

Policy and Scrutiny Committee for Adult Social Care and Health – Monday, 16 July 2018

Written question from Mr Ray Clarke of Ryde to the Chairman of the Scrutiny Committee

Who is responsible for pushing up standards for disabled and sight impaired residents on the Isle of Wight?

Response

At the highest level responsibility for pushing up standards for disabled people and sight impaired residents on the Isle of Wight lies with the Health and Wellbeing Board. This important group is chaired by Cllr Dave Stewart and brings together a range of partner organisations and community representatives. The Health and Wellbeing Board has a statutory responsibility to ensure the following:

- improve the health and wellbeing of local people;
- to reduce health inequalities; to promote the integration of services; and
- To oversee the production of a Joint Strategic Needs Analysis (JSNA) and Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (JHWS).

The focus of the latest Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2018/21 is to improve health and wellbeing overall and to deliver swift and significant improvements for groups

and communities that experience poorer health and quality of life here on the Island. To make the best use of resources the work contributing to this strategy will apply the following principles:

- Provision of services should be proportional to need and targeted to the areas, groups and individuals that need them most.
- Services should be accessible to all, with factors including geography, opening hours and physical access being considered for all including disabled persons.
- Where the integration of services provides an easier system and better outcomes for people within the same overall cost, all relevant organisations should work together to maximise the local benefits.

While the strategy aims to improve the health and wellbeing of everyone on the Island, it focuses on making faster improvements for those who are most vulnerable and experience a poorer quality of life.

Both the Isle of Wight Council and the NHS recognise the importance placed on designing, commissioning and delivering services that meet the needs of the needs of local people. This includes ensuring that services and information for people with sensory impairments are high quality and accessible.

The Council and CCG uses their contracts with organisations that provide services to oblige them to adapt provision to ensure they are accessible to people

with sensory impairment, this includes Equality Act compliance audits and action plans. In addition the Care Quality Commission (CQC) specifically inspects the quality, responsiveness of services; this applies to internal services as well as those provided by other organisations such as Isle of Wight NHS Trust, pharmacies, Care providers and GPs. The Council and CCG also monitor inspection reports and acts on any issues raised relating to quality concerns through formal contractual processes.

The Council and CCG commission community based sensory services for vision-impaired people through a local organisation called 'Action on Hearing Loss Isle of Wight'. The services they are able to provide are available to both those with vision impairment and those with hearing loss in one place to reduce duplication and to make life easier, particularly those who have multiple sensory impairments. It also provides specific targeted support for people who are Deafblind.

The aim of the service is to provide high quality information and the promotion of independence with access to a wide variety of resources, support and advice that enables people to lead full and active lives. People are supported in maximising their ability to cope with their sensory impairment, minimise dependence on health and social care provision (where not essential) and maintain the person to live in their own homes and communities for as long as possible.

Advice and information regarding the provision of specialist equipment and the use of assistive technology

to aid daily living is a key component to assisting people with sensory impairments to maintain their independence. People are provided with the opportunity to try out common aids and equipment before it is purchased or provided free of charge.