
ADULT SOCIAL SERVICES ANNUAL PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

**Responsible Cabinet Member - Councillor Veronica Copeland, Adult Services Portfolio
Responsible Director - Cliff Brown, Director of Community Services**

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. To inform Cabinet of the outcome of the Annual Performance Assessment of Social Care Services for Adults carried out by the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI).

Summary

2. The notification of star ratings was sent first to Councils on 27 October 2008 being embargoed until 27 November 2008, when all Authorities' ratings were then published nationally.
3. The Council has for the third year running been assessed as a three star Authority (the performance range is from zero to three stars).
4. There are two judgements in the summary report, which show firstly that Adult Services has been rated as 'good' at delivering outcomes. In the second judgement, capacity for improvement, which is based on a combined judgement from the Leadership and Commissioning and Use of Resources domains, Darlington was judged to be 'Excellent'.
5. A copy of the notification letter is attached at **Appendix 1**.

Recommendation

6. It is recommended that Members note the contents of this report.

Reason

7. In order to be informed of the current performance of the Social Care Services for Adults

**Cliff Brown
Director of Community Services**

Jane Robinson : Extension 3440
LF

S17 Crime and Disorder	There are no direct links to crime and disorder.
Health and Well Being	Adult Services contributes to improving health and well being.
Sustainability	Not applicable.
Diversity	Adult Services are of particular relevance to disabled people and to older people. It is also of equal relevance to both genders and all racial groups within the population.
Wards Affected	All wards are affected.
Groups Affected	Adult Services are of particular relevance to disabled people and to older people.
Budget and Policy Framework	This report does not recommend a change to the Council's budget or policy framework.
Key Decision	This is not a key decision.
Urgent Decision	This is not an urgent decision.
One Darlington: Perfectly Placed	This report contributes to both the 'Safer Darlington' and 'Healthy Darlington' themes of the Sustainable Community Strategy.

MAIN REPORT

Information and Analysis

8. The star rating is awarded following an Annual Review Meeting (ARM) with Adult Social Services Departments earlier in the year. The ARM sets out the context and summarises the separate priorities for Adult Services for the following year. In assessing overall performance, CSCI use evidence against a set of seven outcomes, the Department's PAF performance indicators, any inspection reports and monitoring information from the Department's Self Assessment Submission (SAS), which is completed in May.
9. CSCI have identified several key strengths within Adult Social Care in Darlington, most notably:
 - (a) We provide a good range of clear information
 - (b) People are encouraged to lead an active life
 - (c) That we seek comments from people using services and the wider community
 - (d) Good use of volunteers
 - (e) Engagement with diverse communities
 - (f) The support for Adult Social Care across the Council
 - (g) Strong performance management arrangements
 - (h) Good understanding and monitoring of commissioned services
 - (i) Good network of services for people with lower level needs
 - (j) Prompt assessment and service provision
 - (k) High number helped to live at home#
 - (l) Prompt provision of equipment and adaptations
10. In terms of areas where we will continue to seek improvements over the next year, the focus will be on:
 - (a) Developing self-directed support and individual budgets
 - (b) Increasing support using technology
 - (c) Supporting more people into employment
11. The table below is an extract from CSCI's report which summarises the overall performance Judgements.

Adult Social Care Performance Judgements for 2007/08

Areas for Judgment	Grade Awarded
Delivering Outcomes	Good
Improved health and emotional well-being	Excellent
Improved quality of life	Good
Making a positive contribution	Good
Increased choice and control	Good
Freedom from discrimination and harassment	Good
Economic well-being	Good
Maintaining personal dignity and respect	Good
Capacity to Improve (Combined judgment)	EXCELLENT
Leadership	Excellent
Commissioning and use of resources	Excellent
Performance Rating	3 Stars

Outcome of Consultation

12. A focus group involving a range of service users was held with the Business Relationship Manager as part of the Annual Review Meeting, which contributed to the judgement process.