

## **ADULT SAFEGUARDING TASK AND FINISH REVIEW**

**3.00pm - Tuesday, 12th March 2013  
Council Chamber Foyer, Town Hall**

**PRESENT** – Councillor Sue Richmond (in the Chair); Councillors Hutchinson and Knowles. (3)

**APOLOGIES** – Councillor Thistlethwaite. (1)

**OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE** – Ann Workman, Assistant Director – Adult Social Care, and Paul Dalton, Elections Officer (Democratic Services).

The following issues were discussed :-

- Members entered into discussion on the various areas of Adult Safeguarding that they would be interested in scrutinising.

### **Financial Assessment**

- Initially discussion centred on 'Financial Assessment', and it was agreed that this would form one strand of the work programme. It was suggested that information provided by the Assistant Director – Adult Social Care be circulated to Members, and that this would inform a meeting of the Financial Assessment Task and Finish Group.
- The Assistant Director – Adult Social Care suggested that it would be useful to extend an invitation to both Heather McQuade and Sheila Mottram, who would be able to provide an overview on Financial Assessment, and the Mental Capacity Act, respectively,
- Members gave consideration to the potential workload of the group, and decided that any work on scrutinising Financial Assessment should commence following the conclusion of the work of the 'Nutrition in Care Homes Task and Finish Group'. In light of a previous expression of interest, it was felt that it would be appropriate for Councillor Thistlethwaite to lead on this particular piece of work.

### **Medication and Polypharmacy in Care Homes**

- Members entered into discussion on the areas they may wish to scrutinise as part of the Medication and Polypharmacy in Care Homes Task and Finish Group. Members expressed great concern in relation to the case study presented at the previous meeting which indicated that medication had been dispensed to a resident of a care home incorrectly.
- The Assistant Director – Adult Social Care advised Members that safeguarding lead nurses had been appointed across the three Clinical Commissioning Group's (CCGs) boundaries, and suggested that Members may want to invite the Safeguarding Lead Officer for the CCG to a meeting to

advise Members of the work that they undertake. Discussion ensued on who else may be best placed to inform the work of this group, and it was suggested that representatives from the Acute Trust and Pharmacy (Barbara Nimmo) be invited. The Assistant Director – Adult Social Care stated that it was important for practitioners to share information, especially where there were suspicions of the abuse of medication.

- Members remained concerned that medication may be being dispensed incorrectly, and not handled safely. Discussion ensued on the possibility of unannounced visits to care homes to enable Members to inspect records attached to the dispensing of medication, and staff rosters. Discussion turned to the qualifications and training required by care home staff in relation to the safe handling of drugs.
- Discussion ensued on issues in relation to the dispensing of medication to those with mental illness. Members suggested that some staff would be accepting of difficult behaviour, and it may therefore go unreported, whereas other staff may not be used to it. It was therefore suggested that it may be useful to invite someone with knowledge of the issues raised by those attending to those residents with mental illness.
- Members entered into discussion on potential budgetary pressures over the coming years, and what effect this would have on commissioning. It was explained that work was being conducted to identify the statutory and non-statutory functions, however Members were advised that any initial reductions in service would be taken from management posts, and not front line services. Members were mindful that, over the Summer months, all services would be subject to financial challenge and scrutiny as part of the Budget Advisory Panels (BAPs), and therefore felt that it would be duplicating work that will be on-going over future months.

### **Dementia Strategy**

- Members expressed an interest in obtaining an overview of the approach to dementia within care homes, including examining the overall strategy, receiving information on the training which staff dealing with those suffering from dementia receive, and how staff deal with any physical issues that may arise.

### **Incontinence (Dignity in Care)**

- In light of one of the Serious Case Reviews which Members were informed about at their meeting on 30th January 2013, Members expressed an interest in examining how incontinence was addressed, ascertain whether sufficient resources were allocated to address any problems within a care home setting, and ensure that appropriate hygiene and cleaning processes were in place. Members were particularly keen to ensure that received an appropriate level of dignity in care

**IT WAS AGREED THAT:** (a) That a Financial Assessment Task and Finish Group, chaired by Councillor Thistlethwaite, be established to scrutinise Financial Assessments, once the work of the Nutrition in Care Homes Task and Finish Group has been concluded.

(b) That the above notes in relation to the work and direction of the Medication and Polypharmacy in Care Homes Task and Finish Group, be noted.

(c) That a Dementia Strategy Task and Finish Group be established to enable Members to learn more about the overall Dementia Strategy, and to receive information on staff training for those in contact with Dementia sufferers.

(d) That an Incontinence (Dignity in Care) Task and Finish Group be established to enable Members to examine how incontinence was addressed within a care home setting, ascertain whether sufficient resources were allocated the issue, and ensure that appropriate hygiene and cleaning processes were in place.