

## **FAMILY CARERS BOARD MEETING HELD ON OCTOBER 16<sup>th</sup> 2024**

### **SUMMARY OF THE MAIN POINTS**

#### **1. Open Day Event review**

The Open Day event held on 12 June 2024 had been discussed by a sub-group of members and their conclusions were reported back to the board. The preparations and arrangements for the event had gone well and it was felt that the format established could easily be repeated. Although the response was not as great as had been hoped, there were seven expressions of interest in the Family Carers Board. It was felt that the timing and location of the meetings might affect whether family carers could attend. It was also thought that the low level of interest could reflect a general level of satisfaction about the services provided, in contrast to the situation when the Board was originally set up.

It was thought that if a reasonable level of membership could not be maintained it would be necessary to consider alternative ways of maintaining an equivalent dialogue between family carers and Sunderland Care and Support (SCAS).

There was discussion about possible alternative venues for meetings which were more convenient and less formal than the Leechmere Centre. It was agreed that the Carers Centre and SCAS would work together to produce a list of possible community venues for consideration at the next meeting on 12 February 2024.

The next meeting would be publicised by sending out a flier to all family carers whose loved ones were in Supported Living homes.

#### **2. Management Update from Sunderland Care and Support**

The Business Plan for 2024-27 was circulated. It is to be revised annually. The Chief Operating Officer's report to the Family Carers Board was aligned directly to the Business Plan and the company's key performance indicators. The report was presented by the SCAS management team under the three main headings of Supported Living Headlines, Delivery against Business Plan and Strategic Objectives in the next 12 months.

Some items noted during the presentation and discussion included:

- 87 Supported Living services, supporting 296 residents in the Autism, Physical and Complex, Learning Disabilities and Mental Health areas
- 716 staff receiving mandatory training
- 141 new employees recruited in past 12 months
- Planned service reviews, 25% in next 6 months
- Incorporating the standards from the Whorlton Hall safeguarding review
- New governance structure
- Carbon neutral strategy

### **3. Future meetings**

Scheduled for 2025 (provisional):

Wednesday 12th February at 4pm

Possible Open Day event during Carers Week in June

Carers Week meeting on a Wednesday in June (date and time to be determined)

Wednesday 15th October at 4pm

All meetings will be held at Leechmere, with the option of remote attendance using Microsoft Teams software.