

Report of the Director of Finance to the meeting of the Health and Well Being Board to be held on 13th May 2014.

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Subject: Information Governance Strategy

Summary statement:

This report introduces the newly written Information Governance Strategy

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1. SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to bring to the attention of the members of the Health and Wellbeing Board the newly developed Information Governance Strategy for the Council. The Council sees keeping citizen's data appropriately and confidentially as a very important responsibility. The Strategy demonstrates the Council's commitment to protecting information and ensuring data is used effectively to benefit citizens without compromising confidentiality or quality.

2. BACKGROUND

The Assistant Director Information Assurance was tasked with developing an Information Governance Strategy for the Council for the period 2013-2016.

The new Information Governance Strategy was presented to the Corporate Management Team in October 2013 and approved. The report was considered at Governance and Audit Committee on 29th November and at Executive on the 4th February where it was referred to the Health and Wellbeing Board for their adoption.

3. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

The Strategy sets out the Council's ambition, highlights our priorities and presents the current challenges.

4. FINANCIAL & RESOURCE APPRAISAL

Failure to manage information appropriately can result in the Information Commissioner's Office imposing monetary penalties of up to £500,000 for each and every breach against any of the 8 principles contained within the Data Protection Act (1998).

5. RISK MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE ISSUES

Significant progress has been made to our processes, procedures and policies to improve the security, integrity and availability of our information assets. The Council is in a strong position to ensure compliance with the Data Protection Act (1998) principles.

In delivering the Information Governance Strategy the focus and challenges are in the effective, timely and secure data sharing with trusted partners. Appropriate district wide governance structures need to be in place to consider and apply the recommendations from Dame Fiona Caldicott's Information Governance Review published on 26th April this year. In particular the new principle:

“The duty to share information can be as important as the duty to protect patient confidentiality – Health and social care professionals should have the confidence to share information in the best interests of their patients within the framework set out by these principles. They should be supported by the policies of their employers, regulators and professional bodies”

In the Government's response to the Review (attached at Appendix B), published in September last year, the Secretary of State for Health said “Our overarching ambition for



people within the health and care system is for them to no longer feel that information governance is complex and daunting. Everyone should understand how to protect and, where appropriate, share information about people they care for either directly or indirectly.”

This risk area is identified under Partnership Working within the Strategy. In mitigating this risk, the Council needs to balance adherence to its legal responsibilities as a Data Controller under the Data protection Act (1998) with the Caldicott principles.

6. LEGAL APPRAISAL

To ensure compliance with the Data Protection Act (1998).

7. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

7.1 EQUALITY & DIVERSITY

None.

7.2 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

None.

7.3 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS IMPACTS

None.

7.4 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

None.

7.5 HUMAN RIGHTS ACT

Data Protection rights flow from the right to respect for private and family life guaranteed by Article 8 of the European convention.

7.6 TRADE UNION

None.

7.7 WARD IMPLICATIONS

None.

7.8 AREA COMMITTEE ACTION PLAN IMPLICATIONS (for reports to Area Committees only)

None.



8. NOT FOR PUBLICATION DOCUMENTS

None.

9. OPTIONS

There are no options to be considered, the purpose of the paper is to present the new Information Governance Strategy.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

1) That the Information Governance Strategy be adopted as set out in Appendix A to this report.

11. APPENDICES

- A: The Information Governance Strategy
- B: Information: To Share or not to Share – [Government response to the Caldicott Review](#) (use web link to view document)

12. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

None.

