
OVERVIEW OF ADULT SERVICES PORTFOLIO

Purpose of Report

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

Learning Disability Commissioning Strategy

2. The Learning Disability Commissioning Strategy has been finalised and launched at an event in the Dolphin Centre on 12 September 2005. Users of learning disability services will provide entertainment and the programme will include formal ratification of the partnership based joint commissioning strategy at the Learning Disability Partnership Board.

Carers Breaks Voucher Scheme

3. A Carers Breaks Voucher Scheme has come into operation. This service enables carers to purchase services by using vouchers, exchangeable for respite care with care providers who operate the scheme.

Extra Care Scheme Oban Court

4. A number of extra care places have been allocated at Oban Court. Community Services in-house Home Care Service supports tenants of the warden-assisted scheme.

Social Services Workforce Plan

5. The Social Services Workforce Plan which details the development plans for both qualified and unqualified social care staff is currently being consulted upon.

Quality Standards Residential and Domiciliary Care Scheme

6. The Adult Services Residential and Domiciliary Care Quality Standards Schemes monitoring visits have been completed and premium payments awarded to qualifying providers.

Integrated Services for Older People

7. A report was submitted to Cabinet to agree the proposal to further integrate Older People's Services between Darlington Borough Council and Darlington Primary Care Trust in order to improve services for older people.

Get Everyone Motivated (GEM) Update

8. Building on the success of GEM which promotes healthy lifestyles and exercise in the council's sheltered housing scheme, a partnership has been forged by Housing and Leisure Services to extend the scheme into the private sector, using venues such as residential and nursing homes, Church Halls, and Community Centres. Funding of £180K was successfully obtained for a Zone Active project to support inactive people into exercise and some of this funding is being used to reach large numbers of currently inactive older people through the GEM initiative.
9. A dedicated training group has been formed to develop different levels of GEM training courses and programmes, to include accreditation as well as monitoring and evaluation to ensure the exercise is being delivered appropriately and in accordance with individual needs and abilities. Initially Leisure Services staff will be trained to deliver GEM classes in new venues within the Zone Active target area of Eastbourne, Lascelles and Park East whilst, a partnership with the Primary Care Trust has enabled staff from Hundens Rehabilitation Unit to be trained to provide classes at the Unit. Training will then be rolled out to other areas where activity coordinators have been identified. A Master Class to train the trainers is being developed to ensure the long term viability of the project.

Extra Care Housing

10. The remodelling of Oban Court from sheltered housing to Extra Care is now complete. Flats have been extended and designed to accommodate wheelchair users, the main lounge can accommodate recreational activities for larger groups, in addition to a second room for smaller groups and hobbies. Each flat benefits from level access bathing but there is also an impressive assisted bathing area with a specialist bath and hoist. The grounds have been replanted and redesigned to encourage residents to make greater use of their external environment.
11. Tenants and their families have been consulted regarding the remodelling and redevelopment of Rosemary Court where work is due to commence in March 2006. Tenants fully appreciate that the work involved is extensive and that they need to be relocated on a temporary or permanent basis and have been very supportive of the proposals, which will cost overall £4m and will also provide 14 much needed additional flats for older people with mental health problems.

Teesside Region Open College Network

12. Morrisons Enterprise Trust in partnership with Darlington Borough Council have developed recognised training through the Teesside Regional Open College Network. The accredited training supports people with learning disabilities to achieve qualifications whilst developing their skills in a range of employment preparation projects. All courses are designed and delivered by qualified staff and specifically suit people with Learning Disabilities, as they are delivered at the right level. Support is then offered via job coaching and mentoring to enable a person to maximise their achievement.

13. I recently made a presentation of certificates to 21 people who were successful in achieving accreditation awards.

Meetings

14. I have undertaken the following:-

- On 4 July I attended along with the Chief Executive and Director of Community Services the official opening of West Park Hospital.
- I have fortnightly meetings with the Director of Community Services and Head of Adult Social Care.
- I have had a 1:1 with the new Chief Executive.
- I attended the SAH Scrutiny Committee on 30 August.
- I met with the Chief Executive of Darlington Partnership.
- I attended an Adult Services Team Meeting on 5 September.
- I also attend on a weekly basis from the rolling programme of visits to meet the various Adult Social Care Teams and client/users sites.

**Councillor Bryan Thistlethwaite
Cabinet Member with Portfolio for Adult Services**