



Cabinet
9 April 2018

**Report from the Director of Policy
Performance and Partnerships**

Overview and Scrutiny Home Care Task Group Report

Wards Affected:	All
Key or Non-Key Decision:	Non-key
Open or Part/Fully Exempt:	Open
No. of Appendices:	1
Background Papers:	None
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1.0 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 This is an update about the recommendations arising from the home care task group which were agreed by the Community Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee.

2.0 Recommendation

- 2.1 To note the contents of the report and the three recommendations which have been made to the Cabinet.

3.0 Detail

- 3.1 On 19 September 2017 members of the Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee agreed to set up an overview and scrutiny task group to review policy around the commissioning of home care in Brent.
- 3.2 The task group had a focus on four areas: resources, health and wellbeing outcomes, partnerships and relationships, and the quality of home care.

Members of the task group engaged with a number of stakeholders as part of their review.

- 3.3 The scope of the enquiry by the scrutiny task group was limited to its terms of reference as set out in the scoping paper and report. In essence, the purpose of the scrutiny task group was to develop recommendations for the Cabinet based on what the task group thinks are the important priorities for a future home care commissioning model, how the challenges can be addressed, and how the local authority's existing policies might need to be updated.
- 3.4 The chair of task group was Cllr Ketan Sheth, and the other members will be Cllr Pat Harrison and Cllr Jean Hossain.
- 3.5 The report was presented to the Community Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee on 28 February and the recommendations were agreed as below. In addition, a member of the committee raised the issue of the Unison Ethical Care Charter. As discussed at committee, paying the London Living Wage is one of the objectives set out in the charter.
- 3.6 The recommendations for Cabinet in the report are:
 - 1. The London Living Wage is introduced incrementally as part of new commissioning model so that home care workers working for providers commissioned by Brent Council are paid the London Living Wage rate by 2021.
 - 2. A minimum standard of training is incorporated in the new commissioning model which gives staff in Brent sufficient development opportunities to encourage home care as a career within the social care sector.
 - 3. A home care partnership forum should be set up as part of a new commissioning model to discuss issues of strategic importance to stakeholders involved in domiciliary care services in Brent.

4.0 Financial Implications

- 4.1 It is estimated that the recommendation to incrementally introduce London Living Wage would cost the council an additional £5.3m by 2021 based on the projected number of hours commissioned in 2017/18.

5.0 Legal Implications

- 5.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

6.0 Equality Implications

- 6.1 There are no immediate equalities implications arising from the report. However, if the proposed recommendation around the London Living Wage was implemented then it can be expected that it would help the home care workforce although they are not directly employed by the local authority. As discussed in the report, the majority of the home care workforce in Brent are women and from Black and Minority Ethnic backgrounds. In addition, if the

recommendations in the report are implemented and lead to an improvement in the home care service then it would be to the benefit of service users, many of whom are older people and people with learning or physical disabilities.

7.0 Consultation with Ward Members and Stakeholders

7.1 Ward members on the committee have been involved in this report.

Report Sign-Off

PETER GADSDON

Director of Performance Policy and Partnerships