



## Healthwatch Staffordshire Advisory Board Meeting

16<sup>th</sup> August 2017

### Care Homes Activities Report

**Summary:** A study looking at the Provision of Meaningful Activities in Care Homes was carried out during 2016 by a group of Healthwatch Staffordshire Volunteers. The report highlights the findings of this project. The HAB have been provided with a copy of the report for information, comment and decision.

**Recommendation:** The HAB are asked to formally endorse the report, consider the recommendations made, and decide on the next steps.

#### 1. Background

Early in 2016 a group of Healthwatch Volunteers embarked upon a study of meaningful activities in Care Homes around Staffordshire. The impetus for the project came out of previous Enter and View visits which had highlighted variations in the provision of activities across Staffordshire. The report that has been produced outlines its findings and makes recommendations to Care Home Providers about how activities can be improved to enhance the experience of residents.

#### 2. Proposal

This is an excellent report and needs to be shared widely and promoted. It also fits well with the recent Healthwatch England publication "What's it like to live in a care home"? We are very grateful to the volunteers who put so much time and effort into this report.

The report author and participants in this project have requested that the report is published in hard copy and sent to every Registered Care Home in Staffordshire so that all homes are made aware of its existence, consider its contents and more importantly the recommendations made therein. It is a strong desire of the group that the report will stimulate discussion within Care Homes and Commissioners of services and raise the profile and status of Activities and Activity Coordinators and the meaningful role they play in improving the lives of residents.

The costs of publishing and sending out around 350 copies of the report in full colour, and posting to every Care Home in Staffordshire are however very high. The costs are as follows:

Quantity	Price	Postage
100	£300.00	£ 96.00
350	£747.00	£ 336.00
500	£855.00	£ 480.00

We are currently exploring costs for non-colour printing and these will be presented at the meeting.

Printing copies for every care home does not guarantee that they will reach the target group so we cannot be sure that this would be as effective as we would want it to be in terms of impact. An alternative suggestion put forward is to print a summary A5 leaflet similar to the End of Life report and use these at our events and engagement activities to spread the word and promote the report on our website, and urge members of the public to tell us about their experience of visiting their relatives in care homes. The cost of this option are as follows;

Quantity	Price
1,000	£351.00
1,500	£412.00
2,000	£ 490.00

In addition to the proposals outlined, we have also identified the following steps:

- Sending the report formally with a covering letter from the HAB chair to Staffordshire County Council's Director of Health, Clinical Commissioning Groups Area Officers. Asking for comments and suggestions on how we can take this forward and for their response on how they might use it to inform commissioning and monitoring of services.
- Send it to the local lead for Adult Social Care CQC Inspector for information to help inform their inspections.
- Send the report to Healthy Staffordshire Scrutiny Committee for their information and to help inform any future work being carried out in Care Homes.
- Send it to the chair of the local Association of Care Homes asking for a response on how it might inform future care services.
- Send it to the County Council, Care Match asking for a slot to present it at the bi-annual Managers Quality Conference
- Send it electronically to each Care Home in the County asking for a response and a commitment to review their practice in light of the report, and for information on how they are disseminating the findings from the report.

We will of course also be sharing the report with Healthwatch England.

### 3. **Recommendation**

The HAB are asked to consider the options for printing outlined above and give a steer on their preference to move this forward

### 4. **What Difference Does This Make?**

This study was undertaken for the purpose of achieving an understanding of the service offered within Staffordshire Care Home around access to a range of stimulating activities that increase well-being and motivation amongst residents and to highlight good practice. The recommendations outlined in the report are intended to help Care Home Providers achieve better outcomes for their residents with some practical suggestions about how a good activities programme can be provided in most homes without incurring huge costs. If these are taken on board then the difference this will make to residents could be significant. The report is also intended to influence commissioners to include the provision of activities within the contracting process.

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