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**OVERVIEW OF ADULT SERVICES PORTFOLIO**

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**Purpose of Report**

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

**Care Services Efficiency Delivery (CSED)**

2. CSED was established by central government to assist councils in reaching Gershon efficiency targets and facilitate the achievement of policy objectives articulated in the White Paper, ultimately improving in the overall quality of person-centred care services.
3. The 'brown paper exercise' undertaken looked at process re-engineering, reflecting on how business is done. Staff welcomed the opportunity of becoming involved in this process, influencing decisions and contributing to how things can be done differently, resulting in the achievement of positive outcomes, as outlined below:
  - (a) Removed bottle necks in processing applications
  - (b) Removed unnecessary activities to produce a more direct pathway
  - (c) Reduced transaction costs
  - (d) Increased capacity and performance of staff without increasing headcount
  - (e) Improved staff morale
  - (f) Improved process consistency and quality leading to greater client satisfaction

**Assistive Technology**

4. A demonstration flat has been set up in Rosemary Court, for staff and the public to view and have demonstrated Assistive Technology equipment. This will assist in the assessment process for identifying service user's needs in relation to assistive technology.
5. Training is available for all staff in Adult Social Services, Independent Domiciliary Providers, Housing, Health - PCT and West Park MH Acute Trust. Training consists of: demonstrations of equipment and how this will support people to remain at home. Care Managers are shown how the equipment can be interrogated to provide evidence of e.g. a persons daily living activities; risk of falls; movement including leaving the home. This can then be used to support requests for further services.

## **Extra Care**

6. There are now four Extra Care Schemes - Dalkeith House, Oban Court, Rosemary Court and Mayflower Court. DBC in-house Home Care Service (HCS) provide access to 24 hour support to all tenants and care packages for those who have been assessed as requiring support for daily living. The introduction of the Integrated Support Workers will enable and sustain a consistent approach to activities with the engagement of tenants and the local communities throughout the year. DBC HCS work in partnership with DBC Warden Services.

## **Home Care**

7. DBC Home Care Service is currently under review and a draft Home Care Strategy is being developed, which will set out the vision for the future commissioning of home care services for older people and people with long-term conditions. The purpose of the strategy is to commission a home care service which meets both the individuals expectations and the strategic objectives of supporting individuals to live at home for as long as possible by:
  - (a) Meeting the changing needs of the population as it increases
  - (b) Promoting the individuals' long-term independence
  - (c) Promoting the individuals and their carer's quality of life
  - (d) Improving the working lives of staff
  - (e) Being cost effective
  - (f) Being clinically effective
  - (g) Promoting the further development of the Independent Sector Providers of Home Care
  - (h) Providing an evidence base for the future service design

## **Learning Disabilities**

8. The South Park day service development is due for completion in April 2008. The service will meet the needs of adults with complex learning disabilities and physical needs, the focus of therapy and interventions will be art therapy, horticulture, sensory therapy and all related tactile interventions/opportunities. Service user group has been identified and a meeting with their carers has taken place. An opening event will be planned for April 2008 including an official day time event and a party for the users in the evening.
9. A PATH/Visioning Day was held mid January to set the priorities of the Learning Disability Partnership Board within the context of modernising the whole of service delivery and commissioning.
10. Darlington has been chosen as a pilot site for Person Centred Plans (PCPs), a PCP facilitator took up post in January 2008 with a view to mainstream PCPs as core practice within the service.
11. An Autism Consortium has been established with Darlington Co-Chair of this new initiative. A visioning day is being planned across Darlington and Durham and will be supported and facilitated by the Valuing People Regional Advisor and the Director of Inclusion North. This event will be for approximately 200 people and will look at service development, the commissioning of autism services and crucially look at interfaces with Mental Health services especially with regards to Aspergers syndrome.

## **Mental Health**

12. Darlington is to be a pilot site regarding Individualised Budgets. The Care services Improvement Partnership (CSIP) will be working with Darlington Borough Council to progress this.

## **Substance Misuse**

13. The Alcohol Strategy has been awarded some revenue with the potential to raise the social care profile. As a result the job description for a senior social work post has been written and will be recruited into ASAP. The service will be a specialist treatment service for individuals who are motivated to address their drinking patterns.

## **Safeguarding Adults**

14. The first meeting of the Safeguarding Adults Board took place on 19 December 2007, the purpose of the Board is:
- (a) To safeguard and promote the welfare of Adults at Risk in Darlington through inter-agency collaboration
  - (b) To co-ordinate the safeguarding activity undertaken by each organisation represented on the board
  - (c) To ensure the effectiveness of what is done by each organisation for that purpose
  - (d) To promote public confidence in safeguarding systems within Darlington and ensuring human rights are balanced with protecting the public from harm
  - (e) To understand the nature of adult abuse and foster strategies that reduce incidence and effect
  - (f) To give strategic direction to partner agencies and organisations in Darlington in relation to safeguarding activity
15. The Board is supported by the Lead Officers Group for safeguarding which held its first meeting on 30 January 2008.

## **Engagements**

16. I have undertaken the following:
- 4 February - Learning Disability Partnership Board
  - 6 February - Talking Together Event
  - 19 February - Visits to the Contracts Team, Central House; Discharge Management Team, Darlington Memorial Hospital; JJ's Soup Kitchen, Clifton Road and Rosemary Court
  - 25 February - Cabinet/CMT Development Day
  - 26 February - ADS Quarterly Briefing
  - Briefing Meetings with the Director of Community Services

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