

Headline report April 2020
Care Home and Extra Care quality
assurance
scrutiny review

Health & Adult Social Care Scrutiny
Commission

Purpose

- Review the quality of care of Southwark providers and out of borough placements used by Southwark adults
- Ensure people in and out of borough placements are safe, well and in suitable accommodation
- Examine the assurance and inspection processes in place to see if they are performing well

Review objectives

- Look at the Lay inspectors work
- Review the officer quality assurance process and monitoring of placements in and out of borough
- Consider the Ofsted and CQC reports
- Seek input from staff on quality via unions, whistleblowing
- Invite Healthwatch, carers, older and disabled residents to contribute

Two part report

- This is part one of a two part report
- The report concentrates on provision used by older people, in and out of Southwark
- The second report will look at provision by for working age adults, commonly with a disability or requiring rehabilitation

Background

- Southwark is well placed to deliver Extra Care to local people but has a shortage of local residential and nursing care provision
- Currently 70% of Southwark people requiring nursing beds are placed out borough. In 2017/18, 80% of people that we placed out of borough would prefer to be in Southwark.

	Adult/OP residential		Adult/OP nursing		Extra Care	
	No. schemes	No. SUs	No. schemes	No. SUs	No. schemes	No. SUs
Southwark	5	143	2	89	3	84
Other London	14	32	31	112	0	0
Outside London	39	50	47	56	0	0

Background – nursing homes 1

- In 2015 Southwark decided to provide extra nursing homes in the borough because of insufficient provision and because local care homes Camberwell Green, Burgess Park and Tower Bridge had all received poor CQC reports for a number of years.
- Since then Camberwell Green and Burgess Park care homes closed, in 2016 and 2017 respectively
- Tower Bridge has however improved, with ratings between Good and Inadequate.
- Nationally the CQC states that nursing care faces the most significant challenges in relation to financial sustainability and the maintenance of good quality care across the entire health and social care system. These national issues are compounded in Southwark which has seen a 46% reduction in nursing care beds since 2011 (Five homes with a loss of 252 beds). This is comparable to several inner north London boroughs– e.g. Tower Hamlets and Islington, although none of our immediate south London neighbours have experienced such a sharp decline.
- The reasons cited by providers for this decline are the higher land prices that deter the development in inner London, workforce challenges, a younger population and relatively few self-funders compared to outer London areas . This means that Southwark homes are far more reliant upon state funded placements; where the costs have been tightly managed as a result of ongoing austerity measures.*

* Cabinet report April 2019

Background – nursing homes 2

- In 2017 a cabinet set out its plans to increase nursing provision, stating that by 2020 there will be a total of 361 nursing home beds available, compared to the 115 beds in the borough currently in use.
- Following this a cabinet report in April 2019 set out plans to deliver this through a negotiated procurement process with providers either currently operating or planning to operate nursing care homes, within the borough.
- The report outlined separate property deals to provide the physical buildings. Planning permission had been granted for development of a care home that will include 48 nursing beds, on the former site of Burgess Park (Picton Street), and a second nursing home that has outline planning permission for 80 nursing care beds. The total projected increase of beds was now set to be 260 by 2020, and if the second home comes online this would increase provision to 340 by 2022.
- The further deterioration in local capacity with the closure of Burgess Park may explain the reduced capacity projected in 2019 over that planned in 2017.

Commissioning of Nursing Homes for older people needing nursing care

Officers told us :

- Following the April 2019 Cabinet agreement to Commission through a negotiated approach the intention is to tender with three bidders to award contracts for high quality care.
- An Engagement Group is coordinating the programme. This consists of council and CCG staff, Healthwatch and Age UK.
- Wider engagement has taken place with the community sector, residents, older people in care homes and families.
- A Co-design group has been established of volunteers and this has conducted interviews with providers. These are now being evaluated.
- Presently the specification and price is being decided, with a decision pending May 2020.
- Two providers are definitely offering to build new homes. Other provision might come from utilising existing buildings.
- There is a now a commitment to open two new nursing homes by 2022

Residential care for older adults

Officers told us:

- The council has termed contracts with four residential care homes, all run by Anchor Hanover. The contract is due to expire in 2025
- Anchor Hanover Care residential homes in Southwark are consistently rated good by the CQC

Monitoring and quality assurance of older peoples residential and nursery care homes in Southwark

- Contract Management visits and reports by council officers
- Quality Alerts and complaints
- Family, friends and advocacy
- CQC inspections
- Lay Inspections
- Healthwatch
- Providers Forum
- Strategic and member oversight

Providers Forum

- There is a Providers Forum where to support the provision of care homes in Southwark –
more information is due

Contract management 1

Officers told us:

- Visits are done at least 6 monthly and a risk based approach is taken . If more visits are needed, because of concerns or other intelligence, then officers visit more frequently.
- Officers are on a journey with contract management to improve performance
- The Commission received 6 months worth of detailed contract management reports

Contract management 2

Carers and Lay Inspectors told us

- Council contract management is crucial to managing performance, particularly as the CQC only visit occasionally
- Visits to homes are vital and monitoring cannot just be a desktop exercise

Quality alerts and Complaints 1

Officers told us:

- A Quality Alerts system is in place which monitors any quality concerns in provider services and can act as an early warning system indicating the need for further monitoring of providers
- A Complaints system is in place that enables accurate capturing and tracking of complaints received by the team, and includes fortnightly meetings with the Complaints Team
- Officers reported Southwark receives less complaints than other boroughs in more affluent areas. This could be because these Local Authorities have more self funders and so there could be more confidence and a greater sense of entitlement.
- A benchmarking exercise with a comparative borough to compare levels of complaints and Quality Alerts will be provided, however it is challenging to find a similar borough
- Improving the complaints process and uptake could be addressed through the nursing contract and the monitoring process

Quality alerts and Complaints 2

A carer of a service user told us :

- She raised concerns about a care home a relative was in, and these were at least in part treated as a Quality Alert by the council
- One complaint was about the GP service, which is monitored by the NHS CCG, not the council
- Her complaints were also investigated by the care home internally. When she was dissatisfied with the initial investigation, and she persisted, the complaints were then escalated to the regional care home, where there was a better outcome
- She reported she found it difficult to get adequate resolution , even as a very involved family member
- Care homes need a clear complaints systems
- Relatives ought to be given independent access to council officers to raise concerns (rather than this being funnelled via the care home manager)
- A dedicated line to raise safeguarding concerns / abuse ought to be provided

Quality alerts and Complaints 3

Clarity : What is the council and NHS CCG policy on complaints investigation raised by a service user , family, friend or advocate , and at what stage would these be addressed by the council / CCG?

Further information: Provide a summary of complaints , an overview of themes and benchmarking with a few comparative boroughs

Recommendation

- All homes , the Council and CCG ought to have a clear and well publicised Complaints , Quality Alert and Safeguarding processes which details how to raise concerns with the homes, Council and CCG directly and who to go to, and at which point. This ought to include a mechanism to appeal to the council and NHS CCG if a resident or advocate is unhappy with the outcome of an internal resolution process. This ought to be managed through the contract monitoring and commissioning process.
- A record and summary of the number of Complaints and Quality Alerts ought to be provided in an annual report to Cabinet ,with benchmarking against comparator boroughs

Family , friends and advocacy 1

A carer told us :

- Developing and maintaining good relationships with carers, family and friends is crucial to the good care of residents
- Her perception was that the care home her relative was placed in did not particularly welcome her close monitoring of her husbands care. She also found it difficult to get adequate resolution of concerns and even as a very involved family member
- Homes ought to be asked if residents without family advocacy are having regular visits from the Independent Lay Advocacy service
- Relatives meetings are very important and ought to happen regularly , and at least quarterly with notice in advance

Family , friends and advocacy 2

Lay Inspectors told us :

- When they visit they ask if there are times set aside for relatives and carers to visit and speak meet and speak with care home staff.

Healthwatch told us:

- monitoring officers ought to regularly go to some relative meetings
- The Older People's Hub could give more information to prospective older people and friends and family on how to choose a care home. For example encouraging people to visit prospective care homes, and looking out for how welcoming a home is

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Family , friends and advocacy 3

Recommendation:

- Ensure systems are put in place to ensure that people in homes (in and out of Southwark) who are unbefriended have support by the Independent Lay Advocacy service, or similar
- Ensure that care homes hold regular meeting for families and carers. These ought to happen at least quarterly , and there ought to be a schedule of attendance by monitoring officers, commiserate with the number of Southwark residents and contract management resources.

CQC

Officers told us:

- The CQC visit homes regularly depending on risk . A home rated Good will not usually be visited no more than once every three years.
- The council will send intelligence to the CQC, although that may not necessarily trigger a visit
- Lay Inspectors can also contact the CQC , however it is unclear if this happens
- Previous nursing homes that were rated as inadequate /in special measures for a number of years by the CQC have closed down

Carers and Healthwatch told us :

- The commission heard that even homes rated as Good may not always have comprehensive activity programme in place that enable all residents to go out for walks , for example.

Healthwatch

- Healthwatch have 'enter and view' powers and do occasional visits to care homes
- A report detailing a visit to Tower Bridge care home was shared with scrutiny.

Lay inspectors 1

Lay inspector background:

- The Lay Inspectors is a scheme using volunteer older people to visit local care homes in Southwark
- The scheme was initiated by older people from Southwark Pensioners Forum and council officers in partnership with Age Concern (who later merged with another organisation to become Age UK) around 2006. It was an initiative of the then Older People Partnership Board.
- Age UK Lewisham and Southwark (a merger of Age Concern) are now commissioned to coordinate the scheme
- When fully functional the Lay Inspectors undertake at least one visit per year (3 in one) but would repeat if there were concerns.
- Six homes visited are by a team of two to three older people. The homes visited are those most used by older people in the borough and include the commissioned Anchor Hanover care homes and the nursing homes with most Southwark residents.

Lay inspectors 2

Current Lay Inspectors and the former Lay Inspector coordinator told us:

- The coordinator employed by Age UK Lewisham and Southwark to coordinate the scheme recently retired in the Summer of 2019
- The schemes capacity has reduced with her departure .
- In December the Lay Inspectors told the Commission that the absence of a coordinator meant the volunteers in place are not able to sustain the number of visits, which previously would sometimes be as many as 10 over a period of 4 or 5 months. At that point there was one inspection in the pipeline and they were finishing off one more.
- The Lay Inspectors value the scheme and were concerned about the continuity of the Lay Inspector scheme and the organisational commitments to its continuation
- Staff changes at both an operational and senior level at both Age UK Lewisham and Southwark , and the Council, risk a loss of organisational memory, knowledge and relationships
- Dementia and Safeguarding training is required for peer Lay Inspectors
- When visiting it is important the right questions are asked and that the Lay Inspectors know what good quality looks like, for example the ability to de-escalate conflict and calm things down
- Good quality questions are vital and the ones used on the form supplied to the Commission have developed over time
- The quality of the relationship with the councils commissioning team is crucial to the schemes success

Lay inspectors 3

Senior officers and the Age UK Southwark and Lewisham CEO told us :

- The Lay Inspector pilot project was last reviewed by the council in 2009 , while it was still a pilot, and found mixed performance against the key objectives
- The Council and Age UK L&S conducted a mini review in February 2020 in order to strengthen the Lay Inspectors programme with a view to restarting the scheme and resuming the funding.
- The review established that the scheme would benefit from complementary and stronger working relationships between contract management and the Age UK L&S , which need to be reestablished following changes at various levels.
- New senior staff are now in place in the council and Age UK.
- There is a joint commitment to restart the work using the existing Lay Inspectors and train more in due course
- The new Lay Inspectors scheme will focus on seeking the views of service users, family and staff to obtain feedback, rather than formal inspections.
- The Council and Age UK L & S also plan to start another initiative 'Care at Home' where older volunteers would ring people receiving care at home

Lay Inspectors 4

Recommendation

The commission endorse the organisational commitment shown by the council and Age UK I & S restart the Lay inspectors programme and establish complimentary and strong working relationships. A summary of the Lay Inspectors work and how this has influenced the council ought to be included in an Annual Report on Care Homes.

People located out of Southwark

Clarity :

i) Provide a breakdown of placements of older people out of borough, detailing home name, location and CQC rating

ii) how is the quality of provision and the wellbeing of older residents located out of Southwark monitored

Strategic and member oversight

Officers told us:

- There is a commitment to establish a residential care charter which officers intend to take to Cabinet in the spring of 2020. This charter will focus on supporting homes to focus on the drivers related to delivering high quality care.
- Improving the quality of care homes is a priority of Partnership Southwark
- A scrutiny report was produced in response to Francis Report on the Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust Public Inquiry. This examined the Frances Report's recommendations on the importance of information sharing across organisations with a formal and informal role in monitoring standards in hospitals and care homes , and the use of complaints information to monitor standards.
- Presently cabinet receive an Annual report on Home Care; additional one on Care Homes could be a useful addition

Strategic and member oversight

Recommendation

An annual Cabinet report on Care Homes would be a useful addition. This ought to summarise contract monitoring, CQC, Lay Inspector, Healthwatch, and CCG reports, and include a summary of complaints and Quality Alerts, with benchmarking with comparative Local Authorities.

Conclusions 1

Quality issues

- There is not enough local capacity if older people get more unwell, and need more specialized dementia and nursing care
- Activities are not always comprehensive enough even in homes rated Good
- Staffing can be spread too thinly
- Disrepair can be an issue, even in Good homes
- Good quality dementia care training is important , and this ought to consist of a face to face element
- GP services need to be well monitored

Conclusions 2

- There are comprehensive and committed local monitoring plans in place for residential and nursing home provision for older people based in Southwark , and the welcome restarting of the Lay Inspectors scheme.
- Even with good monitoring in place quality remains a challenge given the resource challenges, and Southwark ought to investigate avenues to increase this and tackle the staffing challenges.
- Most people want to be placed in local homes. The Nursing home strategy for frail older people will make a significant difference , however the plans outline in April 2019 ought to be reviewed to ensure that Southwark will still have enough capacity.
- Nursing homes provision plans are thoughtful and engaging , however more haste is needed to expedite the provision. The council first identified the need for more nursing homes in 2015, however these are now not due to be ready for residents until 2022.
- *A programme ought to be put in place to monitor and support people placed out in out of borough placements (subject to what we get back from officers)*

Addendum: Covid 19

The OSC report to cabinet has recommended that cabinet :

- take proactive steps to co-ordinate weekly testing of all care staff and residents in Southwark care homes as a matter of urgency, in order to ascertain the level of Covid-19 infection.
- liaise with each Southwark care home provider to ensure that the relevant PPE and levels of PPE are being used in each local care home, to protect care staff as much as possible.
- monitor the pay of care staff at this time, to ensure that none of these low paid workers are being disadvantaged at this time, especially if they have to self-isolate themselves or shield themselves due to their medical conditions, as there is some evidence in the care industry, that some care workers are receiving less than their usual OSP during this crisis.
- remind all care providers to adhere to the key principles of the Ethical Care Charter that exists across the borough, especially at this difficult time.

Council and CCG NHS have been asked to provide a joint update on:

- visitation by families and friends to residents in care homes and i) is this happening in Southwark care homes and if so are risk assessments in place to consider the infection risk to staff and residents; ii) where homes have lockdown are there arrangements in place to enable residents to stay in touch with friends, family, advocates etc. by phone, video calls etc. ?
- how is the council monitoring the wellbeing and health of Southwark residents places in care homes, both in an out of Southwark ?
- what steps are in place to contain infection and treat a person normally resident in a care home if they have symptoms or a diagnosis of Covid 19?
- How will Southwark maintain , monitor and make decisions about care home standards , particularly given the impact of the pandemic and provisions in the Coronavirus Bill?