

ACTION PLAN IN RESPONSE TO OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY TASK AND FINISH GROUP REPORT ADULT SAFEGUARDING IN HEREFORDSHIRE

REPORT TO CABINET MEMBER HEALTH & WELLBEING

DATE REPORT CONSIDERED AND DECIDED BY CABINET MEMBER: 20 JUNE 2012

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FINAL CALL IN DATE: 25 JUNE 2012

DATE DECISION TO BE IMPLEMENTED: 26 JUNE 2012

CLASSIFICATION: Open

Wards Affected

County-wide

Purpose

To approve the action plan arising from the Overview and Scrutiny Task and Finish Group report adult Safeguarding in Herefordshire.

Key Decision

This is not a Key Decision.

Recommendation(s)

THAT:

People's Services action plan arising from the Overview and Scrutiny's Task and Finish Group's report Adult Safeguarding in Herefordshire be approved.

Key Points Summary

- In July 2011 the Overview and Scrutiny Committee commissioned a Task and Finish Group to undertake a review of the Council's processes for safeguarding adults both within Care Home settings in Herefordshire, and also for those Herefordshire residents placed in Care Homes outside the County. The aim of the review was to make recommendations which improve the assurance processes in order to provide a good quality of care for Herefordshire residents within Care Homes. Also to provide a report to Herefordshire Safeguarding Adults Board with regard to the findings of the review
- The reviewing Councillors received packs detailing the Care Homes operating within Herefordshire, the numbers of Herefordshire residents both within Care Homes in Herefordshire and those living in Care Homes out of County and current assurance processes. The Councillors also met with partner agencies (both statutory and independent,) and visited of 2 Herefordshire Care Homes, meeting staff and several

Further information on the subject of this report is available from Jo Davidson, Director of People Services 01432 260039

residents.

- The Task and Finish Group made 7 recommendations the action plan for which is in appendix 1

Alternative Options

- 1 There are no Alternative Options to the recommendations made by the Task and Finish Group.

Reasons for Recommendations

- 2 Quality Care in Care Homes matters because:
 - There has now been more than a decade of reports and investigations exposing shortcomings in the care of older people such as the report by the Parliamentary and Health service Ombudsman, Ann Abraham, in February 2011 entitled *Care and Compassion?* which exposed shocking failures in the care of older people and, more recently, the Panorama programme which exposed the level of abuse suffered by patients at Winterbourne View, a hospital for individuals with learning difficulties.).
 - Herefordshire Public Services believes that living a life that is free from harm and abuse is a fundamental right of every person
 - Care Homes should deliver dignified care which enriches the individual's life
 - Herefordshire Public Services have strived over the past 18 months to ensure that care is only commissioned from those Care Homes that can demonstrate the good quality of care which delivers positive outcomes for their residents.

Introduction and Background

- 3 The report and action plan enables Cabinet to have assurance that Herefordshire Public Services have robust procedures in place to ensure that the quality of care commissioned for those people who reside in Care Homes is of a good quality.

Key Considerations

- 4 Safeguarding forms part of the Joint Corporate plan and also the Health and Wellbeing Strategy. This report and action plan will support Herefordshire Public Services to continue to improve safeguarding within Care Homes. Herefordshire Public Services therefore welcome the Task and Finish Group's scrutiny of the processes that have been put in place and acknowledge the review group's conclusion that there are no major concerns with the processes which ensure adult safeguarding in Care Homes. The recommendations from this report will be incorporated into the ongoing safeguarding work in Herefordshire and will be monitored by the Herefordshire Safeguarding Adults Board.

Community Impact

5. Safeguarding within Care Homes is a significant issue for Herefordshire Public Services. The failure to commission good quality care can have catastrophic consequences for the residents and their families and a major reputational risk for Herefordshire Public Services which would further impact on Herefordshire residents, undermining their confidence in Herefordshire Public services..

Equality and Human Rights

- 6 The report and action plan do pay due regard to our public sector equality duty : -

Under Section 149, the "General Duty" on public authorities is set out thus:

"A public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to -

- eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct ... prohibited by or under this Act;
- advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
- foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it."

Financial Implications

- 7 The Council is facing significant challenges in financial terms and through the national settlement and reductions in funding. The Council's five year financial strategy includes an estimated 29.7% reduction in Government formula grant. Budget decisions have been based on a set of core principles that include Supporting the Vulnerable. The process also includes fundamentally challenging what the council does to ensure appropriate use of public funding and quality of service.

Legal Implications

- 8 There are no legal implications to this report.

Risk Management

- 9 The risks to individuals and to society as a whole are such that the Government has made a commitment to place Local Safeguarding Adults Boards on a statutory footing. Locally, Herefordshire Public Services continues to quality assure the care given within Care Homes and to work with partner agencies to ensure any failure of care is

quickly recognised and remedial actions are taken.

Consultees

- 11 Consultation with regard to the report arising from the Overview and Scrutiny Task and Finish Group review and the action plan has taken place within Herefordshire Public Services. Both the report and the action plan will be presented to the Herefordshire Safeguarding Adults Board.

Appendices

- 12 Action plan in relation to Overview and Scrutiny Task and Finish Group report Adult Safeguarding in Herefordshire

Background Papers

- 13 Overview and Scrutiny Task and Finish Group report Adult Safeguarding in Herefordshire