

NUTRITION IN CARE HOMES TASK AND FINISH REVIEW GROUP

27th February, 2013

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

Nutrition in Care Homes – The Group met to advise Officers of their findings following the visits undertaken to a number of care homes with agreements with this Council and to discuss undertaking further unannounced visits, to be accompanied by Contracts Officers within the Council.

Each of the Members who had undertaken a visit re-iterated their findings to supplement the comments contained within the previously submitted analysis and discussion ensued on a number of areas/findings, which had also been previously discussed and which were detailed in the notes of the meeting held on 7 February, 2013.

Discussion ensued on the request by Members to undertake further unannounced visits, the Quality Standards which covered nutrition and hydration in care homes; the current position in relation to the number of homes who had, to date, signed the new Agreement with this Council; and a suggestion that Willow Green and Wilton House be added to the proposed unannounced visits.

In undertaking the visits, Members also highlighted other areas which they had observed outside of the nutrition and hydration work and discussion ensued on medication review within care homes and polypharmacy and it was suggested that it might be appropriate for these areas to be looked at by the Safeguarding Adults Task and Finish Review Group.

The Officers also referred to a piece of work which was currently being undertaken by Doctor Matt Sawyer in relation to GP practices and care homes and the various options which were being considered, which included :-

- retaining the current practice of individual patient choice for their GP;
- the possibility of three/four GP practices covering all the care homes within Darlington; or
- the possibility of one GP practice covering all the care homes within Darlington.

It was suggested that it might be useful for Dr Sawyer to be invited to a meeting to outline the work being undertaken and the findings to date.

Members were also advised of a Residential Forum which was held every two months and which was an information sharing forum to which all the Care Home Managers were invited and discussion ensued on the topics which were discussed at these meetings and whether an invitation could be extended to the Chair and Vice-

Chair of the Adults and Housing Scrutiny Committee.

IT WAS AGREED – (a) That further unannounced visits be undertaken to the following care homes and that Officers be requested to accompany Members :-

The Lawns;
Darlington Manor;
Moorlands;
Lakeside
St Georges;
Willow Green; and
Wilton House.

(b) That Doctor Matt Sawyer be invited to attend a future meeting of the Safeguarding Adults Task and Finish Review Group to advise Members of the work he is currently undertaking in relation to care homes and GP practices.

(c) That the Officers be requested to make the necessary arrangements for the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Adults and Housing Scrutiny Committee to be invited to meetings of the Residential Forum