

MEDICATION IN CARE HOMES TASK AND FINISH REVIEW GROUP

30th May, 2014

PRESENT – Councillor S Richmond (in the Chair); Councillors Donoghue, T. Richmond and Mrs Scott.

OFFICERS –Yvonne Hall.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE – Susan Goat, Safeguarding Adults Lead Nurse, Sue Moffatt and Debbie Howe, Care Quality Commission, Darlington and Tees Valley, and Barbara Nimmo, Medicines Optimisation Pharmacist.

MEDICATION IN CARE HOMES – 1 Findings of Visits - Submitted – A document (circulated at the meeting) summarising the comments received from Members following their visits to a number of care homes with agreements with this Council to assist them with the work they were undertaking in relation to medication in care homes. It was reported that all of the visits allocated had been undertaken by Members, however, the findings in relation to Lakeside and Rydal were still awaited.

Members reported that, overall, they were satisfied with the findings, and there was evidence of good practice, although there were some concerns about Wilton House and the Officers gave an update position at the meeting in relation to that care home in particular.

Particular reference was made to two specific areas which had been highlighted during the visits, which related to the need for better medication management to reduce wastage and costs and the need for the GP alignment project to be extended to those homes which were not yet participating.

Discussion also ensued on the different training packages which were available for staff in care homes.

IT WAS AGREED – That the Adults and Housing Scrutiny Committee be advised that :-

(a) with the exception of (b) below, 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;

(b) in relation to Wilton House, this Task and Finish Review Group has some concerns in relation to the comments received and notes that the Officers are aware of those concerns and requests an update on the current position at the next meeting of this Group and will undertake a further visit in six months' time;

(c) this Task and Finish Review Group is awaiting further information on the feedback from the pilot of the GP alignment to care homes project, however, following the visits undertaken, there is evidence to suggest that this 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;

(d) this Task and Finish Review Group is aware, and 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 GP's; and

(e) this Task and Finish Review Group takes on board the comments in relation to the definition of 'appropriate' and 'adequate' training for staff in care homes and recognises that this is a national issue.

2 Medication Issues/Reporting – Susan Goat reported that the Darlington Clinical Commissioning Group was currently running a pilot whereby all care homes must report any medication issues/errors through the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) to enable an accurate record of the numbers involved to be maintained.

IT WAS AGREED – That the results from the outcome of the pilot be reported to the next meeting of this Group.

3 Use of Multi-Compartment Compliance Aids – Yvonne Hall gave an update on the current position in relation to work being undertaken by the Durham, Darlington and Tees Local Pharmacy Network to recommend the appropriate use of Multi-Compartment Compliance Aids (MCAs), also known as Monitored Dosage Systems (MDAs) or 'dosette boxes' by community pharmacists.

Reference was made to a letter (circulated at the meeting) which had been received from the Chair of the Durham, Darlington and Tees Local Pharmacy Network which highlighted the concerns by the British Medical Association and by the Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee and also locally by the Local Medical Committees, Local Pharmaceutical Committees and Clinical Commissioning Groups within Durham, of inappropriate use of MCAs and referred to one of the pharmacy network's priorities to recommend their appropriate use which they firmly believed would lead to better use of local resources, maximise clinical outcomes for patients and reDuce risk to patient safety.

As the majority of patients in receipt of regular medication were also likely to be receiving social care support either in their own homes or in a nursing or residential

care setting, the pharmacy network were seeking the support of Directors of Social Care to support the aim either through contractual mechanisms or training and education.

Discussion ensued on the use of 'dosette boxes' where a specified need was demonstrated, together with the advantages and disadvantages of their use and it was reported that the contract agreements which the Council had with care homes could be varied if a framework agreement and governance arrangements were in place.

Discussion ensued on a visit which had taken place to Rowlands Pharmacy by Members of the Health and Partnerships Scrutiny Committee and it was suggested that Members of this Group visit Boots Pharmacy to see their medication management process as they were the main provider of medication to care homes within the Borough.

IT WAS AGREED – That Boots pharmacy be contacted with a view to Members undertaking a visit and that the outcome thereof be reported to a future meeting of this Group.

4. Suggestions for future meetings IT WAS AGREED – That, in addition to the items referred to above, the following items be included on an agenda for future meetings of this Task and Finish Group :-

- GP alignment to Care Homes;
- SystemOne – overview of electronic prescribing; and
- Hospital discharge letters – overview of work being done by the Darlington Clinical Commissioning Group to review and improve discharge letters.