

**REPORT TO:** Health Policy & Performance Board  
**DATE:** 11<sup>th</sup> August 2020  
**REPORTING OFFICER:** Strategic Director, People  
**PORTFOLIO:** Health and Wellbeing  
**SUBJECT:** Quality Assurance in Care Homes  
**WARD(S)** Borough-wide

**1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1.1 To update the Board and highlight key issues with respect to Quality Assurance in Care Homes and Domiciliary Care.

**2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That:**

**The report be noted**

**3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

3.1 It is a key priority for Halton Borough Council to ensure the provision of a range of good quality services to support adults requiring commissioned care in the Borough. The Care Act 2014 has put this on a statutory footing requiring a choice of diverse high quality services that promote wellbeing.

3.2 The care home market in Halton consists of 25 registered care homes which provide 771 beds operated by 14 different providers. The capacity within the care homes ranges from homes with 66 beds to smaller independent homes with 6 beds.

3.3 The local authority is now the largest provider of older people's care beds in the Borough supporting 163 beds.

3.4 Domiciliary care is commissioned by one lead provider who is working closely with the council to transform provision utilising a Reablement first model. They have a sub contractual arrangement with one other local agency.

3.5 Direct Payment offers choice of provision with a register of over 30 other organisations experienced in providing a range of services.

3.6 The Care Quality Commission (CQC) is responsible for the registration, inspection and assessment of all registered providers. However, the Care

Act 2014 places the duty of securing the quality of care in Halton on the Council itself who commission the Quality Assurance Team (QAT) to undertake this role.

3.7 NW ADASS now publish a series of dashboards, which summarises the CQC quality ratings for Care Homes and Community providers of Adult Social Care in the North West. It allows a comparison across the region and highlights key themes and trends in respect of Halton.

3.8 Both CQC and HBC QAT introduced a risk assessment approach to visiting care homes during the pandemic, which significantly reduced face-to-face contact with the providers and subsequently saw a reduction in intelligence and notifications received.

3.9 **Care Home Ratings**

HBC Rating July 20		CQC Rating July 20	
Green	19	Good	20
Amber	5	Requires Improvement	5
Red	1	Inadequate	0

3.10 In Halton:

- the smaller family run residential homes perform better than the larger national nursing homes.
- Halton performs above the sub regional average for care homes in the categories of good and outstanding.
- Halton has no inadequate care homes in the Borough.
- Halton has no care homes that have suspended placements

3.11 **Domiciliary Care**

HBC Rating July 20		CQC Rating July 20	
Green	0	Good	0
Amber	1	Requires Improvement	1
Red	0	Inadequate	0

The Council currently have 1 contracted provider who covers Runcorn and Widnes and they sub-contract to 1 provider who also cover Runcorn which are rated by CQC as good. 484 people with directly commissioned packages of care.

4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 None identified at present.

## **5.0 OTHER/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 None identified at present.

## **6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

### **6.1 Children & Young People in Halton**

The HSAB chair and sub group chairs ensure a strong interface between, for example, Safeguarding Adults, Safeguarding Children, Domestic Abuse, Hate Crime, Community Safety, Personalisation, Mental Capacity & Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards.

### **6.2 Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton**

None Identified at present.

### **6.3 A Healthy Halton**

The safeguarding of adults whose circumstances make them vulnerable to abuse is fundamental to their health and well-being. People are likely to be more vulnerable when they experience ill health.

### **6.4 A Safer Halton**

None identified at present.

### **6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal**

None identified at present.

## **7.0 RISK ANALYSIS**

7.1 Failure to consider and address the Statutory duty of the Local Authority could expose individuals to abuse and the Council as the Statutory Body vulnerable to complaint, criticism, and potential litigation.

## **8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

8.1 It is essential that the Council addresses issues of equality, in particular those regarding age, disability, gender, sexuality, race, culture and religious belief, when considering its safeguarding policies and plans. Policies and procedures relating to Safeguarding Adults are impact assessed with regard to equality.

## **9.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

9.1 None under the meaning of the Act