

POLICY REVIEW – APPOINTMENT OF A CO-OPTED MEMBER

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 For the Committee to endorse the nomination of one representative on the Health & Well-Being Scrutiny Committee for a time-limited project in relation to Malnutrition and Dehydration in Hospitals.

2. Introduction

- 2.1 The Council's constitution says that:

“Each overview and scrutiny committee or sub-committee shall be entitled to recommend to Council the appointment of a number of people as non-voting co-optees.”

- 2.2 Co-opted members can make a considerable and valuable contribution to the work of a Scrutiny Committee through broadening the range of experience, skills and knowledge available to support elected members in their deliberations.

- 2.3 At its meeting on 7th July 2010 the Scrutiny Committee agreed to pursue a review of malnutrition and dehydration in hospitals and agreed to co-opt one representative to support the review.

- 2.4 The Scrutiny Committee has agreed that the nominated representative on the Health & Well-Being Scrutiny Committee will serve up to April 2011 when the review will be completed.

3. Background

- 3.1 The Committee has determined that membership of the Committee should include one nominated representative to support delivery of this project as a non-voting member.

4. Protocol

- 4.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Handbook contains a Protocol for the Appointment of Co-opted Members to Scrutiny Committees.

- 4.2 The Protocol includes guidance on the issues to consider when making a nomination to Council. This includes considering the range of skills and knowledge the Committee will need to effectively deliver its work-programme.

4.3 The co-opted nominee should be a member of a representative group, sector or organisation relevant to the scope of the Policy Review being undertaken.

5. Nominations

5.1 Following the meeting in July, an invitation was issued to relevant organisations to put forward suitable nominations.

5.2 Two organisations have made nominations and details of the individuals are set out below:

1. Age UK Nomination

Alan Patchett, Director of Age UK

Knowledge of the issue

Through our national 'Hungry to be Heard' campaign I took up the issue of malnutrition in hospitals with City Hospitals Sunderland and we have worked together to raise awareness and address the issue. This has had mixed success. I can also bring national research findings to the Committee and as an organisation we are doing some research with patients recently discharged from hospital. I also have a very good understanding of health and social care issues in the City and of the way health and social care organisations work.

Experience

My role gives me a unique insight into many issues that affect older people who make up the majority of people affected by this issue. I am also Chair of the Older People's Partnership Action Group in Sunderland, member of the Adult Social Care Partnership Board and Board Member of Years Ahead – the Regional Forum on Ageing. I am very experienced at committee work and have other roles as Chair of the Sunderland Community Network, Chair of the Volunteer Centre – Sunderland, and Board Member of Sunderland Centre for Voluntary Service.

This issue is of major importance for the city because it has a real effect on the ability of a person to fight off and recover from illness more quickly. I would welcome the opportunity to make a contribution to the work of the committee in examining this important issue.

2. Links Nomination

Ralph S Price, Board Member

Knowledge of the issue

I am willing to be available on an ad hoc basis on this issue. My impression is that actual malnutrition / dehydration is not really a problem in hospitals. (They claim after all to have the services of a dietician and others). However, questions regarding appropriateness

might be raised. It certainly is an issue for some care / nursing homes though.

Experience

I have experience, by the way of work in a number of homes and hospitals and also as user. These things it should be remembered are linked to things like general health and pressure management. I don't expect revolution, but I am only interested in improving outcomes.

5.3 As the Committee has received more than the required number of nominations the Scrutiny Committee will be required to select a co-opted member based on their view of the contribution each individual can make to the review.

5.4 When selecting co-opted members the Committee should:

- Evaluate these against the requirements identified.
- Give preference to individuals able to make the broadest contribution to the required skills and knowledge base.

5.5 Members are reminded that the Policy Review title is Management of Malnutrition and Dehydration in Hospitals. The aim of the review is

To review strategies to support the decision-making of health professionals involved in the provision of food and fluids, nutritional support and public health advice/interventions for Sunderland hospital inpatients in order to manage avoidable malnutrition and dehydration.

5.7 The review will be within the following terms of reference:

- To consider the whole process for providing hospital meals: menu/nutritional planning; preparation; meal time; monitoring [who is eating their meal]; and clear-up;*
- To explore issues around the identification of patients who are admitted to hospital malnourished and whether that status has changed on discharge;*
- To explore reasons why patients are not eating their meals;*
- To establish how patients who find it difficult to feed themselves are supported to do so;*
- To evaluate the effectiveness of management, treatment and education/training programmes relevant to malnutrition and dehydration;*
- To explore what happens to monitoring information and how it is used to ensure all people receive the nutrition they require.*

6 Recommendation

6.1 The Committee is asked to endorse one nominee and refer the nominations to Council for appointment to the Committee.

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