

Scrutiny Proposal

Topic: Quality Assurance of Care Homes			
Background to the issue (what is it and why is it being considered for scrutiny)	Quality Assurance of Care Homes (residential and nursing) and how Worcestershire County Council carries out this role in the County has been identified as a priority for the Adult Care and Well-being Overview and Scrutiny Panel through its work planning process.		
Terms of reference	To investigate how the Council carries out and monitors quality assurance of care homes in Worcestershire.		
Suitability for scrutiny. Which of the following criteria does it meet?			
<i>Is the issue a priority area for the Council?</i>	Yes	<i>Does it examine a poorly performing service?</i>	Unsure
<i>Is it a key issue for local people?</i>	Yes	<i>Has it been prompted by new Government guidance or legislation?</i>	No?
<i>Will the scrutiny have a clear impact on services?</i>	Possibly	<i>Will it result in improvements to the way the Council operates?</i>	Possibly
<i>Are improvements for local people likely as a result?</i>	Possibly		

Scope of scrutiny (what issues will it cover and what won't it cover)	<p>To find out:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How the Council's Adult Services Directorate carries out and monitors quality assurance of care homes in Worcestershire <p>This may include;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> how potential issues are identified, addressed and managed how the quality of Worcestershire care homes compares nationally considering the impact of budget pressures on quality on care homes whether the Council has the adequate expertise and staff to quality assure? how the Council works with other stakeholders including the Care Quality Commission (the independent regulator of health and social care services) the NHS learning from other Local Authorities <p>NB a separate piece of scrutiny work is planned on promoting care work as a career and supporting care workers</p> <p><i>N.B. O&S has committed to ensure that the following are considered in all scrutiny reviews as appropriate</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>equality and diversity issues</i> <i>commissioning</i> <i>localism</i>
Advantages to conducting scrutiny & Indicators of success (ie how will you know a good scrutiny has been done?)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> councillor reassurance about quality assurance of care homes Increased councillor knowledge about quality assurance processes Increased councillor awareness of how to raise concerns
Has anyone else examined the issue?	Unsure
Any disadvantages or pitfalls to conducting this scrutiny?	Care will be needed with potentially sensitive information in relation to individual care homes
INFORMATION NEEDS	
Key Documents, Reports & Data required	Details of all care (residential and nursing) homes that WCC has responsibility for and purchases placements from CQC Inspection Reports Monitoring processes for quality assurance Quality assurance data on care homes in Worcestershire Complaints data (relating to care homes)? CQC monitoring criteria?
Is an expert adviser needed?	Unsure
Possible interviewees	Cabinet Members with Responsibility for Adult Social Care/Health and Wellbeing Director of Adult Services and of Public Health Council staff responsible for monitoring care homes Care Home staff and residents and family Care Quality Commission?

	Healthwatch
Is this an issue that young people would be interested in? If so, ask Youth Cabinet for evidence.	Unsure
Site Visits	As appropriate
Types of meeting/ consultation needed? (eg workshops/ focus groups/ public meetings/ questionnaires etc)	Task Group meetings, visit to care homes/s
Any meetings to be held outside of County Hall?	Possibly
Media & publicity needs?	Yes
OUTLINE TIMETABLE	
Proposal to OSPB	
Evidence Gathering	May onwards – OSPB to determine
Scrutiny Report to OSPB	
Scrutiny Report to Cabinet	