

## READING BOROUGH COUNCIL

### ADULT SOCIAL CARE, CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE

25 JULY 2018

QUESTION 1 in accordance with Standing Order No.36

Councillor White to ask the Chair of the Committee:

#### Ethical Care Charter

UNISON's Ethical Care Charter was created to help tackle the crisis in the care sector. Issues such as very short 15 minute visits from carers, carers receiving below the minimum wage and carers on zero hour contracts. Following the successful motion proposed and seconded by Green Party Councillors for the Council to adopt UNISON's Ethical Care Charter, please can the Lead Councillor update me on progress each year meeting the different stages of the charter ? Can the Lead Councillor also update me on any further work necessary and how compliance is being monitored ?

**REPLY by the Chair of the Adult Social Care, Children's Services and Education Committee**

I invite Councillor Jones, the Lead Councillor for Adult Social Care to make the response on my behalf.

**REPLY by Councillor Jones, Lead Councillor for Adult Social Care:**

Policy Committee resolved on 19 March 2014 to sign the Ethical Care Charter (ECC), an initiative started by UNISON to address poor working conditions for staff working in home care services and to improve the standards of care for vulnerable older people.

The Charter was signed by Councillor Rachel Eden and Councillor Jo Lovelock on behalf of the Council and Heather Wakefield, UNISON's National Local Government Secretary.

By signing this Charter the Council has committed to commissioning care only from providers who meet the requirements.

It's important to note there are three stages to the implementation of the charter. The care providers work towards implementing stage one during the first year from July 2017 and July 2018 of the contract, stages two and three over the lifetime of the contract, which is July 2018 to 2019.

In this regard the Council is monitoring progress made against stage one of its implementation - stage 1 of the ECC is already in place with all the current care providers and has been since July 2017. This review will be undertaken in July each year. Commissioning have now commenced the

contract review as planned at stage 1, the results of which will be reported to a future meeting of this committee.

Commissioning also share progress against the charter with our regional LGA/ADASS partners who in term seek assurances from Skills for Care.

However, the Council will not sit back on these matters, and has commenced consideration of UNISON's Residential Care Charter - which has at its core the protection and support for residents and training and support for employees. An update on progress in this matter will also be the subject of a report in due course.