions under the Care Act 2014. Alongside this, the Health and Social Care Act gives the CQC powers to have oversight of Integrated Care Systems.

Single Assessment Framework

In 2022 the CQC developed a new Single Assessment Framework. The framework will be used to assess providers, local authorities and integrated care systems.

Assessment framework for local authority assurance

In March 2023 the CQC published a draft version of the assessment framework to assess how well local authorities are performing against their duties under Part 1 of the Care Act 2014. It includes a subset of the quality statements from the single assessment framework

because local authorities are being assessed against a different set of statutory duties to registered providers.

The assessment framework for local authorities comprises nine quality statements mapped across four overall themes:

Theme 1: Working with people	Theme 2: Providing support	Theme 3: Ensuring safety	Theme 4: Leadership
<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Assessing needs•Supporting people to live healthier lives•Equity in experiences and outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Care provision, integration and continuity•Partnerships and communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Safe systems, pathways and transitions•Safeguarding	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Governance, management and sustainability•Learning, improvement and innovation

Working across the ICS

The lead officers for assurance in each of the BNSSG local authorities meet monthly to share information, learning and details of work being undertaken to prepare for inspection. This group has recently been extended to include lead officers from the ICB. The development of the of the assurance framework for ICSs has been slower and implementation has been delayed to April 2024

4. Community/stakeholder engagement

We are gathering evidence to support our self-assessment from people with lived experience, staff, partners and other stakeholders. There are 6 evidence categories for each theme and quality statement: people; staff/leaders; partners; observation; processes; outcomes. Each evidence category will be weighted equally by the CQC.

5. Recommendations

Board members are asked to note the report.

6. Appendices

[Single assessment framework](#), Care Quality Commission, July 2022

[Assessment framework for local authority assurance](#), Care Quality Commission, March 2023