

Date: 5th June 2024

Committee : 18th June 2024

Subject: **MEMBER VISITS**

Author: **Mark Smeed**
Head of Customer Engagement & Complaints

- 1.1 The previous briefing dated 13th November 2023 confirmed the phased reintroduction of the Council's scheme enabling ACH PDS Committee Members to undertake occasional visits to residential care providers across the borough, and set out the intended arrangements.
- 1.2 The first visits organised were to two sites owned and operated by Cedarmore Housing Association. On 20th December 2023 details were circulated to Committee Members about trips to Beechmore Court on 23rd January 2024 and to Southmore Court on 1st February 2024.
- 1.3 It was subsequently agreed that invitations would be extended to all Members, not just those on the ACH PDS committee – this would for example facilitate the attendance of the relevant ward Member/s regardless of their Committee membership.

2. NEXT VISIT

- 2.1 It is a grey area as to whether purdah should impact on Members' visits, although LB Bromley has historically chosen to avoid that period. Given purdah, a temporary staff shortage in the writer's team that oversees the visits pending the arrival of a new recruit, and the wish to provide sufficient notice, the next visit has been deferred from June to July.
- 2.2 Discussions are ongoing with Prince George, Duke of Kent Court with a view to a potential visit at 6pm on 18th July 2024.
- 2.3 Thereafter, visits are anticipated to take place approximately every three/four months. Potential venues will be identified with the assistance of colleagues in Adult Social Care but suggestions and requests will of course be considered.

3. ARRANGEMENTS GOING FORWARD

- 3.1 The previous briefing posited the establishment of a bespoke Teams environment. Whilst that was set up in the background, the move to include all Members renders that unnecessary and invites will be sent out from the Members Visits account in the form of a standard Outlook calendar invite which Members will be asked to accept or decline.
- 3.2 As advised previously, the number of available spaces will vary by establishment and timing. In the event a particular visit is oversubscribed, lots may be drawn to confirm the attendees – if there is particular interest in a venue, enquiries will be made to see if a second visit might be arranged.