
**SINGLE ASSESSMENT PROCESS
LOCAL PARTNERSHIP POLICY DOCUMENT 2005**

**Responsible Cabinet Member(s) –Councillor Bryan Thistlethwaite, Adult Services
Portfolio**

Responsible Director(s) – Cliff Brown

Purpose of Report

1. To obtain Council approval of a new policy document (**Appendix 1**) concerning local partnership arrangements for the delivery of the Single Assessment Process (SAP)

Information and Analysis

2. The Single Assessment Process was outlined in Standard 2 of the National Service Framework for Older People (2001) and was successfully launched in Darlington in April 2005. It recognises that many people have health and social care needs and that agencies need to work together so that the assessment and care planning are person centred, effective and coordinated.
3. Darlington Borough Council and Darlington Primary Care Trust are committed to and support the joint implementation, delivery, monitoring and review of the Single Assessment Process as defined by the DoH Single Assessment Guidance LAC (2002) 1, HSC 2002/001.
4. The Community Strategy outlines the vision for building a better future for Darlington through a partnership with local people and partner organisations. The Local Partnership Policy underpins both national and local goals and objectives.
5. The policy is intended for use by all health and social care staff, employed by Darlington PCT and Darlington Borough Council, including Primary Health Care Teams, Adult Services Community Assessment Teams, the Discharge Management Team based in Darlington Memorial Hospital (DMH), and acute trust staff, engaged in the assessment, care planning, delivery, monitoring and reviewing of services.

Outcome of Consultation

6. Service Users and carers played an integral part in the development of the Single Assessment Documentation and Process through the Darlington Locality Task Group, which was established in October 2001. This resulted in a pilot from December 2002 – March 2003, where service users opinions were sought through the evaluation process, which further informed the development of the current documentation and process. Service User Evaluations continue to inform the monitoring, reviewing and amending of single assessment.

7. Legal Implications

8. This report has been considered by the Borough Solicitor for legal implications in accordance with the Council's approved procedures. There are no issues which the Borough Solicitor considers need to be brought to the specific attention of Members, other than those highlighted in the report.

9. This policy has been reviewed in accordance with the Human Rights Act 1998 and requirements of the Race Relations Act 2000 and Darlington PCT & Darlington Borough Councils Equality Impact Assessment Protocol. The policy is unlikely to breach human rights and the potential for discrimination is very low or non-existent.

Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998

10. The contents of this report have been considered in the context of the requirements placed on the Council by Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, namely, the duty on the Council to exercise its functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent, crime and disorder in its area. It is not considered that the contents of this report have any such effect.

Council Policy Framework

11. The issues in this report are required to be considered by Council.

Recommendations

12. It is recommended that Council agree to the implementation of this Policy.

Reasons

13. To comply with Government legislation outlined in the National Service Framework for Older People 2001 and Health Service Circular HSC 2002/001, Local Authority Circular LAC (2002)1.

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