

Northampton Borough Council Overview and Scrutiny



Overview and Scrutiny Committee

25 April 2013

Briefing Note: Centre for Public Scrutiny (CfPS) and the Care and Quality Commission (CQC) Action Learning Set (ALS)

1 Background

1.1 Care Quality Commission (CQC) and the relationship with District Councillors

1.1.1 A Project is underway, hosted by the Care Quality Commission (CQC) and the Centre for Public Scrutiny (CfPS), together with a number of Local Authorities:

- Northampton Borough Council
- Chesterfield Borough Council
- Warwick District Council
- Dacorum Borough Council
- Test Valley Borough Council

1.1.2 The CQC is keen to explore developing relationships with district and borough councils which is the main aim of this project. Therefore an Action Learning Set (ALS) comprising the above Local Authorities was formed.

1.1.3 The Action Learning Set (ALS) comprises Councillors and Scrutiny Officers. Councillor Danielle Stone, NBC's representative to NCC's Health and Social Care Scrutiny Committee, and Tracy Tiff, Scrutiny Officer, are members of the ALS.

2 Roles and responsibilities of the CQC

2.1 The CQC regulates all health and adult social care services in England, including those provided by the NHS, local authorities, private companies or voluntary organisations. It also protects the interests of people detained under the Mental Health Act.

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- 2.2 The CQC makes sure that essential standards of quality and safety are being met where care is provided, from hospitals to private care homes. It has a wide range of enforcement powers to take action on behalf of people who use services if services are unacceptably poor.
- 2.3 The CQC's aim is to make sure better care is provided for everyone, whether that's in hospital, in care homes, in people's own homes or elsewhere.

3 Outcomes from the Project

- 3.1 A main aim of the Project is the production of a document that details the relationship between district councils and the CQC. The document will be drafted shortly.
- 3.2 An action from the ALS was for Northampton to host a briefing session for Northants and neighbouring Authorities about the work of the CQC and how district Councils can link in. The Chair of the Councillor Development Group has given his approval for this session to be included in the Councillor Development Programme 2013/2014.
- 3.3 So that the session takes into account Councillors' current knowledge of the CQC some short questions have been compiled and were circulated to Councillors.
- 3.4 It is possible that subject to funding, the Project will continue its work in 2013/14 and should this be agreed, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be informed.

4 Conclusions

- 4.1 That the update be noted.
- 4..2 That, when published a copy of the document produced by the ALS be circulated to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the link included on the Overview and Scrutiny [webpage](#).

Brief Author: Tracy Tiff, Overview and Scrutiny Officer, on behalf of Councillor Danielle Stone

8 March 2013