

MINUTES of a meeting of **the IMPROVEMENT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – PEOPLE** held at County Hall, Matlock on 22 August 2017.

PRESENT

Councillor Mrs J Twigg (in the Chair)

Councillors Mrs D Charles, R Flatley, Mrs A Fox, J Frudd, R Iliffe and D Taylor.

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors N Barker and Mrs L Chilton.

15/17 RESIDENTIAL CARE HOMES – FINAL REVIEW

Members were presented with the final review report on the authority's care homes. The report has been circulated to all those involved in the review process.

Councillor Twigg thanked all members involved in the visits to the care homes and the Scrutiny Officer for arranging and collating the findings.

Members asked specific clarification questions of Simon Stevens, Assistant Director - Adult Care, including security, air conditioning in the homes, garden and outdoor maintenance, use of door codes and volunteers. Members were impressed with the standard of staff commitment and dedication. The Chair confirmed that it was the intention to revisit the Residential Care Homes to review improvements.

The following recommendation were considered by the Committee:-

- (1) Service Managers to share the best practice ideas as listed in Appendix 2, attached to the report, with Care Homes and to consider how best to share good practice on an ongoing basis, for example through Unit Manager Leadership meetings.
- (2) The Strategic Director of Adult Care discusses the issues raised over ground maintenance with Property Services, voicing particular concerns of both members, care home staff and relatives as to the quality of grass cutting, collection of garden waste and general maintenance of aesthetic aspects and considers how best to ensure these issues are resolved going forward.
- (3) The Strategic Director of Adult Care raises the lack of security for residents when using outdoor areas of the residential care homes and encourages the installation of adequate fencing for outdoor areas used by residents.

- (4) The Strategic Director of Adult Care encourages the adoption of standard security practices amongst all the local authority owned residential homes and shall consider the viability of upgrading more older 'code' door systems to fobs for entry and exit by staff members.
- (5) The Strategic Director of Adult Care discusses with Property Services the need found in the majority of the Council's residential care homes for additional storage space either by internal or external means.
- (6) The Strategic Director of Adult Care reviews the performance of Medequip and considers ways of providing a consistent service level to all residential care homes.
- (7) Research is carried out to investigate the extent to which there are pressure sore issues after being discharged from hospital into residential care homes and for reablement.
- (8) The Strategic Director of Adult Care will ensure research is carried out to ascertain whether all residential care homes are properly equipped with the correct apparatus such as fall mats and alarms as to reduce the frequency of safeguarding issues including falls and pressure sores.
- (9) When planning the construction, development and use of new residential care home establishments under the authority, Derbyshire County Council will endeavour to consult and engage both staff and residents throughout the process. The practical needs of the facility and its residents should always be paramount to any appearance or status concerns and desires.
- (10) The Strategic Director of Adult Care considers further ways of ensuring there is adequate provision of care home staff, either by considering the use of a pool of relief care home staff who can provide short term placements where required or by making efforts to centralise the more clerical aspects of the recruitment process as to reduce the burden of unit managers.
- (11) The Strategic Director of Adult Care arranges a briefing to the Improvement and Scrutiny Committee on the rationale of the 3 shift rota system and the impacts on care home staff and residents.
- (12) The Strategic Director of Adult Care discusses with Property Services the viability of having a Handyperson to service all residential care homes in Derbyshire. It would be desirable to have an individual assigned to a set of residential care homes who would be able to take

care of minor garden maintenance and specific cosmetic work within the home.

- (13) The Strategic Director of Adult Care will consider a more comprehensive refurbishment programme of the authority's residential care homes in the future considering that newer build facilities are able to accommodate larger number of residents and that many existing facilities are struggling to meet the structural needs for the delivery of residential care in the 21st century.

RESOLVED to approve the report and the recommendations listed above.