
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: -

Performance

2. The Annual Review Meeting with CSCI took place on 4 September to review performance in Adult Services over the last twelve months. This meeting along with performance information will inform the star ratings for Adult Services which are published in late November. The outcome from the recent Mental Health Review was published in August in which Darlington scored 3 out of 4. A full report is expected later in September.

Adult Services Structure

3. Recruitment to the third tier manager posts was completed in August with three excellent appointments being made. Maxine Naismith was appointed to the Operations Manager for Learning Disability and Mental Health post, Warren Tweed to the Older and Disabled Persons post and Robert Parker to the post of Service Development and Integration Manager. All three are due to start at the beginning of October.

Learning Disabilities Service

4. Proposals to develop a new high quality supporting people service for people with Learning Disabilities are well underway. This project which is centre stage in developing integrated health and social care services, will result in 36 people being offered their own tenancies and care arrangements. The close involvement of service users and their families throughout the project is central to successfully achieving this outcome. Of equal importance will be the projects capacity to achieve greater Value for Money from existing financial commitments leading to additional investment in interagency services for people with needs which challenge care providers. This will be important both for young people leaving children's services and to prevent service users having to leave Darlington to take up expensive care arrangements because of a lack of local resources.

5. In order to provide the right background for this Leading Edge initiative, arrangements to ensure the successful integration of health and social care services for people with Learning Disabilities have now been reviewed and reinvigorated. The membership and terms of reference for the Learning Disabilities Partnership Board have been reviewed and brought up to date. Alongside this new joint commissioning arrangements have been agreed with the PCT and work is on track to develop and implement a Partnership Agreement by 1 April 2007 using the full range of Health Act 1999 flexibilities.
6. I have undertaken the following:
 - Visit to Central House with Assistant Director – Adult Social Care and Health to meet staff.
 - 25th September – Visit to DAD and Hundens Lane.

Councillor Bryan Thistlethwaite
Cabinet Member with Portfolio for Adult Services