

**Report for:** Cabinet 8 October 2019

**Title:** Response to findings of the Scrutiny Panel review of Care Home Commissioning

**Report authorised by:** Charlotte Pomery – Assistant Director for Commissioning

**Lead Officer:** Paul Allen, Head of Integrated Care

**Ward(s) affected:** All

**Report for Key/  
Non Key Decision:** Non Key Decision

## **1. Describe the issue under consideration**

- 1.1 During 2018/2019, the Adults and Health Scrutiny Panel undertook a review to gain a deeper understanding of the processes connected with care homes with the aim of improving systems to directly enhance both the staffing offer and retention and the client in receipt of that care. Following this review, a report containing a number of recommendations was presented to Overview and Scrutiny Committee for approval.
- 1.2 This report provides a response to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee recommendations, as set out in Appendix 1.

## **2. Cabinet Member Introduction**

- 2.1 I welcome the work of the Adults and Health Scrutiny Panel to consider the commissioning of care homes for Haringey residents. This is an important issue and any opportunity to learn from best practice elsewhere and to enhance practice in Haringey is much welcomed.

## **3. Recommendations**

- 3.1 The Cabinet is asked to agree the response to the recommendations of the Review of Care Home Commissioning, carried out by Adults and Health Scrutiny Panel and endorsed by Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

## **4. Reasons for decision**

- 4.1 There is a duty on Cabinet to respond to a report from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee – and in any event, the commissioning of care homes are both important issues for local residents, contributing to improved health and wellbeing.

## **5. Alternative options considered**

5.1 There is a duty on Cabinet to respond to a report from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and therefore no alternative option was considered.

## **6. Background information**

6.1 At its meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2017, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed the scoping document for a review of care home commissioning by the Adults and Health Scrutiny Panel. The overarching aim of the project was to ensure residents in Haringey received high quality care in care home settings (residential and nursing) and that contracts incentivised care homes to provide high quality care.

6.2 The terms of reference for this review were to make recommendations on:

- Improving systems to directly enhance both the staffing offer and retention; and develop a skilled and valued workforce.
- Protect and enhance the care provision across all settings, with the end goal of improving residents' care, whether within their own homes, or within a residential or Nursing Home setting.

6.3 The response to the recommendations (at Appendix 1) makes clear that there is already a significant piece of work underway across the five boroughs (Barnet, Camden, Enfield, Haringey and Islington) to support commissioning in this area. This is in recognition of the importance of this part of the health and care landscape, the levels of funding which are invested, the skills required of care workers and the impact on users and carers. Equally, the work with residents to improve flows of information is being led through a network of community-based practitioners including Local Area Co-ordinators, the Reach and Connect Service, Social Prescribers as part of the Primary Care Networks and Connected Communities. The co-ordination of these strands of activity is already well underway to reduce the risk of duplication or lack of coverage.

## **7. Contribution to strategic outcomes**

7.1 The recommendations and responses made will contribute to objectives within both the Place and People Themes of the new Borough Plan

7.2 Place Theme: A place with strong, resilient & connected communities where people can lead active and healthy lives in an environment that is safe, clean and green.

7.3 People Theme: Our vision is a Haringey where strong families, strong networks and strong communities nurture all residents to live well and achieve their potential.

## **8. Statutory Officers comments (Chief Finance Officer (including procurement), Assistant Director of Corporate Governance, Equalities)**

### **8.1 Finance and Procurement**

8.1.1 Recommendations and responses set out in Appendix 1 are cost neutral. There are financial implications but as detailed in the responses, these are subject to:

- External funding being achieved

- Separate decision-making processes

## **8.2 Legal**

8.2.1 Under Section 9F of the Local Government Act 2000 ('LGA'), the Overview and Scrutiny Committee has the power to make reports or recommendations to Cabinet on matters which affect the Council's area or the inhabitants of its area.

8.2.2 Under Section 9FE of the LGA there is a duty on Cabinet to respond to the Report, indicating what (if any) action Cabinet proposes to take, within two months of receiving the Report and recommendations.

## **8.3 Equality**

8.3.1 The Council has a public sector equality duty under the Equality Act (2010) to have due regard to:

- Tackle discrimination and victimisation of persons that share the characteristics protected under S4 of the Act. These include the characteristics of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex (formerly gender) and sexual orientation;
- advance equality of opportunity between people who share those protected characteristics and people who do not;
- foster good relations between people who share those characteristics and people who do not.

8.3.2 The recommendations of the Panel when fulfilled will contribute towards improving outcomes in care homes for disabled and older people, advancing equality of opportunity between them and the wider population.

## **9. Use of Appendices**

9.1 Appendix 1 – Responses and updates to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee report recommendations.

## **10. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985**