

Summary Minutes of the Older People Regional Thematic Group Meeting - 13 October 2022

Present:		Apologies:	
David Petticrew (Chair)	SPPG	Alistair Mawhinney	SP, NIHE
Kelly Hillock	SP, NIHE	Nicky Conway	CRISPP
Cameron Watt	CRISPP		
Jolene Curran	SP, NIHE		
Sarah McAdorey	Housing Services, NIHE		
Keely McKenna (Minutes)	SP, NIHE		
In Attendance:			
Seamus Hillock	DfC		
Imogen Orr	SP, NIHE		

Summary Minute

Strategic Advisory Board (SAB) Update

An update on the previous SAB meeting on the 2022 was provided.

No business cases had been considered at the meeting.

An event on sheltered housing, will take place on the 23 November 2022. A number of useful workshops would be delivered on the day of the event. Members of the SP team will be in attendance.

SP have been engaging with colleagues in DfC regarding the Ability to Pay policy.

SP are considering options regarding payment of housing support in sheltered services. SP have begun to engage with the DfC regarding policy implications.

Covid-19

An overview of Covid-19 from the perspective of Health and Social Care was provided.

The focus remains on 'living with Covid', and it was noted that much of the funding which was previously available has been phased out.

Ongoing pressures were highlighted, particularly with respect to staffing, and concern was raised regarding the possibility of new variants.

Ongoing workforce challenges are also being faced by Health and Social Care.

SP are aware of the pressures faced by the sector. The SP team regularly liaise with DfC on the matter and continue to seek additional funding.

DfC have asked SP to continue to provide information on Covid cases within the SP sector, and remains on the agenda with DfC.

A number of positive cases had been reported within older people's services in the previous month.

Department for Communities (DfC) Update on Special Needs Management Allowance (SNMA) Schemes

An update was provided regarding SNMA schemes and research that had been carried out.

The DfC had carried out engagement with providers of SNMA schemes previously, which resumed in the summer of 2021.

Sheffield University had been appointed to carry out independent research on SNMA schemes in March 2022. The DfC are considering its findings.

Any Other Business

A number of matters to be raised at future meeting, particularly in respect to how the sector may handle workforce issues and the cost of living crisis in light of inflation, to be considered.

Sheltered housing and the social housing allocations scheme requires further consideration.