

MAYOR AND CABINET		
Report Title	Mayoral response to the comments of the Healthier Communities Select Committee on the Lay Visitor Scheme in Lewisham	
Key Decision	No	Item No.
Ward	All	
Contributors	Executive Director for Community Services	
Class	Part 1	Date: 22 February 2012

1. Purpose

- 1.1 This report sets out the response to the comments and views of the Healthier Communities Select Committee following their meeting on 9 November 2011 where they considered a report "Commissioning, Monitoring and arrangements for inspection of services in care homes used by Lewisham" from the Executive Director for Community Services. The review of the above arrangements was remitted to the committee by a resolution of Full Council on 29 June 2011.

2. Policy Context

- 2.1 The commissioning of residential and nursing care services for adults in Lewisham is linked to the council priorities around caring for adults and older people and inspiring efficiency, effectiveness and equity. The successful monitoring of services in care homes will contribute to the delivery of the sustainable community strategy priorities:

Safer : where people feel safe and are able to live free from crime, anti-social behaviour and abuse.

Healthy, active and enjoyable: where people can actively participate in maintaining and improving their health and well being.

- 2.2 The lay visiting scheme provides independent peer monitoring of care homes, which is an integral part of the national and local dignity in care strategy for older people.

3. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Mayor:

- 3.1 Notes the response from the Executive Director for Community Services to the comments from the Healthier Communities Select Committee as set out in paragraph 4.2.
- 3.2 Agree that this report should be forwarded to HCSC.

4. Background

- 4.1 On 9th November 2011, the Healthier Communities Select Committee (HCSC) considered an officer report outlining the “Commissioning, Monitoring and arrangements for inspection of services in care homes used by Lewisham”. The committee also took evidence from the Cabinet Member for Older People, a member of the lay visitor scheme, the Local Compliance Manager from the Care Quality Commission and the Service Manager for Adult Social Care Commissioning, Contracts and Brokerage.
 - 4.1.1 The HCSC have set out their recommendations, for referral to Mayor and Cabinet.
- 4.2 The HCSC made the following comment:

The Committee notes the excellent work of lay visitors and the importance of this scheme, and asks that the Executive Director ensure the scheme and its participants are adequately supported and resourced to continue to carry out this excellent work.

Response:

The lay visitors scheme is supported by the Commissioning, Contracts and Brokerage team. Regular meetings are facilitated between the lay visitors, the Cabinet Member for Older People and the team to ensure that service improvements suggested by lay visitors following their visits to care homes are implemented. The lay visitors are engaged in the Care Home Providers’ Forum and participate in projects including dementia and medicines management in care homes. Currently, Age Concern is commissioned to provide appropriate training for lay visitors and they have access to other training courses provided by the council.

The Positive Ageing Council recruits volunteers to the scheme and the Council’s recruitment section undertake the necessary CRB checks for lay visitors. Administrative support is provided to the lay visitors should they require this facility. The liaison between all partners is coordinated by the Commissioning, Contracts and Brokerage Team who will continue to work closely to provide any support that is required. The overall work of the Positive Aging Council is growing and will continue

to be supported by Community Services and the Young Mayor's support team (intergenerational work).

5. Financial Implications

The continuing support for the lay visiting scheme can be delivered within existing Community Services budgets. The Contracts Team supports the lay visitors to undertake their peer monitoring in care homes and facilitates quarterly meetings with the Cabinet Member and the lay visitors and the Community & Neighbourhood Development budget funds the training delivered by Age Concern.

6. Legal Implications

The Constitution provides that the Executive respond to reports and or recommendations by the overview and Scrutiny Committee.

7. Crime and Disorder Implications

There are no direct crime and disorder implications arising from this response.

8. Equalities Implications

There are no direct equalities implications arising from this response.

9. Environmental Implications

There are no environmental implications in this report.

Background Papers

Mayor and Cabinet Report 7 December 2011

<http://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/mgConvert2PDF.aspx?ID=6768>

If you require further information about this report, please contact Audrey-Marie Yates on 020 8314 9464