

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Social Care, Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee

5th October 2017

Report of the Scrutiny Officer- S.Curran

Matter for Decision

Wards Affected:

All Wards

Elected Members Visits to Social Care and Nursing Homes

Purpose of the Report

1. To seek Members approval to continue the Lay Assessor programme of visits to Care Homes within the County Borough.

Background

2. A pilot Lay Assessor programme commenced in September 2015 which provided training to nine elected Members of the Social Care Health and Housing Scrutiny Committee who conducted visits to care homes throughout the County Borough during the period of October 2015 to March 2016. Reports were written by the Lay Assessors on their visits and submitted to the Contract Monitoring Officer (a report template is attached at Appendix 1)
3. Lay Assessors were provided with 'Dignity in Care' and 'Introduction to Dementia' training; feedback was positive about the standard of training received.

4. The Commissioning Officer and Contract Monitoring Officer accompanied Lay Assessors on their first visits to provide support and guidance. A rota schedule, guidance booklet and a quick reference guide were issued to provide additional guidance (as included at Appendix 2). Feedback was positive regarding the quality of the information and support provided.
5. All Lay Assessor visits during the pilot were announced and organised in advance. Teething problems were encountered with the planned dates/times of visits. Lay Assessors communicated that their preference for future visits be conducted on an unannounced basis which is the preferred option to prevent any problems arising from cancelled or re arranged visits.
6. It is recommended that Members approve the continuation of the Lay Assessor programme which will consist of annual 'unannounced' visits to be carried out by Lay Assessors to all independent residential and nursing homes in NPT.
7. Members will be expected to undertake mandatory training before undertaking visits as Lay Assessors. The visits will be undertaken in teams of two and a standard report will be completed and submitted following each visit.

Equality Impact Assessment

8. An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) was undertaken and included within the previous Committee Report dated 2nd April 2015.

Workforce Impacts

9. The only workforce impacts are likely to be operational in providing additional duties to administer the programme.

Legal Impacts

10. There are no legal impacts associated with this report.

Risk Management

11. There are no risk management issues associated with this report.

Consultation

12. There is no requirement under the Constitution for external consultation on this item.

Recommendations

13. It is recommended that Members to approve the continuation of the Lay Assessor programme which will consist of annual 'unannounced' visits to be carried out by Lay Assessors to all independent residential and nursing homes in NPT.
14. If approved, Members agree to attend mandatory training sessions on the Lay Assessment Programme.

Reasons for Proposed Decision

15. It is the Council's intention to establish a Lay Assessor programme where Elected Members will visit residential/nursing care homes annually on a rota basis to monitor the delivery of care at these establishments and help ensure that people who need care and support receive it to an appropriate and safe standard.

Implementation of Decision

16. The decision is proposed for implementation after the three day call in period.

Appendices

Appendix 1- Report Template

Appendix 2- Guidance for Elected Members and Care Home Managers

List of Background Papers

17. Social Care Health and Housing Cabinet Reports 2nd April 2015 and 20th October 2016

Contact

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APPENDIX 1



Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council

Report of Visit by Elected Member

Name of establishment:

Date of visit:

Names of Members visiting:

Name of staff member conducting the visit:

Date Report Forwarded to SSHH Directorate:

Member Report: