

**16<sup>th</sup> April 2012****Agenda Item: 4****REPORT OF COUNTY COUNCILLOR GED CLARKE****MEMBERS VISITS TO ADULT SOCIAL CARE ESTABLISHMENTS****Purpose of the Report**

1. To present the final report of the Rota Visit Review Group.

**Information and Advice****Background**

2. On the 17<sup>th</sup> October 2011, Members of this committee agreed to a review group being set up to examine issues associated with rota visits. It was further agreed that Adult Social Care should be reviewed in the first instance with Children, Families and Cultural Services following in light of the findings and learning from the Adult Social Care review.
3. The Rota Visit Review group met three times on the 4<sup>th</sup> January, 27<sup>th</sup> February and 20<sup>th</sup> March 2012.

**Scoping**

4. The initial scoping session on the 4<sup>th</sup> January identified that:
  - o Visits should continue with the inclusion of independent sector run homes
  - o The current form was inflexible
  - o There was an absence of clear governance arrangements
  - o The current practice was not aligned to the existing quality assurance and inspection procedures.
5. The meeting on the 27<sup>th</sup> February Members considered information on:
  - o Rota visit proforma

It was agreed that the form should be reviewed and designed differently with a focus on the wellbeing of residents.

Also the name 'Rota Visit' should be changed to more accurately reflect the function being carried out.

- o Comparative information about rota visits in other local authorities

The information presented showed that it was unusual for Members to visit establishments. However, in discussion Members of the review group saw the value of visits, which complements rather than duplicates statutory functions.

- o List of County Council run homes and day care establishments and Independent Sector run homes

Members were advised that all homes met the basic Care Quality Commission Standards. All the independent sector homes are categorised into five bands (with Band 5 being the highest) according to their quality and environment. Fees paid to the independent sector were based on the banding systems.

- o Inspections by other agencies

Members considered information on what other inspections are carried out to both independent sector and local authority homes.

6. It was further agreed at this meeting that the 26 (approximately) Adult Social Care establishments should be visited annually and as there are approximately 200 Independent Sector homes they should be visited within a four year administration cycle which would be approximately 50 independent sector homes per year.

7. On the 20<sup>th</sup> March it was agreed that:

### **Visits to Adult Social Care Establishments**

8. Visits to Adult Social Care establishments should continue on an annual basis. It was felt without question that Members have a responsibility to ensure that the services being provided by homes and day services are appropriate for the needs of the person in a safe and friendly environment.

9. To ensure that all the establishments are visited on an annual basis, it was agreed that a Panel of 20 Members be set up. The Business Managers for each political party would need to appoint members as appropriate.

10. Members agreed that a new name be given to this task. Lots of ideas were mooted i.e. Members Visits/ Members Care Visits/ Members Adult Social Care Visits, but no name agreed. It was proposed that this matter should be given further consideration by the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health.

11. The two forms considered at the meeting were discussed and suggestions made. Members agreed that elements of both forms should be merged with the final form attached as an **appendix** to this report. It was further agreed that this new form be trialled for a period of 12 months. The trial will enable any problems to be resolved, review Members involvement in the Audit process and determine the necessity or not for the pool of 20 members. The outcome of the audit should then be presented to the appropriate service committee.
12. With regard to governance arrangements, it was agreed that the forms be fed into the quality audit process which is undertaken separately by the ASCH&PP Market Development and Care Standards Team. Members would then be sent a copy of the associated Recommendation/Action sheet.

### **Visits to Independent Sector Homes**

13. Quality Development Officers currently undertake an annual review/quality audit of all care services. The process gathers the views of a variety of stakeholders and an associated audit visit can take up to one day. For older persons care homes, the outcome of the audit currently results in the setting of a fee related 'Quality Band'.
14. As part of the current 'Local Care Price for Care Framework' the resultant audit report, with any associated recommendations, is shared directly with the care home and is not available in the public domain.
15. On the 14<sup>th</sup> March 2012, Cabinet considered and agreed a report on the Fees and Charges for Independent Sector Care Homes, Home Care and other Community-based Support Services.
16. The Cabinet report explains that this will be the final year of the implementation of the Local Fair Price for Care Framework and that it has always been the Council's intention to conduct a review before setting the fee rates for 2013/14 and beyond. The process of that review has now commenced. Cabinet agreed to a further report to the appropriate committee outlining the outcome of that review.
17. As a result of this it was agreed, by the Review Group, that visits to Independent Sector Homes should be delayed until after the outcome of the review is known and that the four year cycle should commence post Election 2013.
18. It was felt that once this process was up and running Members should link into the existing quality audit process by way of a lay person. Up to two members (depending on the size of home) would visit the home with a Quality Development Officer and feed into the audit process. Members would then be provided with feedback.

### **Summary**

19. The Review Group recommends:

- Adult Social Care establishments are visited annually
- A Panel of 20 Members is set up to undertake the visits
- The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health considers a new name for the task
- A revised Form (appendix)
- The form is fed into the Quality Audit Process
- A 12 month trial to Adult Social Care establishments
- The trial is evaluated and reported to the appropriate service committee
- Visits to Independent Sector Homes commence post Election 2013 over a 4 year political cycle.
- Up to 2 lay Members visit Independent Sector homes with a Quality Development Officer
- Members' comments are fed into the Quality Audit process.

## **RECOMMENDATION/S**

It is recommended that:

- 1) the Social Care and Health Standing Committee consider the findings of the Rota Visit Review Group and comment on the information provided.
- 2) Subject to approval the report should be referred to the appropriate committee.

**COUNCILLOR GED CLARKE**

**Chair of the Rota Visit Review Group**

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## **Background Papers**

None.

## **Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected**

All.