
CARE HOMES FOR OLDER PEOPLE IN THE SCOTTISH BORDERS – REPORT ON PROGRESS

Report by Chief Social Work Officer

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

14 FEBRUARY 2017

1 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

- 1.1 **This report gives an update on work undertaken following an initial report, presented to Social Work and Housing Committee on June 5th 2014, which provided an overview on the quality of care homes in the Borders. A Member/Officer Working Group was formed and subsequently drafted a set of formal recommendations detailed in the 'Improving the Quality of Older Peoples Care Homes – Action Plan. This was presented to Executive on 21st April 2015 and it was agreed an update report would be provided.**

- 1.2 The Report attached in Appendix 1 outlines specific progress made to the Action Plan, whilst also highlighting any ongoing issues that continue to affect the overall quality of Care Home provision.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 **I recommend that the Executive Committee note the progress and improvements made on the action plan.**

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 In 2014 the Social Work and Housing Committee received a report setting out issues in relations to quality in Older Peoples Care Homes. Whilst acknowledging that there were clear areas of good practice within Care Home provision, some concerns were raised about a number of occurring themes and issues, including quality of environment, management and leadership. It was recognised that effective processes were in place to monitor, advise and support homes should difficulties be identified. Elected members were keen to explore more pro-active approaches to maintain and improve quality, and proposed a short life member/officer working group to be set up to research evidence of best practice and consider proposals for improvement.
- 3.2 This report contains an update on progress and Appendix 1 contains an update on progress on all of the recommendations. In the original report a comparison of Care Inspectorate gradings across the Care Homes for Older People sector was made. This has also been updated so as to provide a view on the direction of the overall quality of care provision in the interim.

4 SUMMARY OF PROGRESS

- 4.1 There has been a positive shift of Care Inspectorate grades across the care home sector in the last two years, with a marked improvement in the grading scores with 75% of grades falling in the upper three ranges, 'Good' to 'Excellent', compared to 57% in 2014 (Appendix 1). Whilst there is still room for improvement, it should be acknowledged that good progress has taken place.
- 4.2 There have been a number of actions and initiatives which have progressed during this timeframe that were a result of the 2014 Committee Report Action Plan and will have contributed to this improvement.
- 4.3 These actions have included:
- (a) Bespoke Care Home Training - this has been delivered to over 500 care home staff between 2014 and 2017
 - (b) Community Care Reviewing team Link Officers – this role has been developed and is supportive to care home Managers and staff.
 - (c) Introduction of the Early Indicator of Concern Tool – this has been utilised as a preventative tool to assist care homes to be proactive when issues are highlighted.
 - (d) Ongoing Contracts and Commissioning meetings with care home Proprietors and Managers.
 - (e) The 'My Home Life' initiative training programme aimed at care home Managers has been introduced and well received by all Managers attending. This was funded by the Integrated Care Fund Programme.

5 IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Financial

There are no costs attached to any of the recommendations contained in

this report.

5.2 Risk and Mitigations

The actions undertaken have helped to address risks identified in relation to quality in care homes and sustainability. These will continue to be monitored in the future.

5.3 Equalities

An Equalities Impact Assessment was carried out on the original report and action plan.

5.4 Acting Sustainably

There are no direct economic, social or environmental effects arising from the proposals contained in this report, though through the activities reported upon there are positive impacts upon quality in care homes and sustainability.

5.5 Carbon Management

There are no effects on carbon emissions arising from the proposals contained in this report.

5.6 Rural Proofing

This is not a new policy or strategy so rural proofing is not applicable.

5.7 Changes to Scheme of Administration or Scheme of Delegation

Not applicable.

6 CONSULTATION

6.1 The Chief Financial Officer, the Monitoring Officer, the Chief Legal Officer, the Chief Officer Audit and Risk, the Chief Officer HR and the Clerk to the Council have been consulted and any comments received have been incorporated into the final report.

Approved by

Elaine Torrance Chief Social Work Officer

Signature:

Author(s)

Name	Designation and Contact Number
Steve Almey	Reviewing Officer

Background Papers:

Previous Minute Reference: Social Work and Housing Committee 5 June 2014

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