

Report to: Adult Social Care and Community Safety Scrutiny Committee

Date: 10 March 2016

By: Director of Adult Social Care and Health

Title: Meals in the Community: Update

Purpose: To provide committee with an update on the provision of Meals in the Community following the 2015 Cabinet decision to move to an Approved Provider List

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee is recommended to comment on and consider current arrangements for the provision of Meals in the Community.

1 Background and Supporting Information

- 1.1 Many local authorities have historically contracted with providers to ensure that vulnerable residents have access to Meals in the Community. This service had been provided by Apetito in East Sussex.
- 1.2 In recent years, however, the market has changed significantly, with much wider availability of 'ready-meals' from supermarkets and specialist providers. Frozen and/or microwavable meals mean that there is no longer such an obvious need for a daily delivery of hot meals. In East Sussex demand for meals fell consistently and the direct contracting model was not seen as financially sustainable.
- 1.3 In June 2014, East Sussex County Council consulted on ending its Meals in the Community contract and ceasing the subsidy provided by ESCC moving instead to an 'approved provider list' arrangement where the Council would signpost people to trustworthy community meals providers, with whom they could make their own arrangements for meals. This approach was agreed at Cabinet in January 2015 with the subsidy being retained. The report to Cabinet and details of Cabinet's decision are available on the [East Sussex County Council website](#).
- 1.4 ASC officers will present to the committee, explaining how the new arrangements have bedded down. This will cover the transition to the new service/s, current providers and key issues.

2 Conclusion

- 2.1 Members are requested to comment on the presentation by ASC officers.

KEITH HINKLEY
Director of Adult Social Care & Health

Contact Officer: Barry Atkins, Head of Service – Strategic Commissioning (Older People & Carers)
Tel. No. 01273 482308
Email: barry.atkins@eastsussex.gov.uk

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

None