

NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF SCRUTINY PANEL 4 - ADULT SOCIAL CARE FACILITIES

Monday, 11 February 2019

COUNCILLORS PRESENT: Councillor Zoe Smith (Chair), Councillors Enam Haque, Jamie Lane, Arthur McCutcheon, Brian Oldham and Cathrine Russell

Witnesses Gwynn Roberts, Northants Carers

Officers Tracy Tiff, Scrutiny Officer

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Sally Beardsworth (Deputy Chair); Councillors Davenport and Duffy.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (INCLUDING WHIPPING)

There were none.

3. DEPUTATIONS AND PUBLIC ADDRESSES

There were none.

4. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 17 January 2019 were signed by the Chair as a true and accurate record.

5. WITNESS EVIDENCE

(A) CHIEF EXECUTIVE, NORTHANTS - AGE UK

In the absence of the Chief Executive of Northants Age UK, the Chair highlighted the points to Panel.

The Panel noted the written report; the contents of which would inform the evidence base of this Scrutiny Review.

(B) DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE, NORTHANTS CARERS

Gwynn Roberts, Deputy Chair, Northants Carers, presented his written report to the Panel, highlighting the salient points contained within.

The Scrutiny Panel made comment, asked questions and heard :

- The good work undertaken by various organisations and groups was highlighted. For example some services run by Northants Carers – statutory assessments. These are currently offered county wide and it was queried how these would continue to run without causing disruption post Unitary. The contract is due to come to an end in October 2021.
- There is a need to build on Partnerships. The voluntary sector can bring in funding.
- There is not a Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub, in existence for adults as there is for children.
- Nursing care can often be difficult to obtain. State funded nursing homes are very few and far between. It is never an easy thing to find nursing care for a family member, often it has to be done in limited time. The expense of private care was noted.
- The project that is funded by NCC – “not enough money in the pot” was reported to the Scrutiny Panel. Wellingborough was chosen as a pilot, mainly due to the size of the Borough for the Ageing Well Project.
- Northants Carers has a “sitting service” and carer’s gym membership, which are very popular. It has won a national award for bringing together various professionals – Breathing Space Project.
- In Northamptonshire, investment in carers is relatively good.
- Gwynn Roberts confirmed that the organisation is hoping to do more work with St Andrews.
- It was noted that the BAME Community is hard to reach. Northants Carers works with a number of partners and other groups. Recently, it put on events in Wellingborough. It runs an Asian Ladies Carers Group. Northants Carers works with the organisation “Dostiyo”. It also works with faith groups and individuals.
- Regarding Wellingborough’s Agency Well Project it was noted that discussions underway regarding post unitary.
- Northants Carers provides support to unpaid carers, for example lunch group etc, telephone support line, contingency plans, crisis plans, advice regarding benefits.

- It can be very isolated for carers.

The chair commented that there are key themes emerging:

- Assistance for the BAME community
- Need for joined up communications
- Exploration of a centralised system - centralised important

It was suggested that the following organisations are invited to answer the core questions and attend the next meeting:

- Dostiyo
- NBA
- Zimbabwe Women

The meeting concluded at 7:05 pm