

NUTRITION IN CARE HOMES TASK AND FINISH REVIEW GROUP

7th February, 2013

PRESENT – Councillor Thistlethwaite (in the Chair); Councillors Hutchinson, B. Jones, D Jones, Knowles and S. Richmond.

Nutrition in Care Homes – The Group met to consider the findings (analysis previously circulated) following the visits undertaken by them to a number of care homes with agreements with this Council, to seek the views of residents', family and friends and staff in relation to nutrition and hydration within the home.

Each of the Members who had undertaken a visit gave a brief outline of their findings to supplement the comments contained within the submitted analysis and discussion ensued on a number of areas/findings. It was accepted by the Group that the responses received were mixed and varied across the homes visited; that it had been difficult in some cases, because of the varying profiles of some of the residents, to engage with them and seek a true reflection of their thoughts; and that further information from family and friends might need to be obtained as there were limited visitors at the times of each of the visits.

Overall, Members expressed general satisfaction with the findings, however, there were some general common themes emerging from the cross section of homes visited which covered the following areas :-

- Lack of management presence during some of the announced visits;
- Lack of access to kitchen;
- Smell of urine;
- Cleanliness of kitchen staff (not wearing appropriate clothing) – need to encourage Focus on Food and hygiene training;
- Personal space;
- General decoration/tidiness; and
- Some concern about fluid intake.

Discussion ensued on the next steps for this Group; whether unannounced visits would be beneficial, whether Officers could accompany Members on any further visits to compare findings; and the possibility of questionnaires being sent direct to residents' family/friends to enable a full and comprehensive analysis to be undertaken.

IT WAS AGREED – (a) That the Officers be requested to undertake unannounced visits to the care homes visited and that, if possible, the Members be invited to attend with them.

(b) That the advice of the Officers be sought on whether contact details of a selection of residents' family/friends could be made available to enable a short

questionnaire seeking their views to be sent direct to them for completion.

(c) That a further meeting of this Group be arranged once the outcomes of (a) and (b) above are known.