
OVERVIEW OF ADULT SERVICES PORTFOLIO

Purpose of the Report

1. To inform and update Council of progress with Adult Social Care since the last meeting of Council. The following are the main areas of work under the Portfolio Holder for Adult Services.

Update on Senior Management Structure

2. Ann Workman and Elaine O'Brien are now established in their posts in Adult Social Care significantly increasing capacity for leadership and development within the service. Ann is Head of Adult Social Care and is responsible for the operational delivery, managing the services through efficiencies and improvements. Elaine is Head of Strategic Commissioning and Partnerships and is responsible for developing the commissioning function of Adult Social Care, with a lead for the transformation programme ensuring that Adult Social Care transformation is firmly linked to the Council's wider transformation agenda. Also, her post is jointly funded with the Primary Care Trust and she has a role in developing further joined up working across health and social care.
3. The restructure at Service Manager and Commissioning Manager level is nearing completion to coincide with the transfer of the Lifeline Service from Housing Services to Adult Services on 1 October 2010.

Strategic Commissioning

4. The Strategic Commissioning Steering Group continues to meet on a regular basis. The commissioning group now has, alongside health and social care commissioning representation, a representative from the local Practice Based Commissioning group. This has offered a good platform for future joint commissioning work.
5. The task of delivering the transformation of adult social care as outlined in the Government document "Putting People First" continues. Developments since the last overview include:-
 - (a) Adult Social Care has now completed its initial work in developing a Resource Allocation System which is now being trialled. Most new referrals into adult social care are now offered the opportunity to undertake a supported self assessment, which results in an initial financial allocation. An individual is then offered support if required to develop their own costed support plan. This is then presented to a Validation Panel who ensure that the process has been followed, agree the financial allocation and record any learning. The Validation Panel has a key role in monitoring current spend and resource allocation against last year's spend and this year's targets.

- (b) A self directed review process has also been developed and is being trialled within this first phase of self directed support. The self directed review process enables individuals to both identify and check whether individual outcomes have been met.
- (c) A number of local plans are in their final stages of development. These include:
 - (i) **A prevention and early intervention plan** – this looks at ensuring that a focus on supporting early intervention and prevention remains at the heart of delivering effective adult social care. This plan is being developed with key NHS partners.
 - (ii) **An Access to Universal Information Advice and Support Strategy** – this is a plan to offer local citizens the advice, information and support they need to make their own decisions about meeting the health and social care needs. The updated website has been a key piece of this work.
 - (iii) **A Supporting the Market Strategy** – This is a plan to ensure that the social care services that local people want are available at a price that is good value. The strategy is also looking at how better use can be made of existing social capital and universal services and identifying any gaps in the current market.
- (d) A piece of work is currently under way to procure an electronic means of accessing adult social care services. This new piece of software will enable people to undertake an on-line self directed assessment, develop a support plan and begin to procure their own support locally using the development of an electronic market place.

Intermediate Care

- 6. A joint strategy is being developed for Darlington with County Durham and Darlington Primary Care Trust. A commissioner workshop was held in August with representatives from Darlington Borough Council, Durham County Council, the PCT and Practice Based Commissioners to agree a consistent pathway and outcome for people to receive intermediate care services. A joined up approach is important to Darlington as a number of people being cared for and requiring discharge support from the Memorial Hospital are from outside Darlington. Commissioners are working with the operational intermediate care service to implement the re-ablement service within this pathway.

Older People Mental Health

- 7. The day opportunities for older people mental health problems is being reviewed within a project to redesign mental health day services. Council agreed to a waiver of current contracts until September 2011 to allow for time to develop and procure personalised and flexible options.

Older Persons Strategy for Later Life

- 8. A service review is being conducted on older people day services, including bathing and Patient Advice and Liaison Services (PALS) with the view to developing future services which will meet the aims of personalisation, offering choice, flexibility and promoting independence. GOLD are contributing to the review by gaining service user views.

Operational Developments

9. A twelve week consultation has begun within Learning Disability Day Services. The consultation started with briefings within each resource with sessions for staff, clients, carers and families. The Person Centred Planning Team are making a graphic recording of each of the sessions and we hope at the end of the consultation period to come up with a range of options which clients have identified as things that they would like to do/access. We are providing information on self directed support, welfare advice, direct payment advice and have presentations from other areas regarding day/employment services.
10. We have started a 30 day consultation period within the extra care schemes at Dalkeith House, Oban Court, Rosemary Court and Mayflower Court. The current care and support service within Extra Care schemes needs to be redesigned to meet client need and meet future demand within reducing resources. We have met with staff, tenants, families and carers to give a briefing of what the consultation is about.

Safeguarding Adults

11. Work is continuing to progress within the Safeguarding Section regarding recommendations from last year's Inspection by the Care Quality Commission. Two additional staff have commenced in the team to support the work of Safeguarding, MCA and Deprivation of Liberties. These are funded from the MCA grant. The Safeguarding Board have met and agreed priorities for the year ahead. It was agreed that the Lead Officers Group was no longer required, and that the work of this group would be taken over by the formation of four sub groups who will be working on identified key areas. Each sub group has an identified lead officer who will feed back directly to the Safeguarding Adults Board. The sub groups identified were: Communications; Training; Quality and Performance; Policy and Implementation.

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