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**MEDICATION IN CARE HOMES TASK AND FINISH REVIEW GROUP - FINAL REPORT**

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**Introduction**

1. To report the findings and recommendations of the Medication in Care Homes Task and Finish Review Group, established by the Adults and Housing Scrutiny Committee.

**Background Information**

2. Members will recall that the Adults and Housing Scrutiny Committee agreed to undertake a piece of work in relation to medication in care homes and established a Task and Finish Review Group to undertake this. The aim of the work was to provide Members with an overview of medication and polypharmacy within those care homes with agreements with this Council and the work currently being undertaken in relation to aligning GP practices with care homes.
3. The Task and Finish Review Group met on a number of occasions and announced visits to a number of care homes took place as part of the review and a number of associated topics were considered and discussed. The attached draft report (**Appendix**) sets out the work, findings and recommendations of the Group.

**Recommendations**

That the following recommendations of the Review Group be approved :-

- (a) that the thanks of this Task and Finish Review Group be conveyed to the Assistant Director – Adult Social Care, all the staff within the Council’s Contracts Team and the external partners for the support and advice given during this investigation;
- (b) that this Task and Finish Review Group is confident that there is sufficient evidence to suggest that the ordering and administration of medication in those care homes visited is being correctly managed and there are examples of good practice within the homes visited; and that any issues which might occur in the future would be dealt with promptly and efficiently by Officers within the Contracts Team in liaison with other external partners/agencies;
- (c) that, in relation to Wilton House, this Task and Finish Review Group is satisfied that good progress is being made against the Improvement Action Plan and that there are good management arrangements now in place at

WiltonHouse;

(d) there is evidence to suggest that this GP alignment to care homes project is working in those care homes where it is in place and requests the Darlington Clinical Commissioning Group to continue to support and fund this scheme so that all the care homes in Darlington are aligned to a practice;

(e) there is evidence to suggest that savings could be made if there was better medication management in relation to medication ordering and requests the Darlington Clinical Commissioning Group to investigate this further with the Darlington Clinical Commissioning Group; and

(f) that, in relation to the discharge of patients with medication from hospital, the Health and Partnerships Scrutiny Committee be requested, through the Quality Accounts of the County Durham and Darlington Foundation Trust, to look further into the issues around the discharge of patients with medication from hospital.

**Paul Wildsmith**  
**Director of Neighbourhood Services and Resources**

### **Background Papers**

There were no background papers used in the preparation of this report other than those referred to

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S17 Crime and Disorder	This report has no implications for Crime and Disorder
Health and Well Being	This report has no direct implications to the Health and Well Being of residents of Darlington.
Carbon Impact	There are no issues which this report needs to address.
Diversity	There are no issues relating to diversity which this report needs to address
Wards Affected	The impact of the report on any individual Ward is considered to be minimal.
Groups Affected	The impact of the report on any individual Group is considered to be minimal.
Budget and Policy Framework	This report does not represent a change to the budget and policy framework.
Key Decision	This is not a key decision.
Urgent Decision	This is not an urgent decision
One Darlington: Perfectly Placed	The report contributes to the Sustainable Community Strategy in a number of ways through the involvement of Members in contributing to the delivery of the five themes.
Efficiency	The Work Programmes are integral to scrutinising and monitoring services efficiently (and effectively), however this report does not identify specific efficiency savings.