

COUNCIL ASSEMBLY

(ORDINARY)

WEDNESDAY 28 MARCH 2012

QUESTION FROM THE PUBLIC ON THE THEME – OLDER PEOPLE

1. QUESTION FROM SALLY CAUSER TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND ADULT CARE

How best can Southwark council and the community respond to the recommendations in the EHRC inquiry into the home care system published November 2011 e.g. Ensuring contracts for home care specify that the provider must comply with the Human Rights Act and effective working with the Care Quality Commission?

RESPONSE

The council is committed to the delivery of high quality home care for our older residents and broadly supports the Equality and Human Rights Commission Report and its recommendations.

Southwark is already performing well against many of the recommendations set out in the report. For example, we have a comprehensive quality alert system to ensure that good standards are maintained, we already provide specialist support planning and brokerage for older people who have personal budgets, we have recently launched the My Support Choices website will provide older people and their carers with information about where they can obtain support that meets their personal needs (whether funded by the council or by themselves) and our recent commitment to the implementation of the London Living Wage for commissioned services will address low pay within the home care sector.

I am pleased to confirm that section 3.1 of our home care contract specification explicitly requires our providers to comply with the Human Rights Act in their delivery of home care in Southwark. Similarly I am also pleased to confirm that we work closely with the Care Quality Commission to ensure that the home care that older people receive in the borough is of good quality.