

## **Implementation of Care Partner arrangements in Nursing and Care homes**

“This Council recognises the distress, confusion, physical and cognitive deterioration experienced by residents with dementia living in nursing homes, due to the lockdown in Spring 2020 and the subsequent curtailment of visits with relatives to one visit per week. The Council also recognises the pain experienced by relatives of nursing home residents with dementia, many of whom - pre- COVID-19 – cared daily for their loved ones in nursing homes, assisting them with washing, dressing, eating, drinking and exercise and provided them with love and cognitive stimulation.

Whilst Council acknowledges the spread of the COVID-19 virus and adheres to the Executive guidelines on Council on public health, it also supports the “Regional Principles for Nursing and Residential Care homes in N Ireland” (published by the Department of Health on 23<sup>rd</sup> September, 2020), which establishes the designation of relatives or close friends as “Care Partners” and stipulates that care and nursing homes should facilitate Care Partner arrangements to enable relatives to assist with the communication, physical and emotional needs of their loved ones in care and nursing homes.

This Council calls on the Minister for Health to provide the necessary human, financial and technical resources to nursing and care homes to ensure the immediate practical implementation of safe and secure Care Partner arrangements which will underpin the rights of dementia patients in nursing homes and deliver improved health and well-being outcomes for them and their families.”

Proposer: Councillor Geraldine McAteer

Seconder: Councillor Emma Groves

(To be debated by the Council.)