
OVERVIEW OF ADULT SERVICES PORTFOLIO

1. Since the last meeting of Council, the following are the main areas of work under my Adult Services Portfolio :-
 - (a) I attended a “Positive Health Day” organised by GOLD (Growing Old, Living in Darlington) on 21st February 2005 at Blackwell Grange Hotel. Despite the adverse weather conditions, more than 70 members of the public attended, and 16 exhibitors. The day was aimed at Darlington’s older residents to have a “taster session” of alternative therapies, blood pressure checks and to try a selection of healthy foods on display. Other exhibits covered health issues such as osteoporosis, podiatry and smoking cessation, together with gentle exercise sessions and advice. Feedback from those who attended was very positive, and it was suggested that a second Alternative Therapy Day should be considered for later in the year.
 - (b) I attended the official opening by the Rt Hon Alan Milburn MP of Darlington’s “Walk in Centre” at the Primary Care Trust (PCT) Headquarters at Dr Piper House, King Street.
 - (c) I continue to meet regularly with senior managers within adult and older people’s social services.
2. The following developments are currently taking place in adult and older people’s social care:
 - (a) A consultation Green Paper relating to the future of Adult Social Care Services entitled “Independence Well being and Choice” was published on 21st March 2005.
 - (b) Arrangements are in place to implement jointly with Darlington PCT the Single Assessment Process for Older People’s services from 11th April 2005.
 - (c) The Social Services Department was notified that a bid for £3.2 million (in conjunction with Hanover Housing and supported by the PCT/Housing Department of the Council) was successful. The capital money will be used to upgrade Rosemary Court and the new service will be defined as an extra care scheme supported by Darlington Home Care service.
 - (d) The Draft Darlington Learning Disability Service Strategy has been circulated widely for consultation and comment.

Councillor Eleanor Lister
Cabinet Member with Adult Services Portfolio