

Council 9 November, 2017

Social Care: Ethical Care Charter

Labour Group to move:

Council notes that:

- 1 A survey of homecare workers undertaken by UNISON, entitled *Time to Care*, found a committed but poorly paid and treated workforce doing its best to maintain good levels of quality care in a system that is in crisis and that poor terms and conditions for workers can contribute towards lower standards of care for people in receipt of homecare services.
- 2 In light of these findings, UNISON has called on local authorities to commit to becoming Ethical Care Councils by commissioning services which adhere to its Ethical Care Charter (attached). To date, at least 28 councils and a number of social care companies have signed up to the Charter.

Council believes that:

- 3 By adopting minimum standards as set out in the Ethical Care Charter, homecare services will improve and the dignity and quality of life of vulnerable people and the workers who care for them will be protected.
- 4 Better quality homecare will reduce demand both for expensive residential care and A&E admissions. It will also help to address bed blocking.
- 5 The Ethical Care Charter will improve the working conditions of homecare workers and increase the retention of skilled and experienced staff thereby ensuring that vulnerable people will be more likely to have a regular care worker with whom they can develop a trusting relationship.

Council resolves therefore:

- 6 To ask the Cabinet to:
 - a) investigate how B&NES might commit to becoming an Ethical Care Council that commissions its homecare services in accordance with the Ethical Care Charter; and
 - b) report back to Council in time for budget setting for 2018/19.