

OLDER PEOPLE AND END OF LIFE CARE

Introduction

1. This is the interim report of the Older People and End of Life Care Task and Finish Review Group to consider the Older People and End of Life Care workstreams of County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Clinical Strategy.

Membership of the Review Group

2. Councillors J. Taylor (Chair), Francis and Macnab.

Acknowledgements

The Task and Finish Review Group acknowledges the support and assistance provided in the course of their investigation and would like to place on record their thanks to the following :-

County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust –Nicola Allen, Clinical Services Manager; Lisa Cole, Head of Service, Stroke and Elderly Medicine; Dr Bernard Esi, Clinical Director, Consultant in Stroke and Elderly Medicine; Jane Haywood, Clinical Director Adults and Integrated Services/Programme Manager; Carol Robinson, Service Integration Manager/AHP Lead and Denise Slark; Clinical Services Manager. St Terea's Hospice – Victoria Ashley, Clinical Services Manager and Jane Bradshaw, Chief Executive and Abbie Metcalfe, Democratic Officer.

Methods of Investigation

3. The Task and Finish Review Group has met on four occasions and the notes of each meeting have been regularly reported to the Health and Partnerships Scrutiny Committee.
4. At the first meeting, Members received an informative and detailed overview of the Older People and End of Life Care workstreams. The key issues discussed included the Dementia Collaborative, integration of Community and Acute Services, training issues across all Organisations, Patient Choice, Integrated Care Plans, the Surprise Question, Amber Care Bundle, screening and prevention work, Health Improvement Team, Readmission Avoidance Scheme, Care in the Community and Integration of Multi-Disciplinary Teams.
5. Given the extensive remit of this Group, Members agreed to give further thought as to how best to approach this piece of work.
6. Members agreed to focus their work by exploring specific areas, as follows:-

- Older People
 - Prevention and screening
 - Improve integrated partnerships across all health and social care providers
 - Training
 - End of Life Care
 - St Teresa's Hospice
 - Pilots – Surprise Question and Amber Care
 - Training
7. Members have received a three month progress update from Officers in respect of the selected areas of interest which has led to more questions.
 8. As a result Members intend to meet with Officers from this Council to seek assurance of provision of service, integrated working and training initiatives undertaken.
 9. Members have recently met with Officers from St Teresa's Hospice and we are delighted to learn the breadth of services and support they offer.

Conclusions to date

10. Members welcomed the opportunity to work with Officers from the Trust and St Teresa's and have been interested to learn how services are integrated services.
11. Members are delighted with the variety of services provided at St Teresa's Hospice and would like to see better integration with the Trust and the Council wherever possible.
12. We are pleased that a focus on end of life care appears to be at the fore front of Clinicians minds when treating older people and ensuring that they have the opportunity, should they wish to, to plan for their end of life.
13. Members understand the financial difficulty that this Council and NHS organisations are facing but believe continued integrated services will drive efficiencies and make savings.
14. Members believe there are potential opportunities that arise from integration such as shared training and initiatives which ultimately would benefit providers, however, Members are not yet satisfied that opportunities are being fully explored and benefited from.
15. From the work the Group have undertaken, we are satisfied that an some progress has been made; however, we would like to see more progress and better integration. We have meetings scheduled to meet with Council Officers and Officers from the Trust in 2013 and we would therefore like to continue this piece of work.

Recommendation

16. That the Task and Finish Review Group continues to meet regularly until Members are satisfied.

Older People and End of Life Care Task and Finish Review Group

