

## **Adult Services & Health Select Committee**

A meeting of Adult Services & Health Select Committee was held on Thursday, 14th February, 2008.

**Present:** Cllr Mrs Ann Cains (Chairman), Cllr Mrs Lynne Apedaile, Cllr Dick Cains (vice Cllr Beall), Cllr Aidan Cockerill, Cllr Mrs Eileen Craggs, Cllr Ken Dixon, Cllr Mrs Liz Nesbitt.

**Officers:** Mrs A.Baxter, Ms H.Grant, Ms R.Hill, T.Montague, S.McEneaney (CESC); G.Birtle, N.Hart (LD).

**Also in attendance:** Councillors Ms Large, Mrs McCoy, Mrs Trainer and Walmsley; Ruth Craddock (Family Representative of Resident of Parkview); Jill Owen, Karen Scott (Parkview Staff); Peter Brennan (Village Park Residents Association).

**Apologies:** Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Beall, Gardner and Javed.

### **ASH 68/07**

#### **Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Mrs Craggs declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest in respect of the following item as a result of being a recipient of community care provision services referred to in the Head of Adult Strategy's report.

CONCLUDED that the Declaration of Interest be noted.

### **ASH 69/07**

#### **Review of Parkview Care Home**

Consideration was given to evidence presented to the Select Committee to assist their consideration of a request from Cabinet and the Executive Scrutiny Committee for the Committee to carry out the following piece of scrutiny work to determine:-

- The national and local policy framework around services for older people
- The factual issues around Parkview Care Home focusing particularly on the building, occupancy, care standards, financial information and staffing

Cabinet have requested that the Select Committee seek and analyse information and feedback the results of their findings to Cabinet in March 2008.

Ruth Hill (Head of Adult Strategy) outlined for members the policy agenda for older peoples health and advised of its context within national policy drivers that consider the wide-ranging factors that impact upon Older People themselves. These include the Audit Commission and the Better Government for Older People (BGOP) Partnership's 2004 study 'Seven Dimensions of Independence', and the Association of Directors of Social Services (ADSS) 'All Our Tomorrows'. The national direction in the various strategies focused on the following aspects:

- The need to address the demographic impact with changes to services
- A focus that doing more of the same is not an option
- An increasing emphasis on personalisation and individual choice
- A driver on the use of technology to support the ageing population
- An acknowledgement of increasing service user expectations
- A greater role for prevention and early detection
- The need to ensure greater integration of services

- Specialisation of services especially preventative services
- The development of independent living options
- Timely access and ease of access

The above policy approaches have influenced the range of services that are commissioned within Stockton. The Committee was also provided with the latest demographic trends regarding the current number and percentage of older people in Stockton compared to the national average; which whilst slightly lower due to lower life expectancy and legacy of the area's industrial past, was projected to increase in line with the national trend by 2025.

The policy direction highlights that for older people's care the emphasis is to extend choice and offer opportunities, where possible, for people to remain in their own home rather than enter permanent residential care. This has led to the development of new service models which aim to enable older people to remain in their own homes for as long as possible. These include specialist domiciliary care, respite care, extra care housing schemes and work on supported tenancies under the Supporting People programme. Evidence was provided to indicate how this had impacted across the borough and more locally in Thornaby. Details were also submitted of the provision made within the Care Home sector which offered twenty-four hour accommodation and support for a service user in a structured, supervised, living environment that incorporates professional care. The Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) register and inspect care homes that provide personal care, nursing or both. The total number and type of beds within both the borough and Thornaby alone, were provided.

Members made reference to the need for financial information to provide an overview of the cost of the various services provided, such as:-

- cost of placement within Care Home (including comparison with independent sector);
- cost, and uptake, of the Telecare service;
- breakdown of running costs of Community Alarm Services;
- indication of how the payment of community services such as rapid response and intermediate care were paid for via either health or social care funding, or both;
- cost of various care packages to allow person to stay in their own home, including associated costs such as rent et.

The Cabinet Member for Adult Services & Health outlined the background resulting in approval in 2001 of the Council's Older People's strategy; which followed consultation that indicated the majority of people wished to remain in their own homes. Reference was also made to new service models outlined by the Head of Adult Strategy that had been championed, such as Telecare; as well as the Council's commitment to providing aids and adaptations where necessary to allow people to live independently.

Consideration was then given to information presented by Sean McEneaney (Head of Adult Operations) and Hazel Grant (Community Care Manager) regarding the history of service provision surrounding Parkview and other local authority residential homes leading up to a decision taken in April 2007 to review outstanding improvement works (inc lift and works to boiler) to Parkview

in the light of the number of vacancies of permanent and respite beds; and the number of referrals to the Elderly Mentally Ill Unit. Details of occupancy figures were provided; as well as possible suggested changes in the care environment that had impacted on demand. The staffing position for Parkview was submitted, along with the the projected unit costs based on varying occupancy rates of between 50% and 90%. The implications to these costs of the identified improvement works was also noted; however, the future cost of Single Status would still need to be absorbed. It was noted by members that the unit costs provided did not include income figures based on client contributions; which would be useful to assist their fuller appreciation of the cost of the service. Members also referred to the need to see a brochure/welcome pack of Parkview and for this to be compared to other homes.

The Committee then received representations from the following individuals/groups; each of whom wished, and spoke in favour, of Parkview continuing to operate as a Care Home:-

- Ruth Craddock (Family Representative of Resident of Parkview);
- Jill Owen/ Karen Scott (Parkview Staff);
- Peter Brennan (Village Park Residents Association);
- Cllr Walmsley (Thornaby Independents Association).

Ms Craddock outlined her own particular experiences of Parkview following her mother's stay at the home. Specific mention was made of the importance of the cleanliness and quality of the care offered; with recognition paid to the staff at Parkview who had offered their support with great dignity and respect in a caring and friendly manner.

Representatives of the staff at the Home spoke of their experiences of working there as compared to within the private sector, and commented on the excellent training received by staff and the consequent quality of care provided. Whilst the premises required new decoration and a new lift, the premises were clean and staff were able to provide continuity of care to patients. The staff suggested that improved marketing of the Home on the web, may lead to an improved take up of places.

The Village Park Residents Association representative spoke of his wish to see the facility retained and of his concern that the facility should not be allowed to be run down; which he would submit as part of the consultation process.

Councillor Walmsley spoke of his concern that closure of the Home would further remove the option of choice for the public by eradicating public sector provision. He commented that the Home provided a quality service; and that such services should be retained as opposed to poorer quality homes offered by the independent sector.

In conclusion, the Chairman thanked all present during the day for their participation and evidence and advised that the next stage of the work plan for the review would be for the Committee to undertake site visits to other Care Homes within the borough. It was requested that the itinerary also include a visit to Mandale House.

CONCLUDED that the evidence provided be noted and the further information requested be provided to a future meeting of the Committee.