



To: Health & Social Care Scrutiny Panel

Date of meeting: 16th August, 2016

Notes of: Committee Administrator

END OF LIFE NURSING CARE PROVISION

Background

1. At its July meeting, the Scrutiny Management Team briefly discussed concerns over the provision of end of life nursing care after the issue had been raised by a member of the public.
2. The Team were told that the matter had first been raised in 2015, when reference was made to one specific nursing home in Pendle.
3. The person concerned had made it clear that they did not have any concerns with the actual carers and nurses as such, but with the management and supervision of staff.
4. At that time, the matter was referred to the County Council's Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing.
5. In April of this year, the matter was raised again, due to there being no response from the County Council.
6. It was therefore agreed that the Health and Social Care Scrutiny Panel be asked to consider gathering information on this topic.

Issue

7. The member of the public reported the main areas of concern as follows –
 - Prospective residents, particularly those requiring end of life nursing care, should be advised by District Nurses of all suitable nursing homes within a circumference of their homes, regardless of County boundaries. They should not be unfairly prejudiced by County boundaries as regards their choice of home re. quality and also proximity to relatives. Cross border finance can be arranged and patients should be told of this.

- Nursing Homes should have a duty to disclose to prospective patients or their relatives, particularly those approaching the end of life stage, if they are understaffed and unable to provide continuity of care and appropriate levels of expertise.
- All residents in need of nursing care, particularly those nearing the end of life stage, should have a detailed care plan in place as soon as possible after admission, if not before.
- Catering staff should be sufficiently trained and supervised to ensure end of life patients are offered nourishing, palatable and appealing food which they themselves would be prepared to eat.
- Managers should also ensure accurate records are kept of patients personal effects which should be accessible at all times regardless of whether managing staff are on holiday or off duty.
- Managers should manage and take responsibility when problems or queries arise.

The Way Forward

8. Members are reminded that Pendle Council does not have a remit over adult social care and that this responsibility lies with Lancashire County Council (LCC) and/or the NHS (bearing in mind it relates to nursing care).
9. As an initial step, the concerns raised above have again been referred to the County Council's Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing.
10. If available, his response will be reported to the meeting.
11. The Panel may wish to consider this before making any decision on how to proceed.

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Ref: LR

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