
OVERVIEW OF ADULT SERVICES PORTFOLIO

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

a) Social Services Annual Review of Performance, and Delivery and Improvement Statement

The Annual Review letter from the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) has been received by the Social Services Department. Each year, the CSCI produces a performance review report for the Social Services Department which, in the first part, sets out a summary of improvement recommendations highlighting strategic issues, and in the second part, summarises the strengths of performance over the last year, and the priorities for improvement in the year ahead. This report forms part of the performance record for the Department, and informs the judgement for the star ratings issued in November. The Annual Review of Performance letter is attached as **Appendix A**.

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 DIS is a lengthy and detailed document and has been given in full to the Cabinet Member for Adult Services, the Cabinet Member for Education, and the Chair and Members of the Social Affairs and Health Scrutiny Committee also have copies. Additional copies can be made available to any other Member on request.

b) Specialist Domiciliary Services – Proposed Contracting Arrangements

Approval was given for changes in contracting for a Supported Living Agreement for People with Learning Disabilities to a Specialist Domiciliary Service for Adults, and also for a tender process for the Service to go ahead. The change in contracting will provide a support service in the form of a Specialist Domiciliary Service to all adults with a disability and not limited to adults with a learning disability. A specialist service will cover physical impairment, sensory impairment, and mental health issues offering better choice to service users.

c) Mental Health Supported Capital Expenditure

Approval was given to the release of Department of Health Supported Capital

Expenditure of £78,000 for the purchase of information communication technology resources within Darlington's integrated Health And Social Services Community Mental Health Teams. This will allow the Mental Health Service Associated Teams to have better quality access to social services systems in order to facilitate the integrated electronic client record and to provide better quality information.

d) Redevelopment of Hundens Intermediate Care Centre

The Social Services Department and Darlington Primary Care Trust informed the Council of the progress in redeveloping the site at Hundens Lane into a rehabilitation centre for older people in Darlington. The development of Hundens Lane forms part of the intermediate care whole systems approach, the provision of these services being a key part of the Government's direction for health and social care services working together to maintain older people's independence.

e) Authorisation for Approved Social Worker Status

Further to the duties of the Social Services Authority to comply with Section 114 of the Mental Health Act 1983, 3 Officers within the Social Services Department were given authorisation by Cabinet as Approved Social Workers for a further five year period.

f) Social Services / Primary Care Trust

I continue to meet with the Director of Social Services, and the Chief Executive and Chair of Darlington Primary Care Trust.

g) Social Services / Education

I have continued to meet with the Directors of Education and Social Services Departments and the Cabinet Member for Education.

2. Social Services Developments

a) "Good Neighbours Scheme"

New Services have been developed between Social Services, Age Concern and the Women's Royal Voluntary Service (WRVS) for people in Darlington who are relatively independent but because of age, illness or disability would benefit from a range of services including: a little extra support to help them maintain their skills and independence; learning new skills to assist them in everyday life; advice, training or support to adjust to new circumstances, such as through illness or because they have recently been discharged from hospital. These services will also be of benefit to carers. The "Good Neighbours Scheme" will provide help with a range of tasks and intends to help over 50 people in the area.

Councillor Eleanor Lister
Cabinet Member with Adult Services Portfolio