

Cllr Vic Pritchard, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care & Health Key Issues Briefing Note

Health & Wellbeing Select Committee March 2017

1. Motor Neurone Disease (MND) Charter

The MND Charter is a statement of the respect, care and support that people living with MND, and their carers, deserve and should expect. The Charter was launched by the MND Association in March 2016 and was created to raise awareness and campaign to improve services at a local level.

There is a lack of knowledge and understanding of MND, particularly amongst decision makers and social care professionals, which can lead to those living with MND experiencing difficulty in accessing the services they need.

The MND Charter has five core values -

- 1) the right to early diagnosis and information;
- 2) the right to access quality care and treatments;
- 3) the right to be treated as individuals with dignity and respect;
- 4) the right to maximise their quality of life; and
- 5) carers of people with MND have the right to be valued, respected, listened to and well supported.

Many decisions about services used by people with MND (i.e. social care, housing adaptations, support for carers) are made at a local level by Councillors and it is important that they are mindful of the needs of those living with the disease. The MND Association are urging Councils to adopt the Charter which will mean that we would be committed to:

- 1) promoting the Charter as widely as possible;
- 2) sharing promotional materials with Councillors, Council staff and health and social care professionals; and
- 3) considering other ways of working together to support people with MND.

Councillors can play a vital role in supporting people living with MND and their carers and can influence the planning of services that those living with the disease rely on in our local community (i.e. social care, housing adaptations, carers assessments, health care, public transport). So far, 37 councils have adopted the MND Charter and by adopting the Charter in B&NES, we can publically demonstrate our support.

As the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care & Health I am seeking the Select Committee's support and endorsement for adoption of the MND Charter.

2. Capital Grant for the Purchase of a Drug and Alcohol Recovery House

Developing Health and Independence (DHI) successfully bid for £750,000 of national funding from Public Health England to buy an 11-bed drug and alcohol house currently leased from Knightstone Housing. DHI are funding the balance of the purchase price and all on-going running costs. No costs will be borne by the Council.

B&NES Council supported the bid.

The house is used to provide a safe and secure environment for B&NES residents who need a residential dry-house environment to enable them to overcome drug and alcohol dependence.

The bid was successful because it demonstrated value for money and client outcomes:

- The drug and alcohol dry house is a cost effective option, saving B&NES Council and the Royal United Hospital (RUH) an estimated £150,000 per annum (it costs approximately £180 per week per detoxification bed as opposed to £1,000+ per week in an in-patient facility, or £500 per night in the RUH). This excludes savings to the criminal justice system; primary care; adult social care; housing and other statutory services.
- Housing is a fundamental building block for those who wish to overcome dependency and make a full and sustained recovery in the community. Recovery provides the foundation from which people can enter and continue in education, training or employment, move onto secure housing and avoid re-offending. Between 2011-15 119 clients were supported in the dry house. 70% of clients exit the dry-house abstinent from drug/alcohol and successfully move on to independent living. (Typical success rates for residential rehabilitation units range from 20-60%.)

A Memorandum of Understanding has been agreed between the Council and DHI to safeguard the premises in perpetuity for this use and ensure the continuation of an important local service.

3. Developments in the Domestic Abuse Housing Related Support Sector

Lots of work has been taking place recently in the Domestic Abuse Housing Related Support Sector and there are a number of developments that we would like to highlight:

Domestic Violence Refuge Services in Bath – a new Service Provider has been appointed.

After a procurement process with an assessment panel that included representation from Children Early Help and Prevention, Probation Services, Housing Team and Crime and Partnership team, we have awarded the contract for Domestic Violence Refuge and Resettlement services to Julian House. The commission will provide 10 beds of refuge space in Bath and support for women and children leaving the hostel to resettle in their own accommodation for up to 6 months. This support will help ensure that the women and children are settled, safe and linked into community services and support networks that they need to continue their recovery from the effects of domestic abuse. The handover process is progressing well and the current provider, Next Link, is working with Julian House for a smooth handover.

The Women's Refuge charity shop on Walcot Street was offered as part of this opportunity as Next Link previously ran it. Julian House will be setting up 'My Sister's Closet' – a charity shop with a focus on selling 'pre-loved' goods for women and children in particular, and the profits from the shop will contribute to the cost of trips and activities for the children in the refuge and welcome packs of toiletries for women who arrive with no belongings. Julian House has some great ideas around using the shop as a better resource and to offer work experience for women in the community as well as the refuge. It has been in contact with the current volunteers and looks forward to getting the shop spruced up using decorators from the Julian House social enterprise handyman service.

By recommissioning this service, we will deliver better value and have therefore been able to release £30,000 p.a. which will be invested in the Serena House Complex Needs Domestic Abuse Refuge service for women and men. This service which is based in Keynsham and Midsomer Norton, was set up in partnership with Curo, DHI and Julian House with an initial investment of £100,000, secured via grant funding following a successful bid to the Government's Domestic Abuse Fund in 2015.

More New Funding Secured for Domestic Abuse

In February 2017, in response to a successful bid, B&NES was awarded £100,000 from DCLG's Violence Against Women and Girls' fund to set up an 'Enhanced Advice and Resettlement Service for Domestic Abuse'. This project will lead to better outcomes and experience of services for clients affected by domestic abuse. It will focus on preventing and reducing homelessness due to domestic abuse, building better partnerships with neighbouring Local Authorities and improving knowledge of and practice around domestic abuse across service areas.

The funding will be used to employ a specialist Domestic Abuse Housing Advisor in the B&NES Housing Options and Homelessness team, and a partnership/resettlement worker will be employed by Julian House to support domestic abuse clients who are moving back into and out of B&NES from neighbouring Local Authorities. This funding is awarded for 2016/17-2017/18 and the project will be tasked with establishing and embedding new ways of working that reflect best practice across Housing, Health, Social Care and neighbouring Local Authorities so that it brings about system change that improves outcomes for people (women, children and men), affected by domestic abuse and homelessness.