

Summary of West Midlands ADASS Regional Summit – 18 February 2022

This note is a summary of West Midlands ADASS' Regional Summit which took place on 18 February 2022 with colleagues, citizens and partners.

Introduction

On Friday 18 February West Midlands ADASS Branch (including Directors and Network Chairs) met with colleagues, citizens and partners for its first Regional Summit. Over 50 attendees joined the session.

The purpose of the Summit was twofold: to recognise and celebrate all contributions to adult social care improvement in 2021-22; and to present and seek feedback on WM ADASS' first 'Regional Account'.

The West Midlands ADASS Regional Account is a report and record of its programme's achievements, improvements and challenges as well as its plans and priorities for the forthcoming year.

We have called it our 'Regional Account' to mirror the 'Local Accounts' for social care that local authorities are required to publish to outline performance, areas of strength and improvement plans. Work on developing our Regional Account at WM ADASS with colleagues and partners started in December 2021.

We hope it is a helpful way of demonstrating our core improvement values of collaboration, co-production and transparency/working in the open.

Our Regional Summit was structured in two parts, both inviting feedback, discussion and challenge:

- Part 1: Review of our 2021/22 programme and key achievements (with group discussion)
- Part 2: Priorities and opportunities for collaboration in 2022/23 (with group discussion)

This short write up of the session will be supplemented with a four-part series of short video extracts from the Regional Summit and our revised Regional Account (also to be available in easy-read format) which will be hosted on our [website](#).

We'd like to thank everyone involved in creating our Regional Account and look forward to our continued work together in 2022/23.

Summary of Part 1: Review of our 2021/22 programme and key achievements

Chaired by Paula Furnival – Strategic Director of People, Worcestershire County Council

Members of the group commented on individual contributions and reflections on participating in our regional improvement programme – see slide below.

Key themes in terms of areas of strength include **collaboration, peer to peer support, digital and innovation and co-production.**



“Striving to have the best regional improvement programme in England”



10 things we are proud of in 2021/22...

 <p>Co-ordinated approach to rapid interpretation & impl. of COVID-19 key guidance, the escalation of key issues nationally and sharing of good practice</p>	 <p>Effective preparation, major risk identification and weekly oversight of key issues and strong leadership with NHS Midlands and care provider partners</p>
 <p>150+ hours of volunteer contributions to Networks & more cross-activity & collaboration between Networks</p>	 <p>Peer, Practice and Assurance Reviews completed for each council – externally reviewed as ‘extremely good use of resources’</p>
 <p>£150k of new NIHR funding into the region to support social care research development – the largest amount awarded</p>	 <p>Enhanced our approach to co-production including regional commitment to Making it Real and TLAP Digital Partnership</p>
 <p>New joint projects, partnerships and/or pooled resources with a range of partners – TLAP, West Midlands Employers, NHSX, AHSN, NHS Midlands</p>	 <p>Utilisation and further development of the Data & Intelligence Hub to align to emerging ASC Assurance framework and support risk management</p>
 <p>Developed a library of 100+ minutes of on-demand video case study and good practice content. Raised our profile and reach locally, regionally, nationally</p>	 <p>Successful co-ordination and delivery of Midlands Digital Leadership Pilot – now with a mandate to scale across the country</p>

“Great that WM ADASS Branch has arranged this opportunity for feedback, discussion and challenge” Professor, University of Birmingham

“We’ve been working to support care providers in the last year and feel it has been a real and equal partnership” Chair, West Midlands Care Association

“A highlight for me has been collaboration between WM ADASS Networks – like commissioning, workforce, finance and digital” Chair of WM ADASS Network

“My lived experience is one of a carer. I started this work in 2013...[which has] enabled me to have a career in the field. Fabulous to see the number of people involved”
Regional expert by experience

“A true test of peer support are the conversations had at the start of the pandemic. Many colleagues listened, supported and advised at a time when I needed it most so thank you to all of you” Director of Adult Social Care

“We have been very impressed in the speed of WM ADASS co-ordinating a regional approach and getting individual local authorities involved in a pilot to look at digital innovation for carers” Head of Partnerships, Mobilise

Summary of Part 2: Priorities and opportunities for collaboration in 2022/23

Chaired by Pete Fahy, Director of Adult Services and Housing, Coventry City Council

In Part 2 members of the group were invited to comment on WM ADASS priorities for 22/23 and to flag opportunities for further collaboration.

Draft priorities:

1. **Adult social care reform** and effective implementation of national mandatory requirements;
2. A **sustainable care market and workforce** – key focuses on home care, ICS relations and finance;
3. **Promoting social justice** and supporting thriving local communities and economies;
4. **Assurance and improvement** – preparing for CQC and continuing to provide opportunities for peer-led improvement
5. **Innovation** with continuing focuses on digital and data.



"Striving to have the best regional improvement programme in England"



10 things we are looking forward to in 2022/23...

 <p>A co-ordinated and effective approach to implementing reform – with DHSC, LGA and ADASS</p>	 <p>CQC assurance preparation building on 14 pre assurance interviews – with DHSC, LGA, ADASS</p>
 <p>Make our programme more participatory and develop and support a regional experts by experience group – building on work with TLAP</p>	 <p>Create and appoint three new social care research champions – part of our partnership with WM Clinical Research Network & University of Birmingham</p>
 <p>Develop and appoint to a new social care workforce lead role in partnership with West Midlands Employers</p>	 <p>Champion and promote social justice through collaborative work with people with a learning disability and autistic people – with NHS Midlands</p>
 <p>Improve the way we identify and provide preventative support to unpaid carers – through our regional pilot with Mobilise & Carers' Network</p>	 <p>Support the development of Market Sustainability Plans and cost of care models – via Commissioning Network & Provider Forum</p>
 <p>Enhance our health & care data collation, visualisation and modelling capabilities through our partnership with the Strategy Unit</p>	 <p>Embed regional digital pilot into core programme and support the national scaling of this new model of digital leadership – with NHSEI (formerly NHSX)</p>

Feedback on the draft plan and priorities for 2022/23 was positive and members welcomed the opportunity to reflect on these. The **technology**, wider ICS and **integration agenda** were highlighted as particular areas of strength and joint working.

There was also recognition that some areas could and should be strengthened – particularly around clarifying activities next year that promote **social justice and equity**, as well as support the **workforce**.

We were rightly challenged to strengthen our ambitions around supporting people from an ethnic minority and to consider **how diversity of those in social care leadership** roles can be improved.

“One of my best days in the last year was in celebrating and thanking front line care staff through the West Midlands Care Association annual awards. Truly inspiring and uplifting. Finding ways to make this sort of stuff more visible, and doing it everyday rather than through an organised event, is such an important part of the role of our leaders” WM ADASS Associate

“I think the Digital work that is happening in the WM should be showcased as good practice” Skills for Care representative

“We're just at the start of this journey of bringing research and practice together and I'm just so excited how we're going to take this for the next few years. So I'm yeah, so thanks everybody for all your contributions in that regard” Professor, University of Birmingham

“Integration” is a word being used in so many ways... for me, in the end, it's about integration in the experience of the person drawing on support and / or their carers... that's implicit in the draft objectives” WM ADASS Associate

***“So, how are you going to address the five objectives behind the lens of equity?”
Expert by experience***

“We need to be honest about our level of authenticity as a very narrow demographic group. And that's an area that we need to reach out for support if we're really going to make a difference on. Commitment to equality is a personal responsibility, as well as one within our services’ Director of Adult Social Care

Conclusion and next steps

Our Regional Summit has validated but also helped us understand what we need to refine in our priorities for 2022/23.

Knowing what is important to those we work with, and for, means we can carefully and more effectively allocate resources as well as pool resources where we have shared aims.

Please know that at WM ADASS we will be carefully considering all of your contributions which will be fed into our final Regional Account – including feedback from those of you who completed our partner questionnaire or fed back in other ways.

We will also be looking at opportunities for working together on areas where we might not have the right expertise and experience, but you do.

We are hugely thankful to you all for your time, support, challenge and your contributions to social care improvement in the West Midlands.