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## OVERVIEW OF ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND HOUSING PORTFOLIO

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### **Purpose of the Report**

1. To inform and update Members on progress within Adult Social Care and Housing since the last meeting of Council. The following are the main areas of work under the Portfolio Holder for Adult Services.
2. **Intermediate Care Plus Strategy** – We have given approval to the Darlington Intermediate Care Plus Strategy and received progress of the initial implementation of the Intermediate Care Plus Action Plan. The Strategy is key to affordability of future of health and social care and provides a direction of travel, outcomes and broad commissioning intentions for Intermediate Care and Re-ablement services over the next three years. The Strategy has been jointly developed by health and social care.
3. **Adult Social Care Policy Review – Eligibility Criteria Policy and Fairer Contributions Policy** – We have agreed to defer making a decision about the Eligibility Criteria for Adult Social Care and Fairer contributions Policy until such time as consideration has been given to the Council’s wider budget strategy and how it will impact on the planned savings in the current Medium Term Financial Plan.

### **Strategic Commissioning**

4. **Mental Health Day Opportunities** – Following the Cabinet decision of 7 June 2011, contracts have now been awarded. As a number of service users will be affected, an implementation plan is underway to support the transfer to new providers where appropriate. People are being assessed for social care day opportunities, which is now subject to Adult Social Care Eligibility Criteria. The non eligible “drop in” service will continue until the end of March 2012 providing time for alternative preventative support to be developed in partnership with the Health Service.
5. **A Community Support Network** - A feasibility study has just begun to review the potential for a co-ordinated community support network in Darlington. The aim is to support people in being as independent as possible in their own homes and in their communities as an alternative to low level social funded care.
6. **Intermediate Care** - Using the additional social care funding allocated through the Primary Care Trust a new pilot commenced on 1 August 2011. The Red Cross is developing a low level hospital after care scheme which could also be used to support hospital admission prevention in the future.

## **Safeguarding Adults**

7. We remain in Executive Strategy with a small number of Private Providers and also with regard to some issues within Darlington Borough Council in-house Homecare Service. A robust action plan has been developed and we are working closely with the Care Quality Commission and also Darlington Borough Council Contracts Team to ensure that all quality standards are met across the whole service.

## **Operational Developments**

8. Intermediate Care Re-ablement and the newly created Single Point of Access at Hundens Lane with co-location of Local Authority and Health staff is progressing well. Referrals come through a triage system to ensure that individuals receive the most appropriate service. This could be from a range of functions across the Intermediate Care Plus pathway and includes, Enablement, Re-ablement, Intermediate Care and Therapy led assessment. This work was an outcome from the Dementia Collaborative and a Rapid Improvement Workshop held with range of Health and Social Care Staff.
9. Learning Disability Life stage Model – Darlington Borough Council staff have moved from Uppertorpe into the accommodation at Harewood House. This is extremely positive in terms of establishing the service and bringing staff together. Further work will be undertaken with Management and staff from Tees, Esk and Wear Valley Foundation Trust to ensure that strong joint work is undertaken.
10. Modernising Day Opportunities for People with a Learning Disability – The Day Services based at Lifestyle, Grassroots and Lawson Street will close over the next few weeks. All of the 57 clients have now selected an alternative option to the service that they were receiving. 30 individuals will be taking up a Direct Payment and will be receiving new services with the remaining 27 individuals moving into one of the six retained Day Services. We will have completed a review of the remaining six services by April 2012.

## **New Housing Investment for Darlington**

11. In a recent Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) announcement, confirmation was received that Darlington has secured investment of £2.7M over the next four years with 4 Registered Providers to deliver 171 new homes in Darlington as part of the National Affordable Homes Programme. All of the new homes will be built to the highest standards including achieving the Code for Sustainable Homes Level 3 and thus contributing towards reducing carbon waste and household energy costs. Over the coming months, the Council will have more detailed discussions with Registered Provider partners and The Homes and Communities Agency to agree when the new homes will be delivered. All new homes will be subject to allocation through the Choice Based Lettings policy.

## **Cockerton Regeneration**

12. Community consultation has commenced in respect of proposed improvements to Cockerton. The Housing Business Plan has identified Cockerton as the next area in a cycle of improvements for investment. An indicative funding bid to the Homes and Communities Agency recently received grant funding support to compliment investment identified within the Medium Term Financial Plan. The proposals include investing in new kitchens and bathrooms, environmental improvements, improving cycle ways and access to them, providing new permanent bus stops and creating a better housing choice for local people.

After an initial round of community consultation, further engagement with the community will continue throughout September 2011 through a voluntary community Focus Group to agree forward investment proposals. Any identified improvement work is anticipated to commence in 2012.

**Councillor V Copeland**  
**Cabinet Member with Portfolio for Adult Social Care and Housing**