

WIRRAL COUNCIL

FAMILIES AND WELLBEING POLICY AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE

8TH APRIL 2014

SUBJECT:	QUALITY ASSURANCE AND STANDARDS OF CARE HOMES IN WIRRAL
WARD/S AFFECTED:	ALL
REPORT OF:	MEMBERS OF THE CARE HOMES SCRUTINY PANEL

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report provides background information regarding the report of the Care Homes Scrutiny Review.

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 At the meeting of the Families and Wellbeing Policy & Performance Committee held on 9th September 2013, Members discussed a report from the Director of Adult Social Services regarding the Quality Assurance Framework and Standards in Care Homes. The following minute was recorded:

“The Committee considered the report of the Director of Adult Social Services which informed and updated Members on the role and functions of the Quality Assurance team within his Department, and the quality assurance framework and standards in care homes in Wirral.

The CQC essential standards framework and the quality assurance framework for monitoring visits were attached as appendices to the report.

The Chair suggested that the report be noted and that a Working Group be established to look at this issue in more detail and report back to this Committee at a future meeting.

In response to a Members suggestion, Mr Hodkinson indicated that visits to care homes could be looked at by this group, working with Healthwatch to take this forward linking Ward Councillors with the community.

RESOLVED: *That*

(1) the report be noted; and

(2) a Working Group consisting of Councillors McLaughlin, Mooney, Hornby and Clements be established to look at the quality assurance and standards in care homes.”

- 2.2 In defining the Scope for the Review, the Panel Members agreed that the key issues were:
- How is the quality of care homes in Wirral currently monitored and what processes are already in place, including the role of the Care Quality Commission (CQC)?
 - How are homes who are delivering care below the required standard identified?
 - What processes are in place to raise the quality of homes where necessary?
 - Could more be done to make working between health partners more effective?
 - What would be the most effective future arrangements for:
 - Reporting relevant performance / monitoring data to the Policy & Performance Committee?
 - Involving local Members in the monitoring of care homes in their ward?

3.0 EVIDENCE GATHERING

- 3.1 The Members of the Scrutiny Panel have met a range of witnesses throughout the course of the Review, including Council officers, representatives of partner organisations and advocacy agencies, care home owners and managers. The Panel Members express their thanks to all those who have assisted the review by so readily giving their time, experience and suggestions.
- 3.2 The Report, 'Quality Assurance and Standards of Care Homes in Wirral' is attached for consideration by the Committee.

4.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) Members are requested to support the contents and recommendations of the Scrutiny Report, 'Quality Assurance and Standards of Care Homes in Wirral';
- (2) The report resulting from the Care Homes Scrutiny Review will be referred to the next appropriate Cabinet meeting;
- (3) An update report regarding the impact of the recommendations will be presented to the Families and Wellbeing Policy & Performance Committee in approximately one year (that is, by April 2015).

Report of the Members of the Care Homes Scrutiny Panel:
Cllr Wendy Clements (Chair)
Cllr Mike Hornby
Cllr Moira McLaughlin
Cllr Bernie Mooney

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