

## **Question to the Social Care Health and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee from Mr Maurice Lewis:-**

Central Bedfordshire Council will be left behind other local authorities if it does not pay heed to providing more support for carers and service-users under the remit of the Health and Social Care Bill.

My question to the Scrutiny Committee is as follows:-

There are noticeable changes about to occur in mental health and learning difficulties in our county and we are left in a predicament of finding a new provider to take over this NHS activity. This is at a time when there is an ever increasing need for more social service support and this has to come from training young people into the caring industry. Such young entrants need the skills and experience to support a varying age range of people in the community with mental illness problems.

Fortunately, we have numerous educational establishments in our county that can and would be prepared to run such training courses along the lines of my draft NVQ submission (see attachment) which is only a tool establishing basic modules that I feel (as a carer) need to be taught. It is up to your scrutiny committee to take this innovation further if it wants to be a local authority leader with high standards of social health care.

### **DRAFT SOCIAL CARE TRAINING COURSES - from a carers perspective**

**NVQ 1** - A qualification for those who seek employment in the care industry aged between 16-17 who have a willingness to care for others and who have the correct temperament and personality.

#### **Study modules**

- Basic first aid
- Health and Safety in Health and Social Care
- Psychology
- Psychiatry
- Work experience – visits to hospitals, GP surgeries, care homes etc
- Assessment

**NVQ 2** - A qualification leading to a mental health care support assistant

#### **Study modules**

Advanced first aid and caring needs

- Health and Safety
- Psychology 2
- Psychiatry 2
- Work experience – home visits and visits to carer charities to meet carers
- Assessment

**NVQ 3** - A qualification leading to a mental health care support assistant (advanced)

**Study modules**

- Revision of first aid and care techniques
- Mental health Act and other statutory regulations
- Psychology 3
- Psychiatry 3
- Care support administration/writing case studies
- Assessment

**NVQ 4** - A qualification leading to a mental health care manager

**Study modules**

Management and administration skills

- Review of current legislation
- Psychology 4
- Psychiatry 4
- Personal development/work experience at senior level
- Thesis
- Examination for a health care degree

**Additional note from Mr Lewis 16 May 2013**

I have just been listening to the Second Chamber in Parliament discussing the “Abuses of the Elderly” (14<sup>th</sup> May) and ironically there is a call for more training of staff in the field of caring. The Government minister Lord Earl Howe who is responsible for delivering the Care Bill indicated that local authorities are now being given more power to change the existing culture which he wants to see implemented by March next year. In line with the “petition” I sent you, members of the scrutiny committee must see how important my proposal is to act now and start training youngsters along the lines of the draft NVQ modules so that they will become the better cares of tomorrow. No doubt CQC will be contacting all local authorities to take further action along these lines.