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**OVERVIEW OF ADULT SERVICES PORTFOLIO**

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1. Since the last meeting of Council, the following are the main areas of work under my Adult Services Portfolio :-

**a) Performance Ratings for Social Services 2004**

The Council received its Star Rating (performance rating) for Social Services for 2004, which has gone up from a one star rating in 2003 to a 2 star rating (range is from zero to 3 stars).

Each year in November, the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) awards a star rating to all Social Services Departments within Councils in England.

The star rating is awarded following an annual review meeting with Social Services Departments earlier in the year. Darlington's annual review meeting (ARM) outcome was reported to Council on 25th November 2004. The ARM sets out the context and summarises the separate priorities for adults and children for the following year. In assessing overall performance, CSCI use evidence against a set of 6 standards, the Department's PAF performance indicators, any Inspection reports, and monitoring information from the Department's Delivery and Improvement Statement (DIS). The Department's DIS was also reported to Council on 25th November 2004. The Social Services Department is also required to submit a Delivery and Improvement Statement (DIS) to the CSCI twice yearly (April and November), setting out performance projections against national and local performance indicators. The DIS is used by the CSCI to make judgements about Social Services' knowledge of its strengths and areas for improvement. It also forms part of the evidence used by the CSCI to make the star ratings judgement.

The notification of star ratings was sent first to Councils on 15th November 2004 until 18th November 2004, when all Authorities' ratings were then published nationally. A copy of the notification letter is attached at **Appendix A**. Overall comparisons nationally are also provided and these are attached at **Appendix B**.

b) I attended the Giving Tree Concert on 16th December 2004. This is an annual charity event to raise monies for the Giving Tree appeal which helps the needy in the Borough at Christmas time.

**Councillor Eleanor Lister**  
**Cabinet Member with Adult Services Portfolio**