

## **ADULTS AND HOUSING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**12<sup>th</sup> March, 2013**

**PRESENT** – Councillor Thistlethwaite (in the Chair); Councillors Harman, Hutchinson, Mrs D. Jones, Kelley, Lister, S. Richmond and York (8)

**APOLOGIES** – Councillors B Jones and Knowles (2)

**OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE** – Pauline Mitchell, Assistant Director – Housing and Building Services, Ann Workman, Head of Adult Social Care and Elaine O'Brien, Head of Strategic Commissioning and Health Partnerships.

**AH44. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – There were no declarations of interest reported at the meeting.

**AH45. MINUTES** – Submitted – The Minutes (previously circulated) of the meeting of this Scrutiny Committee held on 15<sup>th</sup> January, 2013.

**RESOLVED** – That the Minutes be approved as a correct record.

**AH46. WORK PROGRAMME** – The Director of Resources submitted a report (previously circulated) requesting that consideration be given to the work programme items scheduled to be considered by this Scrutiny Committee during the current Municipal Year.

The submitted report outlined those areas where this Scrutiny Committee had previously identified it would like to focus its work over the next Municipal Year and also emphasised that the work programme was a rolling programme and any Member of this Scrutiny could request an item to be included provided that a Quad of Aims had been submitted to the Scrutiny Committee prior to ensure that it contributed to the strategic aims of the Council.

The Chair updated Members on the current position in relation to the work some Members of this Scrutiny Committee were undertaking in relation to Nutrition in Care Homes and Safeguarding Adults (Minutes AH48(i) and (ii) below refer) and reported that the outcomes of both of these pieces of work would be reported back to this Scrutiny Committee in due course.

**RESOLVED** – That the current status of the Work Programme be noted.

**AH47. EXTRA CARE HOUSING STRATEGY** – Pursuant to Minute AH42/Jan/13, the Director of People submitted a report (previously circulated) updating Members on the outcome of the recent consultation on the Extra Care

Strategy and the Equality Impact Assessment, undertaken with tenants on the possible use of an alternative provider for the care and support delivery.

It was reported that a number of consultation meetings, chaired by an independent facilitator, had been held and that Council Officers had carried out 1:1 discussions with those tenants potentially affected by the proposals to gather comments and identify potential impacts. The consultation meetings had been well attended with 49 per cent of all extra care residents and their families taking part in the process.

Particular reference was made to the main areas of concern for residents which included; a lack of continuity with carers, a decrease in the quality of service and the loss of the 24 hour seven days a week on site support and Officers assured us that, as part of the on-going Equality Assessments, any actions that could be taken to mitigate these potential impacts would be considered and that the Council would be able to specify terms in the contract with the successful external provider.

Discussion ensued on the contract specification, the transfer of Council staff to an external company using TUPE transfer, the growing numbers of older residents in extra care housing and the growing demand for support, the separation of domiciliary care and extra care housing contracts and the financial implications for the Council if the tender exercise was not successful.

**RESOLVED** – That the submitted report be received and that the Officers be requested to submit a further report to a future meeting of this Scrutiny Committee once the outcome of the tender process is known.

**AH48. PROGRESS OF SCRUTINY REVIEWS - (i) Nutrition in Care Homes –** Submitted - the notes (previously circulated) of meetings of the Nutrition in Care Homes Task and Finish Review Group held on 11<sup>th</sup> January and 7<sup>th</sup> February, 2013.

Discussion ensued on the findings of the first visits to the homes, how effective unannounced visits would be, and the protocol Members were to follow on the next visits.

Arising from the last meeting of the group, a key issue highlighted to Members was continuation of GP care when a person moves into a care home and it was reported that Dr Matt Sawyer would be attending a meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2013 to brief Members on the work he was currently undertaking in relation to care homes and GP practices

Discussion ensued on the generational change of residents in care homes, the overview report Gold Standards Framework Evaluation in Care Homes in Darlington and end of life care.

**RESOLVED** – (a) That the notes be approved.

(b) That the overview report Gold Standards Framework Evaluation in Care Homes in Darlington be circulated to all Members of this Committee.

**(ii) Adult Safeguarding** – Submitted – the notes (previously circulated) of a meeting of the Safeguarding Adults Task and Finish Review Group held on 30<sup>th</sup> January, 2013.

Ann Workman, Head of Adult Social Care, briefed Members on the discussions which had taken place at the meeting and it was reported that an invitation had now been extended to Councillor S. Richmond to attend the next Safeguarding Adults Board, where a presentation and discussion will take place about the Care Quality Commission (CQC).

Discussion ensued about the recent press releases regarding abuse in homes, the financial restrictions of the CQC, the campaigns from different outside organisations promoting positive health choices for older people and the recent implementation of a Multi-Agency Hub at Central House Annex for Safeguarding Adults which would include representatives from Adult Social Services, Police, Probation Services and Health Authorities.

**RESOLVED** – (a) That the notes be approved

(b) That a presentation be given to the next ordinary meeting of this Scrutiny Committee about the formation and work of the Multi-Agency Group for Safeguarding Adults.