

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Council – 12 April 2023

Report Title

Council Response to Spotlight Scrutiny Review on COVID-19 Care Home Safety

Is this a Key Decision and has it been included on the Forward Plan?

No, but it has been included on the Forward Plan

Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report

Ian Spicer, Strategic Director of Adult Care, Housing and Public Health

Report Author(s)

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Ward(s) Affected

Borough-Wide

Report Summary

This report provides a Council response to the recommendations from the spotlight review carried out by Health Select Committee on Covid-19 Care Home Safety.

Recommendations

1. That Council note that Cabinet approved the response to the recommendations as summarised in the Cabinet's Response to the Scrutiny Review on COVID-19 Care Home Safety at Appendix 1.

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1 - Cabinet Response to Scrutiny Review – COVID-19 Care Home Safety

Appendix 2 - Part A - Initial Equality Screening Assessment

Appendix 3 - Carbon Impact Assessment

Background Papers

Covid-19 Care Home Safety: January 2023 Cabinet Report of Health Select Commission Spotlight Review.

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel
Cabinet – 20 March 2023

Council Approval Required

No

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

Council Response to Spotlight Scrutiny Review on COVID-19 Care Home Safety

1. Background

- 1.1 Health Select Commission undertook a Spotlight Review of Covid-19 Care Home Safety and presented the following recommendations to Cabinet on 23rd January 2023:
- 1.2 1. That the following recommendations from the review be received:
- a) That the learning from the pandemic and ongoing needs in respect of care home safety be noted.
 - b) That the service consider how the Council may help support recruitment and retention within the care sector.
 - c) That consideration be given to how best to retain, where possible, the benefits of supportive models such as regular engagement, access to training/guidance and the IMT approach, which were adopted during the pandemic.
 - d) That outcomes of forthcoming reviews by the Health and Wellbeing Board on learning from the Pandemic be considered for scrutiny.
2. That Council formally consider its response to the above recommendations by March 2023, in accordance with the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules.
- 1.3 In response to Recommendation 2 above and in line with the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules this paper provides response to the Spotlight Review Recommendations 1(a) to 1(d).

2. Key Issues

2.1 Learning from the Pandemic and Ongoing Needs

In response to recommendation 1(a) Council notes the Health Select Commission Spotlight Review and the learning from the pandemic and ongoing needs in respect of care home safety.

2.2 Recruitment and Retention within the Care Home Sector

In response to Recommendation 1(b) Council can report that the adult social care workforce training programme will continue in 2023/24 including running sector-based academy recruitment programmes involving Job Centre Plus, Free2Learn, Princes Trust and the Housing Inspire and Pathways Team. As part of the academy, where potential candidates express an interest in working in adult social care, employers are invited to talk about their organisation's job vacancies and job interviews are held.

2.3 Communication and Ongoing Support for Care Homes

In response to Recommendation 1(b) Council can also report that the Adult Social Care Commissioning and Finance Team have undertaken work on the Fair Cost of Care exercise and developed a draft Market Sustainability

Plan. The final Market Sustainability Plan will be completed and submitted to the Department of Health and Social Care by 27th March 2023.

2.4

Good Practice and Regular Engagement

In response to Recommendation 1(c) Council can give assurance to Health Select Committee that consideration has been given to the best ways to retain good practice from the pandemic response. Relationships with Care Homes and Registered Care Home managers were strengthened during the pandemic and these stronger relationships continue to be built on as we face other issues together for the care sector. Maintaining those relationships and regular engagement with the sector is helping to address the ongoing challenges.

2.5

Forthcoming Reviews of the Pandemic

In response to Recommendation 1(d) Council agrees that any forthcoming Health and Wellbeing Board reviews of the pandemic or pandemic learning to be considered for scrutiny.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

3.1 Council endorses this response to the Health Select Commission's spotlight review.

4. Consultation on proposal

4.1 Public Health, Commissioning, Finance, Legal and Learning and Development have contributed towards this report.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

5.1 The accountability for implementing recommendations arising from this report will sit with Cabinet and relevant officers.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

6.1 There are no financial implications directly arising from this report. Fee rates provided to care homes have been informed by discussions with providers and the fair cost of care exercise and completed as part of the budget setting process.

6.2 There are no procurement implications directly arising from this report.

7. Legal Advice and Implications

7.1 Under s5 of the Care Act 2014 the Council has a statutory duty to promote an effective and efficient market of care and support services, also referred to as 'market shaping'. This includes both ensuring the sustainability of the market and fostering a workforce able to deliver high quality services.

8. Human Resource Advice and Implications

8.1 There are no human resources implications directly arising from the report.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

9.1 There are no implications for Children, Young People, and Vulnerable Adults directly arising from the report.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

10.1 The recommended proposals have positive outcomes on equalities for residents in care homes. These proposals will ensure safe, quality and sustainable services can continue to be delivered.

11. Implications for CO₂ Emissions and Climate Change

11.1 There are no climate or emissions implications directly associated with this report.

12. Implications for Partners

12.1. There are no implications for partners directly arising from this report.

13. Risks and Mitigation

13.1 There are no identified risks within the report.

Accountable Officer(s)

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