

Report on Hertfordshire County Council Adult Care Services for Health in Dacorum Meeting of 4th September 2018

At its meeting on 12th June 2018, the County Council's Adult Care and Health Cabinet Panel discussed the proposed Hertfordshire Adult Social Care Workforce Strategy 2018-21. Recent redundancies in the retail sector such as Mothercare and Toys R Us were discussed and it was noted that some recruitment initiatives had been undertaken to target former employees from the retail sector.

Further information would be provided to members about the strategies used by other local authorities to recruit homecare staff.

The recruitment of staff from abroad was discussed. The Panel discussed the challenges of recruiting and retaining staff from the EU, given the uncertainties around Brexit. Some exploration of recruiting care staff from outside the EU has been done but this would have financial implications. The targeting of spouses/relatives of people entering the UK for other jobs, to establish whether they would be interested in care jobs is being considered.

Work was going on to encourage secondary schools, colleges and job centres to promote care work. Panel members suggested targeting primary school children with the idea of care work as a career, and targeting ex- servicemen and women.

Increased awareness raising and the promotion of training for care workers to enable career progression had reduced the turnover rate of care staff.

Panel members broadly supported the Strategy but expressed concerns about the limitations that the County Council had to fully resolve the issue of the recruitment of care workers. Members received some assurance that there were indications that the Green Paper would make some provision for this.

The draft Carers Strategy for Hertfordshire 2018-21 was discussed. Although this is a three-year strategy, it will be reviewed quarterly through the Care Planning Report.

Carers in Herts provide an outreach service to provide practical support to carers who are unable to attend consultations or forums. The Contract for Carers in Herts has been extended for a further two years.

The increased use and benefits of social prescribing were discussed. It was requested that this be discussed in more detail at future Strategic Transformation Partnership (STP) meetings.

The Panel discussed the Adult Social Care Performance Monitor and Care Quality Standard – Quarter 4 2017/18. Overall targets for Quarter 4 performance had been met.

At its meeting on 3rd September 2018, the Panel received an update on Domestic Abuse, giving an update on domestic abuse services in Hertfordshire, the work of the Adult Care Services (ACS) Strategic Partnerships Team and the Government's draft Domestic Abuse Bill.

The Panel received an update on Delayed Transfers of Care performance. Since April 2017 they have reduced by 56.25%. From April 2018 to June 2018 around half the delays have been within West Herts. Hospitals Trust but there continues to be a reduction within this Trust.

The annual Adult Care Services Complaints Report for 2017/18 was discussed.

C/Cllr Fiona Guest