

TITLE OF REPORT: **Adult Services Care Homes Model**

REPORT OF: **Barry Norman, Service Manager – Ageing Well Services
Commissioning, Performance and Service Development,
Integrated Adults and Social Care Services.**

Summary

Adult Services Care Homes support some of the most vulnerable people in Gateshead often normally at their latter stages of life. As we have an ageing population along with a growing rate of people expected to be diagnosed with Dementia, we need to ensure we have the right services available to support people both at home for as long as possible, as well as within a Care Home setting for people with more complex care and support needs.

Purpose of the Report

1. To update the Committee regarding the Capacity and Demand planning for Adult Social Care services, and our work on our 'Home First' approach, that will result in a different delivery model for Care Home provision in Gateshead.

Background

2. Since the pandemic and the introduction of the Hospital Discharge Guidance, Gateshead has followed a 'Discharge to Assess' approach to support people leaving hospital in a timely manner. The impact of recruitment and retention challenges has also limited our ability to get people home first, resulting in the overuse of Care Homes beds in the system.

Current Position

3. Gateshead continues to follow the Discharge to Assess approach but has now been able to plan resources for 2023-24 and 2024-25 and invest in required services to support people at home.
4. Recruitment and retention have improved across most markets that has also allowed additional capacity to focus on moving people from short-term services to

long-term services as and when required. This has improved flow and reduced waiting lists for support.

5. Our Contracts for Adult Care Homes are being updated with the aim to have a new Contract Framework in place in early 2024-25. The aim is to help shape the market to ensure they can support those in need of long-term care who can't be supported at home.
6. The Market and Sustainability Improvement Fund has also allowed the Council to invest in markets, following the completion of the Cost of Care work carried out in 2022-23.
7. Whilst the Home First approach will see an overall net reduction of 250 placements in Care Homes over the next 2 to 3 years, there will continue to be a need for Care Home provision to meet the needs of some of our most vulnerable people.
8. Existing providers and their Care Homes have a large part to play in supporting the Gateshead system, but providers will need to look amend their business models and focus on higher end needs in the future such as complex Dementia, Nursing and EMI Nursing.
9. To ensure we have the capacity to support people at home longer, we need to look at not only the workforce requirements, but also technology and housing offers. The workforce within Care Homes will need to evolve and require additional training and skills to manage an overall more complex cohort of residents within homes.

Impact

10. As outlined in the presentation, a different model for Care Home provision is needed in the years ahead as people are supported at home first and for longer. Whilst there will still be a need for Care Home capacity, we will continue to see people moving in for the later stages of their lives with more complex needs than the current average.
11. Nursing provision is an area that we will need to grow to meet needs, but recruitment and retention of good quality nurses is a wider system challenge. We will need to work in partnership with our ICB colleagues and likely look at a regional approach.
12. Occupancy levels within some Care Homes are likely to reduce as we refer less people into long-term bed base support. Private funders and out of area placements are semi out of our control, but we are likely to see an oversupply issue in the next 12 to 24 months.
13. This may mean that some homes de-register, alter registrations for different categories of support or have a planned closure. The team will continue to monitor and work with providers to support any proposed changes in the future.

Summary

14. Adult Care Homes will need to adapt to support the system with our Home First Approach. Our new Contract and framework will support the initial changes required by the market, however, we need to shape the market over a number of years to support an adapting change in cohort.

Recommendations

15. Care, Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny committee is recommended to:
- (i) Comment on the content of this report and the work undertaken by the service to develop a different approach to support adults in Gateshead.
 - (ii) identify any areas for further scrutiny.

Contact: Barry Norman

Ext 2369
