

## **LONDON BOROUGH OF HARROW**

### **CABINET – 31 MAY 2018**

#### **REFERENCE FROM THE HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE SUB-COMMITTEE – 14 MARCH 2018**

##### **124. Dementia Friendly Housing Review**

Farah Ikram, Policy Officer, introduced the report explaining the background to the research and the methodology of the review. A number of site visits had taken place to provide Members with direct experience of dementia-friendly accommodation and services. It was hoped that the findings would assist in the planning of relevant Council services and specialist housing developments in future.

The Chair thanked all those involved in the review. He highlighted the visits to Annie's Place, which had provided powerful contributions from carers, residents and their families, and to Tayo Situ House in Southwark, where the use of innovative diagrammatic signage and photos assisted residents with dementia.

Councillor Chris Mote referred to the difficulty of finding information on dementia on the Council's website. He suggested that the availability to dementia sufferers of a zero rating for Council Tax purposes should be publicised more widely and that processes should be simplified to assist those with dementia and their families and carers, for example, providing alternatives to online information and transactions. Dr Merali proposed that a letter be sent to all dementia sufferers and their carers in the Borough about the Council Tax exemption and this was supported by the Sub-Committee.

Councillor Mithani confirmed that relevant recommendations had been made as part of the review, such as improvements to the Council's website.

Councillor Marikar referred to her experience working in the care sector and underlined the importance of families and carers being informed about services and facilities available, including addressing any language barriers.

Councillor Dattani highlighted Recommendation 5 concerning work with Harrow CCG to ensure better integration of health and adult social care services, improved awareness of and signposting to other services in the Borough, and identifying gaps in service provision. As Portfolio Holder Assistant for Innovation, he would raise relevant issues with the IT Department and service managers.

Ms Ikram referred to the information from Barnet Council about the integration of adult care services across the local authority, voluntary and health sectors. She suggested that the Council enter a dialogue with the CCG on these issues and the broader recommendations arising from the review.

Councillor Mithani suggested that the Council's Housing Department be encouraged to consider Barnet's approach to dementia-friendly housing. She had heard radio coverage of dementia-friendly "villages" and communities which appeared to provide excellent models for future developments. Councillor Chris Mote advised that Adult Services had acquired 10 housing units to develop as transitional accommodation between hospital and home; he considered that, should these prove successful, the provision should be expanded.

**RESOLVED:**

- a) That the review report and its recommendations be endorsed;
- b) That the Sub-Committee revisit the implementation of recommendations in its work programme for 2018/2019; and
- c) That the Harrow CCG be invited to attend a future meeting of the Sub-Committee to discuss the report's implications.

**Resolved to RECOMMEND:** (to Cabinet)

That the review report and its recommendations be forwarded to Cabinet and to relevant agencies, as identified in the recommendations, for consideration and response.

**FOR CONSIDERATION**

Background Documents:

Agenda of the Health and Social Care Sub-Committee – 14 March 2018:  
Report of the Scrutiny Review Group into Dementia Friendly Housing.

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