

Report to:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Adult Social Care and Health) Cabinet	Date of Meeting:	Tuesday 9 January 2018 Thursday 11 January 2018
Subject:	Residential and Care Homes Working Group – Final Report		
Report of:	Head of Regulation and Compliance	Wards Affected:	All Wards
Cabinet Portfolio:	Cabinet Member – Adult Social Care		
Is this a Key Decision:	Yes	Included in Forward Plan:	Yes
Exempt / Confidential Report:	No		

Summary:

To formally present the final report of the Residential and Care Homes Working Group.

Recommendations:

Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Adult Social Care and Health)

That the following recommendations be supported and commended to the Cabinet for approval:-

Cabinet

That the following recommendations be approved:-

1. That the Head of Commissioning Support and Business Intelligence be requested to:-
 - (a) Consider proposals for fee levels, both in the current and next two financial years, in order to provide more stability for Providers with the proviso that such proposals are made within available resources and in line with previously agreed delegations in relation to the setting of Adult Social Care fees.
 - (b) Give further consideration to paying Providers gross, as opposed to net of Service User financial contributions, for care placements.
 - (c) Establish a strategic group consisting of Adult Social Care and Commissioning officers, Providers and interest groups to:

- (i) Assess future demands and needs, including those relating to other service areas such as Extra Care housing;
 - (ii) Ensure co-operative and collaborative working takes place;
 - (iii) Share good practice; and
 - (iv) Ensure that “working in silos” does not occur.
- (d) Ensure joint working is continued between Commissioning, Adult Social Care and the Sefton Clinical Commissioning Groups, particularly with respect to joint quality, safeguarding and monitoring of services.
- (e) Explore the potential to implement revised methods of monitoring care home services, including the use of Information Technology to record quality, performance and market capacity information.
- (f) Continue to work as part of the Liverpool City Region to standardise approaches to information sharing, monitoring and contractual approaches.
- (g) Continue to seek information from Providers, such as details of costs and charges, in order for the Council to better understand the care home market.
- (h) Implement the decision to commission an external organisation to deliver the Quality Improvement Team service, as approved by the Cabinet at its meeting on 7 September 2017.
- (i) Continue to monitor and revise procedures, as necessary, relating to issues such as home closures, in order to improve working practices and implement any lessons learnt.
- (j) Review documentation given to Service Users, Families, Carers and Advocates on topics such as paying, charging for services and needs assessment processes.
2. That the Senior Democratic Services Officer be requested to liaise with relevant officers in order to ensure that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Adult Social Care and Health) receives a six-monthly monitoring report, setting out progress made against each of the recommendations outlined above.

Reasons for the Recommendation(s):

The Working Group has made a number of recommendations that require approval by both the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Adult Social Care and Health) and the Cabinet.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected: (including any Risk Implications)

No alternative options were considered. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Adult Social Care and Health) established the Working Group to review residential and care homes and the Working Group has performed this task.

What will it cost and how will it be financed?

(A) Revenue Costs

There are no financial implications arising for the Council as a direct result of this report. However, if consideration is being given to the payment of Providers gross, as opposed to net of Service User financial contributions, for care placements then the financial implications of doing so must form part of this consideration as this potentially would increase the risk of bad debts to the Council.

(B) Capital Costs

Not applicable

Implications of the Proposals:

<p>Resource Implications (Financial, IT, Staffing and Assets):</p> <p>Not applicable</p>
<p>Legal Implications:</p> <p>Under the 2014 Care Act, the Council has a duty to manage and shape the current and future local care home market.</p>
<p>Equality Implications:</p> <p>There are no equality implications</p>

Contribution to the Council’s Core Purpose:

<p>Protect the most vulnerable: Residential and care homes provide care for some of the most vulnerable members of our communities.</p>
<p>Facilitate confident and resilient communities: By providing good quality care, residential and care homes can contribute towards the facilitation of more confident and resilient communities.</p>
<p>Commission, broker and provide core services: The Council has a duty to manage and shape the current and future local care home market.</p>
<p>Place – leadership and influencer: The Council has a role in providing strong leadership and influencing Providers to work towards the provision of good quality care, which is in the best interests of Sefton and its residents.</p>
<p>Drivers of change and reform: The Council has a duty to manage and shape the current and future local care home market.</p>
<p>Facilitate sustainable economic prosperity:</p>

Not applicable.
Greater income for social investment: Not applicable.
Cleaner Greener Not applicable.

What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?

(A) Internal Consultations

The Head of Corporate Resources (FD.4897/17) and Head of Regulation and Compliance (LD.4181/17) have been consulted and any comments have been incorporated into the report.

The total value of the fee uplift in 2017/18 is £5.0m. This will be funded via £2.9m from within existing provisions allocated within the Medium Term Financial Plan and also through an allocation of £2.1m from the additional Social Care Funding / Improved Better Care Fund (iBCF) for fee increases, as approved by Cabinet on 7th September 2017. In considering this increase Members are asked to note that as this funding is one-off and reduces year on year, there will be a future years' pressure within the MTFP in order to support this increase.

With regard to 2018/19 and 2019/20 further analysis will be required to evaluate the any proposed increases against funding and affordability for the Council as defined within its MTFP. As stated the one off resources that are supporting the Council's Adults Social Care Budget at present, offer no long term security or sustainability and policy decisions from central government in respect of this funding will inevitably have an impact on future fee increases. The current MTFP provision in both 2018/19 and 2019/20 for provider fee increases is £2.9m. Any requirement in excess of this sum would require revision to the MTFP to ensure the financial sustainability of the Council is maintained.

(B) External Consultations

A number of external organisations and Providers have been consulted on during the course of the review and are listed within the Final Report.

Implementation Date for the Decision

Following the expiry of the "call-in" period for the Minutes of the Cabinet Meeting

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Appendices:

The following appendices are attached to this report:-

- Final Report of the Residential and Care Homes Working Group

Background Papers:

There are no background papers available for inspection.

1. Introduction/Background

- 1.1 At its meeting on 28 June 2017 /06/17 the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Adult Social Care and Health) established a Working Group to review the topic of residential and care homes. (Minute No. 12 (3) refers).
- 1.2 Terms of reference for the Working Group were as follows:-
 - Current and future population needs, demand and market supply;
 - The Council's "market shaping" duties
 - Key risks within the market in relation to meeting the needs of all people in Sefton who need care and support (whether arranged or funded by the state, by the individuals themselves, or in other ways).
 - Recommendations to shape Sefton's approach to commissioning services and shaping the local market in the future.
- 1.3 The Final Report is attached for consideration
- 1.4 The Committee is requested to support the recommendations produced by the Working Group and commended them to the Cabinet for approval.
- 1.5 The Cabinet is requested to approve the recommendations.