
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:

Safeguarding Adults

2. Work has continued with partner organisations on the development of a joint proposal for a Safeguarding Adults Board for Darlington. This initiative is aimed at strengthening multi-agency ownership of joint strategies for the protection of vulnerable adults from abuse. This will give added impetus to the continuing improvement in service provision in this vitally important area of our work.

Mental Capacity Act

3. The Act came into full implementation on 1 October. I am pleased to report that an ambitious programme of training for all sectors of social care and health services has been delivered, and that extensive information on the Act has been provided to all sectors in booklet form; for staff using the Intranet; and for the general public through the DBC Internet site, and through publicity in local news media. Further work has already commenced in preparation for the October 2008 implementation of the Deprivation of Liberty safeguards contained in recent legislation.

Local Involvement Networks (LINKs)

4. Adult Services is working in partnership with Connecting with Communities colleagues on the commissioning of a host organisation for April 2008, and subsequently a LINKs for Darlington. A report on this was submitted to Health and Well-being Scrutiny Committee in October.

Continuing Health Care

5. The National Framework for NHS Continuing Health Care and NHS funded Nursing Care came into being on the 1st of October. The framework sets out the principles on who should qualify for different levels of NHS funding in England. A comprehensive package of training on the framework has been delivered to staff across Adult Services and the PCT to ensure correct processes are in place in respect of the associated assessment processes.

Rosemary Court

6. The work to develop Rosemary Court Extra Care Scheme has now been completed. Existing tenants moved back from the 15th of October and from the 22nd new tenants have been moving in. The 14 units for Older People with Mental Health needs have all been filled. Activities will be overseen with support from a Community Psychiatric Nurse from West Park on a weekly basis. Work is underway to fill the remaining 12 vacancies.

Learning Disabilities

7. The sod cutting ceremony for South Park took place in September and was opened by the Mayor, a small project group looking at the Learning Disability facet of the service is to be established by the Service Manager to guide and steer the new service.
8. A Tees Valley Commissioning Strategy is being established to look at Adults with a learning disability placed out of Borough to ascertain how best these persons needs can be met locally across the Tees Valley.
9. A modernisation board is to be established in November looking at the whole scale modernisation of the Learning Disability Service including the implementation of Single Assessment (SAP), modernisation of care co-ordination, implementation of "New Ways Of Working", access to health services, Person Centered Plans (PCPs), innovative commissioning and the modernisation of the workforce plus the implementation of the personalisation agenda.
10. A PCP facilitator has been appointed to lead on the aspirational wishes of users and carers within the service in line with government policy.
11. A health action plan facilitator has been appointed to lead on the implementation of Health Action Plans (HAPs) on a routine basis.
12. New Opportunities innovative is being implemented and this co insides with the decommissioning of Milbury and the closures of the NHS campuses.
13. Two Positive Practice award applications have been submitted nationally to CSIP, the outcomes are awaited.
14. A discreet piece of work is being commenced looking at the use of 93 Newton Lane to inform users, carers and commissioners of innovative ways of accessing and utilising short breaks. The completion of this is anticipated December 07.
15. Adult Services and Children's services are starting a small piece of research around parents with a learning disability whose children are active to children's services, the aim of this is to promote effective joint working, shared training and a shared purpose in terms of improved outcomes with regards to parenting skills and improved experiences for those children.

Substance Mis-Use

16. A paper is going to the Durham and Darlington DAAT's recommending a specialist alcohol service based around social models, this will have the added benefit of an additional social care post at a senior level in the DBC workforce portfolio.
17. The health care commission is reviewing Tier 4 services in November 07; an action plan is in place for this inspection.

Mental Health

18. The Social Care Consultant is leading on a piece of work supported by CSIP (Care Services Improvement Partnership), looking at the role, level and influence of social care in integrated Mental health services across the region, this is the first of its kind in terms of trail blazing.
19. A pilot site for personalisation and individual budgets will be commencing in Mental Health, this is being facilitated by CSIP with both consultative and financial input from CSIP, it is envisaged that this pilot will commence early 2008. A number of regional events will be held and in terms of piloting Individual Budgets in Mental Health this will be one of the first in the country.

Engagements

20. I have undertaken the following:
 - 10 October – Cabinet/CMT Development Day.
 - 16 October – Health & Well Being Scrutiny Committee
 - 23 October – Asylum Support
 - 29 October – Adult Social Care Staff Briefing
 - 8 November – ADS Quarterly Briefing

Councillor Bryan Thistlethwaite
Cabinet Member with Portfolio for Adult Services