
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. A quarterly meeting with CSCI was held on 5 May to review Adult Services progress in respect of last year's performance assessment, the meeting was a positive one and will be followed by the Annual Review Meeting which is planned for 4 September. The Delivery Improvement Statement (DIS) was submitted on 31 May following compilation of year-end PAF data and planned performance targets for 2006/07. The Adult Services Service Plan has also been finalised. Data in respect of the Mental Health review was submitted on 2 June

Adult Services Structure

3. Jane Breheny has been appointed to the post of Assistant Director – Adult Social Care and Health. The third tier management posts have been advertised and interviews took place on 19 and 20 July.

Warden Services

DAISY

4. Darlington Active Independent and Staying Young (DAISY) once again organised a very successful Daisy Day on 27 June 2006 in the Market Square. The Task Group for Sheltered Housing by the Tenants Board assisted in planning the day and selected a range of music through the years including a grand sing-a-long as a finale. Over twenty agencies were represented, providing information and advice on numerous older persons services. The theme of the event was Falls Awareness and included guest speakers as well as demonstrations of GEM (Get Everyone Motivated) to encourage people to lead a healthier lifestyle and take part in gentle exercises. DAISY, have also organised three months of activities from July to September. Each sheltered housing scheme is hosting at least one event with the aim of promoting sheltered housing and other housing options available for older people living in the local community. Activities range from a Strawberry Tea to a barbecue and musical evening.

EROSH (Emerging Role of Sheltered Housing)

5. EROSH is a national organisation what promotes and supports sheltered housing schemes and various new initiatives. Darlington's Warden Service has been actively involved in this organisation for some time and we have now been asked to be the regional representative because of our pro-active approach.

Training Events

6. As the Warden Service has continued to Support increasingly more frail and vulnerable residents to live independently in the community the role of the Wardens has changed requiring them to have an on-going programme of training to support them in their role. Of particular benefit recently have been the following two courses:
 - **Patient handling** – training which covered the importance of using appropriate lifting devices, undertaking risk assessments and the most effective methods of assistance.
 - **Dementia and Mental Health for Older People** - training which covered how to identify symptoms, preventative techniques and referral procedures.

Engagements

7. I have undertaken the following:
 - Visit to Central House/North Lodge, Upperthorpe and Beck House on 3 July.
 - Visit to several residential homes on 18 July.
 - I will be presenting certificates to service users who have gained OCN accreditation as part of the Employment and Occupation Project Training Programme on 27 July at the Railway Museum.
 - Various DAISY Events throughout July.

Councillor Bryan Thistlethwaite
Cabinet Member with Portfolio for Adult Services