



OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY VIEWS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

TO CABINET - 24 JULY 2019

Report Title	RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – ADULT SOCIAL CARE FACILITIES
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Agenda Status: PUBLIC

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To present to Cabinet for consideration, the comments and recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the findings of the Scrutiny Review – Adult Social Care Facilities.
- 1.2 All Overview and Scrutiny review reports are published on the Overview and Scrutiny page on the Council's Webpage and a copy of this report can be located: www.northampton.gov.uk/scrutiny - Previous Scrutiny Reviews.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee recommends to Cabinet that:
 - 2.1.1 Whilst acknowledging data protection constraints, an integrated system, hosted by Adult Social Care that can be used by all relevant Agencies, is explored by the proposed West Northamptonshire Unitary Authority.
 - 2.1.2 In researching a potential integrated system, the systems and processes adopted by Adult Social Care at the London Borough of Islington are referred to. In addition to this, all departments are given training to encourage a positive attitude towards information sharing and sign posting individuals to relevant services and support.
 - 2.1.3 That a survey is conducted, through various Community Groups, to ascertain why some of the BAME community is not accessing services.

- 2.1.4 That a housing officer is linked to Northampton General Hospital, a similar arrangement to the Kettering Pilot.
- 2.1.5 That support is given for social prescribing in relation to day care and a campaign aimed at GPs and other providers looking at the prescribing of day-care and community activities. A leaflet is also distributed to GP practices and various community groups promoting this support.
- 2.1.6 That a copy of this report is shared with all Councillors of the other sovereign Councils in the proposed West Northamptonshire Unitary Council - Northamptonshire County Council, Daventry District Council and South Northants Council.

3. Background and Issues

- 3.1 Following a motion to full Council on 9 July 2018:

“Whatever the boundaries of the new Unitary Councils, for Northamptonshire, those councils will take on responsibility for the care of older people in our community, from 2020.

A recent study estimated that 35% of inpatients in local hospitals were there simply waiting for suitable after care to be available (so called Bed Blocking).

This Council asks scrutiny, working with NCC scrutiny and partners, particularly health service partners, to carry out investigation into Adult Social Care facilities in the area to identify future demand patterns, in order that the new Unitary Council is able to better plan for the needs of older people in the future”.

- 3.2 Recent events have confirmed that this will not take place until 2021.
- 3.3 Overview and Scrutiny included this Scrutiny Review onto its Work Programme for 2019/2020.
- 3.4 A Scrutiny Panel was established comprising Councillor Zoe Smith (Chair), Councillor Sally Beardsworth (Deputy Chair); Councillors Julie Davenport, Janice Duffy, Penny Flavell, Anamul Haque, Jamie Lane, Brian Oldham and Cathrine Russell.
- 3.5 This review links to the Council’s corporate priorities, particularly corporate priority – Improving our governance.

Evidence Collection

- 3.6 Evidence was collected from a variety of sources:

Background data, including:

- Presentation to set the scene: Current Adult Social Care Facilities
- Relevant national and local background research papers
- Definitions in respect of Adult Social Care
- Relevant Council Policies, Project Plans, Business Plans and Strategies:
- Relevant Statistics

Relevant Legislation and Guidance, including:

- ADASS Guidance 2009
- The Health and Social Care Act 2012
- CARE Act 2014
- Human Rights Act 1998
- Mental Health Act 1983

Relevant published papers on Adult Social Care

Best practice external to Northampton

Report back from the Centre for Public Scrutiny Conference – Health and Social Care

Internal expert advisors:

- Cabinet Member for Housing, NBC
- Head of Housing and Wellbeing, NBC

External expert advisors:

- Head of Protecting Vulnerable Persons, Northamptonshire Police
- Director of Public Health, Northamptonshire County Council
- Director, Healthwatch Northamptonshire
- Director, Northampton Health Trust
- Ward Managers, Northampton General Hospital
- Other various representatives of Northants Health including GPs
- Chief Executive, Northants - Age UK
- Chief Executive, Northants Carers' Associations
- Manager, Independent Living organisation, Northampton
- Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Northamptonshire County Council
- Director for Adult Social Care, Northamptonshire County Council

- Case Studies from Ward Councillors
- Site visits

4 Key Findings and Conclusions

4.1 After all of the evidence was collated the following conclusions were drawn:

4.1.1 It was acknowledged that Adult Social Care Services is under resourced.

4.1.2 It is important that there is a holistic approach regarding integration and integrated services; integrated care is vital. It is important that there is one service working together to deliver the same outcomes. It was recognised that there is not a Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub, in existence for adults as there is for children. The Site Visit noted that Adult Social Care at the London Borough of Islington has an excellent level of integration; with a close relationship with the CCG and health colleagues at both operational and commissioning level.

- 4.1.3 Partnership working is essential. The Scrutiny Panel acknowledged that there is a need to build on Partnerships. The voluntary sector can bring in funding.
- 4.1.4 Evidence received highlight the Project that is funded by NCC – “not enough money in the pot”. Wellingborough had been chosen as a pilot for this Project, mainly due to the size of the Borough for the Ageing Well Project.
- 4.1.5 The good work undertaken by various organisations and groups was highlighted. For example some services run by Northants Carers carrying out statutory assessments. These are currently offered county wide and the Scrutiny Panel queried how these would continue to run without causing disruption post Unitary. It was highlighted that the contract is due to come to an end in October 2021. 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. The Scrutiny Panel 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.
- 4.1.6 The Pilot being run in Kettering whereby a Housing Officer is dedicated resource to Kettering General Hospital is working very well.
- 4.1.7 The Scrutiny Panel was pleased the Eleanor House had been modernised and back in use. Additionally, it was recognised that Parsons Mead is a flagship complex and “ticks all the boxes”, being close to required amenities for older people.
- 4.1.8 It was felt that it would be useful for there to be a facility where individuals could go when they no longer needed hospital care but needed care at home, but such care was not available.
- 4.1.9 Currently, a number of GP practices proactively refer to organisations such as Age UK Northamptonshire so as to positively support their clients’ needs. Literature from Age UK Northamptonshire is widely available in GP surgeries across the County, and in Northampton and the North in particular given the services supported by NHS funds. The Scrutiny Panel was concerned that it might be possible that there will not be enough GP Practices and GPs to cover the county.
- 4.1.10 Clients being supported through NHS funded services are referred from a mix of sources. Some are referred via word of mouth and many from other Age UK Northamptonshire services. Around two thirds of the referrals for Age UK Northamptonshire NHS funded services are from GPs.
- 4.1.11 The Scrutiny Panel emphasised that loneliness is, arguably, the most significant issue that needs to be dealt with. It can be very isolated for carers.
- 4.1.12 It was realised that some individuals don’t claim for the benefits that they are entitled to.

4.1.13 The Scrutiny Panel felt that it would be good if best practice could be shared between the two Unitary Authorities.

5. Options

5.1 Cabinet will need to consider the possible options as part of its response to the recommendations.

6. Implications (including financial implications)

6.1 Policy

6.1.1 The work of Overview and Scrutiny plays a major part in the development of the Council's policy framework through its work programme.

6.1.1 The report and its recommendations have policy implications in relation to the Council's response to the recommendations regarding Adult Social Care facilities. Cabinet's response will need to consider these issues in detail.

6.2 Resources and Risk

6.2.1 Cabinet will need to consider the resourcing issues for the recommendations made.

6.3 Legal

6.3.1 Legal issues will need to be considered as part of Cabinet's response to the recommendations.

6.4 Equality

6.4.1 Equality issues will need to be considered as part of Cabinet's response to the recommendations.

6.5 Consultees (Internal and External)

6.5.1 The Committee received evidence from a variety of sources as detailed in paragraph 3.5 of this report.

Background Papers

Overview and Scrutiny Committee report – Adult Social Care Facilities (June 2019)
Minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 10 June 2019

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