

NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF SCRUTINY PANEL 4 - ADULT SOCIAL CARE FACILITIES

Monday, 1 April 2019

COUNCILLORS PRESENT: Councillor Smith (Chair), Councillors Beardsworth, Haque, McCutcheon, Oldham and Russell

Officer Tracy Tiff, Scrutiny Officer

Press James Averill, Democracy Reporter

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Davenport and Lane.

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 11 February 2019 were signed by the Chair as a true and accurate record.

5. WITNESS EVIDENCE

(A) DOSTIYO

A representative from Dostiyo was not present. It was suggested that the Organisation is contacted to ascertain whether it would be convenient for representatives of the Scrutiny Panel to visit Dostiyo to obtain a response to the core questions of the Panel.

(B) NBA

A representative from NBA was not present.

(C) ZIMBABWE WOMEN

A representative from Zimbabwe Women was not present.

At this point, the Chair informed the Panel that she, along with Councillor Russell and the Scrutiny Officer would be visiting the London Borough of Islington's Adult and Social Care Services as it had been recommended as an example of best practice by one of the external experts that had attended a previous meeting. She suggested that the Panel compiles a list of questions to be put to Officers during this site visit:

Core questions

1. What support, in terms of administration, do you give to social workers to free up their time?
2. What contracts do you have with private nursing homes and what do you pay for these?
3. What support and advice do you give to carers and "informal" carers?
4. What caseloads do you give to social workers?
5. Please can you give a breakdown of case load by social worker?
6. Do you have difficulty recruiting social workers?
7. How do you deal with a complicated case? What best practice do you apply, for example regarding care leavers and vulnerable adults?
8. What support is there for children who care for adults at home?
9. If someone needs medical care, NHS pick it up; if palliative, care local authority. How do you deal with this, for example "bed blocking" and respite care for carers?
10. Please can you provide details of about the procedures you use regarding the discharge of patients from hospital?

It was confirmed that feedback from the site visit would be provided to the next meeting.

The meeting concluded at 6:20 pm