

9b. DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH & WELLBEING

Knowing You Matter – Who Cares for the Carers Event

An event for carers, hosted by our Quality in Care Team, was held at The Gateway in Aylesbury on 22nd September 2015. This was attended by over 50 people. Attendees ranged from care home managers, Age UK representatives, formal and unpaid carers, activity coordinators, volunteers and staff from Buckinghamshire County Council.

The event was facilitated by Andy Bradley – Framework 4 Change and Annie Stevenson co-founder of My Home Life. It was run as a workshop with the aim to encourage carers to explore their own health and wellbeing. Andy used techniques to get attendees to take time to pause and actively listen to one another and look at ways to positively care both for themselves and each other.

We also heard from two home managers on how the changes they had made at Woodlands Park Care Centre, through working with the Quality in Care Team wellbeing programme and attending the My Home Life project, had a positive impact on residents, staff and the ethos of the home; and how Cherry Tree Nursing Home engage and bring the community into their care home.

It was a truly interactive day, leaving everyone energised and valued.

Winter Resilience

As part of Adult Social Care's winter preparedness, council plans have been reviewed and updated in relation to Social Care Joint Emergency, Adult Social Care Winter Plan, Adult Social Care Business Continuity Plan and Whole System Escalation Plan. Additionally the Council is undertaking a whole council table top test of all services plans. The aim of the exercise is to validate the Council's ability to continue to deliver its Mission Critical Activities in the event of an invocation of its Business Continuity Management arrangements, in accordance with the Civil Contingencies Act (2004).

Adult Social Care undertook a Whole Systems Table top exercise in September with the aim to build upon good practice from last year's intense pressure and look at what worked well, and to identify actions that could be implemented quickly should the system become under similar pressures.

Managers within Adult Social Care are part of a rota to ensure cover for both in and outside of office hours. This will be shared across the organisation and relevant staff so that a response can be actioned at any time. Additionally, in order to be able to resource an emergency situation we have a 'bank' of suitably experienced and skilled staff from various functions, including procurement, contracts, business intelligence and care management that we can call upon to assist. Their availability will be co-ordinated for the festive period.

The Crisis Support Team are a highly committed volunteer staff group from all parts of the organisation and are called upon to assist the service during emergency situations and as such will be advising of their individual availability for the duration of the winter.

A Winter Preparedness letter will be sent to all Adult Social Care contracted providers of care within Buckinghamshire detailing our expectations of them, and what process they should follow should they have concerns with maintaining their

services over the coming winter. They will also be directed to the current Cold Weather Plan, and asked to consider the requirements for their organisations and impact to their service users.

This year, we have again, offered a council funded flu vaccination to all Adult Social Care front line staff and also to those staff within the Communities, Health and Adult Social Care and Children's Social Care and Learning services. This is available to all front line staff and those that work within the Business Continuity Plan services identified as mission critical.

Should we become aware of a major incident that has an impact on social care services or the wider community within the county, we will then invoke the Emergency Plan in the usual way. This process will ensure that all aspects are correctly managed and that the most appropriate staff are called upon to assist with the incident.

Conference

This year's National Children and Adult Services Conference was held in Bournemouth from 14th to 16th October 2015. Cabinet Members and senior officers attended what was arguably the most important social services conference for many years, it being the first since the general election and with some of the biggest challenges facing the social care sector in living memory.

For Adult Social Care, there were a range of sessions at the conference. Not surprisingly, there was a major focus on the finances and, following ADASS and the LGA's recent submissions to the Treasury Spending Review team, a recognition of the ever-widening gap between what the sector currently receives and what is needed to provide a sustainable, good quality adult social care service. It was disappointing that there was no Secretary of State in attendance, although we were grateful to Alistair Burt, the Minister of State for Community and Social Care, who held closed sessions with Councillors and Directors of Adult Social Care.

Buckinghamshire Care Award

Buckinghamshire Care successfully won the "newcomer SME of the year award" at the South West, Thames Valley and Solent Apprenticeship Awards. These awards are government-led and recognise the achievements of extraordinary apprentices and the businesses that employ them.

Buckinghamshire Care's programme is directly aligned to their vision of creating opportunities which make a positive impact and underpinned by their strategy of providing meaningful employment and vocational opportunities to those with a disability. By harnessing the talent and the desire to work of those who often struggle in the open market, including those with Learning Disabilities, Autism and Mental Health issues, Buckinghamshire Care have employed apprentices in the areas of garden maintenance and landscaping, catering, support work and administration.

This award follows on from the national Laing Buisson award for innovation earlier this year, and Buckinghamshire Care's Dignity in Care recognition award for their client art projects in our opportunities centres.

MIKE APLEYARD
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