

HEALTH SCRUTINY PANEL
24 JULY 2013
STANDARDS OF CARE IN RESIDENTIAL CARE HOMES
REPORT OF HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To consider the Council's role in ensuring Nottingham citizens living in residential care homes receive safe, appropriate and high quality care.

2. Action required

- 2.1 The Panel is asked to use the information provided to inform questioning and discussion and to identify if there are any issues for further scrutiny.

3. Background information

- 3.1 Nottingham City Council holds contracts with a number of residential care home providers both across the City and beyond the City boundaries. This includes residential care homes operated by the Council. The contracts are managed by the Council's Quality and Commissioning Directorate.
- 3.2 In most cases the choice of care home lies with the individual and their family. Therefore the Council seeks to hold contracts with a wide range of providers to provide choice for individuals.
- 3.3 Having formal contracts in place with care home providers allows for contract compliance activity to take place and for quality to be monitored to ensure that individuals are provided with safe and appropriate care. Ultimately the Council can suspend or end a contract if care does not meet the required standard. In recent years there have been several examples where the Council has suspended and/or ended a contract to provide residential care.
- 3.4 The Council carries out annual reviews of older people's residential care, which are scored to establish the quality of provision provided. The scores are incorporated into a quality banding system from 1 – 5 ('5' representing the highest quality banding). The quality bandings for 2013/14 are available on the Council's website.
- 3.5 The Council will only hold contracts with providers who are registered with the Care Quality Commission. The Care Quality Commission (CQC) regularly inspects care homes to ensure they meet the essential standards of quality and safety. Each of the standards has an

associated outcome that it is expected all people who use the service will experience as a result of the care they receive. Inspection reports are publicly available on the CQC website. More information about the work of the CQC can be found on its website www.cqc.org.uk. Given their respective roles it will be important for the Council and the CQC to have a constructive working relationship.

- 3.6 Colleagues from the Quality and Commissioning Directorate will be attending the meeting to give a presentation on the Council's role and to answer questions relating to this. The Panel may wish to consider if there are any specific issues that it wishes to scrutinise further during the course of the year.

4. **List of attached information**

None

5. **Background papers, other than published works or those disclosing exempt or confidential information**

None

6. **Published documents referred to in compiling this report**

2013/14 Quality Bandings for Older People's Care Homes in Nottingham City (available from www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk accessed 15/07/13)

Care Quality Commission Essential Standards of Quality and Care (available from www.cqc.org.uk accessed 15/07/13)

7. **Wards affected**

All

8. **Contact information**

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