

## TOPIC BRIEF

<b>Topic Title:</b>	Care Homes – Future Sustainability
<b>Officer Lead:</b>	Helen Moir, Divisional Manager, Independent Living Services
<b>Planned start date:</b>	June 2018
<b>Target PPB Meeting:</b>	March 2019

### **Topic Description and scope:**

The Care Home sector nationally has highlighted a number of significant challenges, including capacity, quality and finances. This is replicated locally, and a number of work streams are in place to address these challenges. This topic focusses on the current approach in Halton, and will review future plans to address the local challenges.

### **Why this topic was chosen:**

In Halton there are 15 providers of care homes, equating to a total of 674 beds, which includes 70% residential and 30% nursing. The demand on those beds is fairly high, and at any one time there is a vacancy rate of approximately 5%, compared to a national average of 10-15%.

Recently a number of concerns have been highlighted in relation to the future sustainability of this sector. The quality and financial challenge on the sector as a whole has resulted in some recent care home closures and the Local Authority has been able to support this by purchasing two care homes.

A new approach is being implemented to deliver on our vision to improve standards and sustainability in delivering outstanding care in Halton.

### **Key outputs and outcomes sought:**

- Sustainability – gain an understanding of the Care Home sector in Halton, including how many homes, types of beds available, capacity, etc., for a clear picture of the sector;
- Consider the current pressures in Halton’s Care Home sector and focus on plans currently being considered in relation to future sustainability.
- Funding – consider the current fee rate model, and potential options being considered for future funding and commissioning models, including the impact of “top ups”;
- Consider Halton’s position in relation to quality in comparison to our close neighbours to understand the potential impact on our local market.
- Consider any additional/alternative approaches to address the future sustainability of the market.

**Which of Halton’s 5 strategic priorities this topic addresses and the key objectives and improvement targets it will help to achieve:**

**A Healthy Halton**

To improve the health and wellbeing of Halton people so they live longer, healthier and happier lives.

**Nature of expected/desired PPB input:**

Member led scrutiny review of the current approach to Market management of the care home sector in Halton.

**Preferred mode of operation:**

- Attend formal opening of Millbrow Care Home on 28<sup>th</sup> June that HBC have recently purchased;
- Focus group with internal adult social care staff – “how do we oversee the quality of care homes”;
- Meetings with/presentations from relevant officers within the Council/Health Services and partner agencies to examine current practices regarding future sustainability;
- Benchmark against Halton’s neighbouring Authorities and wider through the ADASS area to examine other commissioning models and how they compare to Halton’s approach;
- Invite representative from the Local Care Home Owners to provide their perspective on the current approach in Halton;
- Undertake some site visits to homes in Halton; and
- Invite Local Care Quality Commission (CQC) to talk through their role and views on Halton Care Homes.

**Agreed and signed by:**

**PPB chair .....**

**Officer .....**

**Date .....**

**Date .....**