

Developing a Local Account

Adult Social Care



I. Background

The coalition government has set out a different approach from the previous government on the way that performance management operates in Local Government. There has been a move away from inspection regimes and scored judgments, including the abolition of the Annual Performance Assessment for Adult Social Care.

However it is still important that Adult Social Care services remain transparent and find a meaningful way of reporting back to citizens and communities about performance. One way of doing this is through the publication of Local Accounts:

“Local accounts, as the name suggests, would be self-assessed and published by the council – there would be no national Government role in assurance. They would be based on an account of the quality and outcome priorities which the council has chosen, in consultation with its partners, and the progress it has made in achieving them during the past year.”¹

All Local authorities are encouraged to develop a Local Account and for 2011 recent ADASS guidance has suggested “all councils with social care responsibilities consider producing a short, accessible local account during 2011/12 and preferably by December 2011”

This document sets out our approach both to developing a Local Account which looks back over 2010/11 and for future years.

2. Content

The government has already signaled that it does not intend to specify the content of a Local Account: “and think the best organisation to decide how to engage citizens is the council themselves”²

However they have offered guidance as to some of the key features of a Local Account:

- A statement from the council’s board, or the proposed Health and Wellbeing Board, on their quality and outcome priorities and how these have been taken forward over the year;
- A description of how the council is working with other partners locally in support of shared outcome priorities
- A requirement that the account is signed off by the Local Involvement Network, or proposed HealthWatch would provide an important local check and balance in the system.
- A selection of data and measures which demonstrate the objectives chosen locally and the progress made during the past year, in support of the overall narrative.

¹ Transparency in outcomes: a framework for adult social care 2010

² Transparency in outcomes: a framework for adult social care 2010

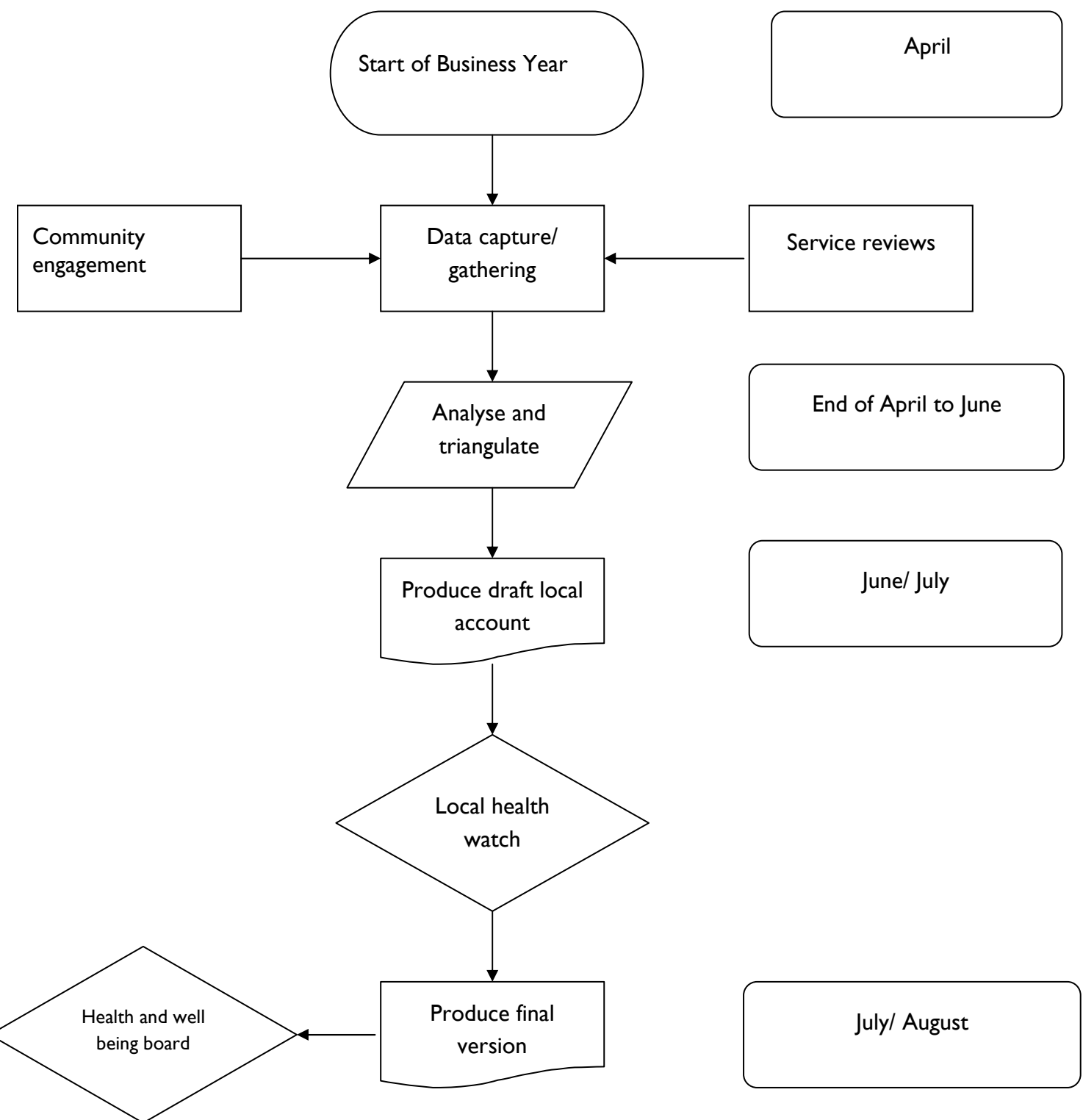
In addition to these elements it is recommended that the Local Account should be structured around the four outcome domains set out in the Adult Social Care Outcomes Framework (ASCOF);

- Enhancing quality of life for people with care and support needs
- Delaying and reducing the need for care and support
- Ensuring that people have a positive experience of care and support
- Safeguarding adults whose circumstances make them vulnerable and protecting from avoidable harm

3. The Process of Developing a Local Account

The process of producing a Local Account should be linked to the wider corporate business planning cycle, indeed the Local Account should 'fall out' of the end of this process. There will be a key number of dependencies, particularly financial and performance information, that will constrain the timeline, but if the end of the year is March, the Local Account should be produced as soon as possible after that date if it is to be timely and relevant. It is therefore proposed that the Local Account should be published during July/August of each year, which allows sufficient time for information to be gathered and validated.

There is no prescribed method of approval or formal reporting for a Local Account, but initial guidance from ADASS suggests that Local HealthWatch would have a role in signing off the report, and the Health and Well Being Board could be the recipient of the final report. The following diagram from ADASS outlines the approach to be followed:



4; 2010/11 Local Account

As many features of the new system are not in place, such as the Health and Well Being Board and the new Outcomes Framework only commenced in April 2011 a different approach has been necessary for this Local Account. As the fundamental basis of a Local Account is the views and experiences of our customers, this will be the main focus of this year's document. This focus will be supported by information on performance, expenditure, quality and safeguarding. (See Appendix One for Draft Local Account)