

TASK AND FINISH WORKING GROUP: CHALLENGES IN ADULT SOCIAL CARE IN SUNDERLAND**Report of the Task and Finish Working Group****1. Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to present the findings of the task and finish working group looking at the adult social care market in Sunderland.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Work Programming session held on 13 June 2022 provided Members, officers and partners with the opportunity to discuss a variety of scrutiny topics, compiling a shortlist of potential issues for task and finish work during the coming year.

- 2.2 The first of the topics selected to investigate was the state of adult social care in Sunderland following the Covid-19 pandemic. The task and finish working group set out to conduct a focused, clearly scoped, and time-limited piece of work with clear objectives.

Context to the Working Group

- 2.3 The Council currently operates a range of commissioning arrangements for the provision of adult care and support services. Within Sunderland there are different provider markets which support the health and social care agenda. These can be broken down into the following:

I. Accommodation based services for older people – Residential and Nursing Care; Extra Care Accommodation

II. Accommodation based services for people with disabilities – Residential Care; Independent Supported Schemes; Core and Cluster Schemes.

III. Accommodation based services for people with mental health needs – Residential Care; Independent Supported Living Schemes; Core and Cluster Schemes.

IV. Community services – Care and Support into people's homes; Day Care/Opportunities; Preventative Services.

- 2.4 There are 50 older person's care homes across the city, with an occupancy rate of around 88%, that deliver a mixture of general and dementia residential care, general and dementia nursing care, support for younger people with dementia and people with enduring mental health needs. There are also currently 12 Extra Care schemes in the city providing 848 apartments, of which 766 (90%) are currently occupied.
- 2.5 The Council currently has a framework in place with 39 providers who deliver home care having been accepted on to the framework, having successfully completed some quality and assurance checks and they more often than not, operate city wide. This includes 7 providers who are formally contracted to deliver care and support at home in zoned locality areas across the City. The framework providers are commissioned to provide care and support at home to all service user groups

including adults with complex needs. There are a small number of spot purchased providers who aren't on the framework but who have been directly commissioned by Adult Social Care following the completion of a number of quality assurance checks. These spot purchased arrangements are used mainly when there is an urgent need for support and the home care market has been unable to respond within the required timeframe.

- 2.6 Sunderland also commission a variety of other adult social care services including, independent and health complaints advocacy, support and accommodation for people with learning difficulties and mental health, short break services and day opportunities that are delivered in both a building and community setting.

3. The Aim and Terms of Reference of the Working Group

- 3.1 The working group was established with the specific aim looking at look at the challenges facing adult social care services in Sunderland post-Covid-19 pandemic and understand the impact that Covid-19 has had on the sector including the lessons learned and how this is driving improvement and innovation across social care.
- 3.2 The working group consisted of Cllrs Simon Ayre, Malcolm Bond, Michael Butler, Alison Chisnall and John Usher; the group selected Cllr Chisnall as the Chair.
- 3.3 The following Terms of Reference for the working group were agreed:-
- (a) To understand the adult social care sector in Sunderland;
 - (b) To consider the impact of Covid-19 on adult social care services in Sunderland;
 - (c) To look at how issues of sustainability and resilience are being addressed in the adult social care sector;
 - (d) To consider the implications of new legislation on adult social care for commissioners, providers and
 - (e) To explore areas of innovation and development in adult social care and how they can support the sector going forward.

4. Drafting the Report

- 4.1 The task and finish working group gathered evidence from a number of sources and this was coordinated, on behalf of Members, by the scrutiny officer. Members gathered evidence from the following:
- Desktop research;
 - Use of Secondary Research;
 - Evidence presented by Key Stakeholders;
 - Site Visits.
- 4.2 Attached for Members information at **Appendix 1** is the draft report developed by the working group. The report covers a number of issues related to adult social care. Some of the key areas covered include:
- Relationships
 - Attendance and Expectations
 - Pre-Meetings

- Managing Disagreements.

5. Next Steps

- 5.1 Following discussion and agreement on the draft report by the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee it will be submitted to Cabinet for discussion, comment and to agree the recommendations contained in the report.

6. Recommendations

- 6.1 That the Scrutiny Coordinating Committee discuss and following any amendments agree the draft report.
- 6.2 That Members agree to the submission of the draft report to Cabinet.

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