

At a meeting of the HEALTH AND WELL-BEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE held in the WASHINGTON PRIMARY CARE CENTRE on TUESDAY, 19TH JULY, 2011 at 5.30 p.m.

Present:-

Councillor Walker in the Chair

Councillors Fletcher, Francis, Hall, Maddison, F. Miller, Padgett, Snowdon, Shattock and Waller.

Also in Attendance:-

Lorraine Arbon	-	Sunderland Council
Karen Brown	-	Sunderland Council
Alan Cormack	-	NHS South of Tyne and Wear
Claire Harrison	-	Sunderland Council
Graham King	-	Sunderland Council
David Noon	-	Sunderland Council
Tony Quinn	-	Northumberland Tyne and Wear NHS Trust
Julie Whitehouse	-	Sunderland Teaching Primary Care Trust

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillor N. Wright.

Minutes of the Last Meeting of the Committee held on 8th June, 2011

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 6th April, 2011 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Declarations of Interest

Councillors Shattock and F. Miller both declared a personal interest in items 4 and 5 on the agenda as the parent of a child with learning disabilities.

Sunderland Learning Disabilities Campus Completion

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which informed Members of the completion of the programme to support people with learning disabilities to move on from NHS Campus accommodation and which provided background information to a presentation on the subject from Alan Cormack, NHS South of Tyne and Wear and Tony Quinn, NTW NHS Foundation Trust.

(For copy report and presentation – see original minutes).

Mr. Cormack and Mr. Quinn having provided the Committee with a detailed presentation on the operation of the programme addressed comments and questions from Members in relation to the following issues:-

- the housing model adopted.
- the sustainability of the day to day support costs.
- care arrangements for people with learning disabilities and Challenging Behaviour.
- the strides made in care improvements from the regimes formerly applied in hospitals such as Prudhoe and Cherry Knowle.
- the key role play by the care staff especially at the transition stage.

Members warmly welcomed the success of the programme. Councillor Snowdon believed the programme had been handled brilliantly and managed extremely sensitively. The Chairman offered his congratulations to Mr. Cormack and Mr. Quinn and asked that the Committee's thanks be relayed to all the staff involved in delivering the programme.

In conclusion, Councillor Shattock asked if a further feedback report could be submitted to the Committee in 12 to 18 months time. Mr. Cormack and Mr. Quinn confirmed that they would be happy to do so.

2. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the report and presentation be received and noted, and
- (ii) a further feedback report be submitted in 12 to 18 months time.

Care Standards Linked to Staffing within Care Homes

The Executive Director of Health, Housing and Adult Services submitted a report (copy circulated) which informed the Committee of the outcomes of the planned programme of activity undertaken by the Health, Housing and Adult Services, Social Care Governance Team. This included monitoring the quality of services, providing guidance, advice and support in respect of service improvement to providers and reporting back the results of monitoring.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Councillor Fletcher referred to paragraph 3.10 and expressed concern that very few homes could provide evidence of how they had identified training that was specific to the needs of people living in the home. She also highlighted that only 18 homes included safeguarding training in their inductions and expressed concern that only 42% of homes provide basic level training in dementia.

Councillor Hall noted that the care homes were businesses and that training cost money. She asked did the Council look at how homes managed their training. Ms. Arbon confirmed that this was looked at as part of the assessments undertaken by the Social Care Governance Team. Advice could be given and homes signposted in the right direction. The Tyne and Wear Care Alliance (TWCA) had made resources available to support providers to meet the requirements of the Common Induction Standards, including training, advice, access to support and workshops. A workshop day had been held on 23rd June on planning aspects and scenarios for care planning. The session had only just scratched the surface and the intention was to undertake more, either organised by the Council or jointly with the TWCA.

In response to a further enquiry from Councillor Hall, Mr. King advised that the training provided by TWCA was generally done so free of charge through funding secured from European grants. Since its inception the TWCA had secured £10 million in this way enabling at least 75% of care staff to achieve qualifications at NVQ Level 2.

Councillor Snowdon referred to paragraph 3.4 which advised that 23 out of 25 providers were using the Common Induction Standards appropriately to support staff. She enquired as to how many care homes were operated by the remaining 2 providers as a percentage of the total number of care homes in the City. Mr. King advised that he did not have that information to hand but would provide a written response.

In addition Councillor Snowdon asked how the homes standard was promoted? Ms. Arbon advised that once the ratings were finalised they would be published on the Council's website in a similar fashion to the 'scores on the doors' food safety ratings.

The Chairman expressed concern that despite a requirement that staff receive 6 supervisions per year, to date only 44% of homes were compliant. He believed the consequences of this should be considered during future commissioning rounds. Ms. Arbon confirmed that things had to get better and in fact there had been an improvement from a figure of 28% in 2009. It was a factor that was linked to fee levels. Focused improvement activity was planned in order to improve on the 44% compliance figure.

In response to a further enquiry from the Chairman, Mr. King advised that the Council when commissioning operated with an organisation called Care North East who negotiate prices annually or sometimes over a two year deal. The Local Authority would pay more for a gold standard home so there was an incentive for homes to reach that standard. There was currently about a £40 per week difference between fees for standard and gold homes. Currently only 11 homes had reached the gold standard however many more were now moving up through the rankings.

Work would continue to remove poor providers from the market in a managed fashion.

Councillor Shattock stated she was very interested in Section 4 of the report (Homes for People with Learning Disabilities). In the setting of a residential home you needed to be able to trust staff to look after your loved ones. Care work was generally perceived to be a poorly paid, low status, low value occupation. If the manager of a home was not good enough then the staff were likely to be not good enough. Councillor Shattock expressed concern that whilst a high percentage of homes were able to demonstrate that safeguarding training had been received by staff, only 14 homes could demonstrate that managers had received responsible persons training. Mr. King acknowledged that this could be a problem but by way of reassurance informed Members that in terms of care work it was increasingly being seen as a profession of choice especially following the development of the Pathways to Care scheme.

In response to an enquiry from Councillor Francis, Ms. Arbon confirmed that the effects of staff turnover could be a problem. If the Governance Team became aware of a problem they would raise it and, if appropriate, they could use the safeguarding route. In reality the Council only had a limited control over the business matters of private homes.

The Chairman having asked Mr. King and Ms. Arbon to continue 'Knocking on doors' he thanked them for their report and it was:-

3. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

Review of Rehabilitation and Early Supported Discharge from Hospital

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) on proposals in relation to the Committee's forthcoming review of Rehabilitation and Early Supported Discharge from Hospital.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Karen Brown, Scrutiny Officer presented the report which outlined the proposed terms of reference for the review, potential sources of evidence, methods of enquiry together with a proposed timetable and approach to the review.

The Chairman referred to paragraph 8.2 regarding the potential to nominate up to 4 co-opted representatives to sit on the Committee for the period of the review. It was additionally suggested that a representative from a service user group be nominated. Completed nomination forms would be circulated to Members for their approval with a view to seeking Council approval for the co-optee appointments at its September meeting.

4. RESOLVED that the approach and scope of the review be endorsed.

Visit to Older People's Day Hospital and Inpatient Facilities

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) on a visit undertaken by Members of the Committee to Grange Day clinic and Wearmouth View hospital on 23rd June, 2011.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Members commented that the visit had been extremely useful. Councillors Francis and Shattock highlighted that it had provided a useful example of what could be achieved with an excellent manager. Councillor Shattock noted that there were no male members of staff and additionally that the high glass roof space tended to amplify noise in the building.

5. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

Request to Attend Conference

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which sought approval for the attendance of Members of the Committee at two workshops to be held on 5th and 9th September in York and Middlesbrough respectively.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

6. RESOLVED that approval be given to Member attendance at the above Conferences and that expressions of interest be forwarded to Karen Brown at the earliest opportunity.

Annual Work Programme 2011-12

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) appending an updated work programme for the Committee's information.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Claire Harrison, Scrutiny and Area Support Officer having presented the report, it was:-

7. RESOLVED that the contents of the report be received and noted.

Forward Plan – Key Decisions for the Period 1st July, 2011 to 31st October, 2011

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) to provide Members with an opportunity to consider the Executive's Forward Plan for the period 1st July – 31st October, 2011.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Claire Harrison, Scrutiny and Area Support Officer, having presented the report it was:-

8. RESOLVED that the contents of the report be received and noted.

The Chairman then closed the meeting having thanked Members and Officers for their attendance.

(Signed) P. WALKER,
Chairman.