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**AUTHORISATION OF APPROVED MENTAL HEALTH PRACTITIONER STATUS  
2009/10**

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**Responsible Cabinet Member - Councillor Veronica Copeland,  
Adult Services Portfolio**

**Responsible Director - Cliff Brown, Director of Community Service**

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**SUMMARY REPORT**

**Purpose of the Report**

1. To advise Cabinet of officers approved during 2009/10 under delegated powers as Approved Mental Health Practitioners (formerly Approved Social workers) and authorised to carry out the role on behalf of Darlington Borough Council.

**Summary**

2. This report details staff approved as and authorised to carry out the function of Approved Mental Health Practitioners on behalf of Darlington Borough Council during 2009/10. This information is being provided to Cabinet to reassure Cabinet in respect of the process being followed and as to the suitability of 3 staff members approved and authorised to undertake the role of Approved Mental Health Practitioners under the Mental Health Act 1983 as amended by the Mental Health Act 2007.
3. The Constitution currently requires that decisions made by the Director of Community Services to approve staff as Approved Mental Health Practitioners to a meeting of Cabinet. As this purpose can be achieved through the use of electronic mail without the need for a formal report it is recommended that the scheme of delegation be amended to remove this requirement.

**Recommendation**

4. It is recommended that
  - (a) the information in the report regarding Approved Mental Health Practitioners is noted for information.
  - (b) the scheme of delegation be amended to remove paragraph 12 which requires the reporting of these decisions to Cabinet.

**Reason**

5. In order to maintain sufficient Approved Mental Health Practitioners for the purpose of discharging the functions conferred on the Council by the Mental Health Act 1983 as amended by the Mental Health Act 2007.

**Cliff Brown**  
**Director of Community Services**

**Background Papers**

No Background papers were used in the preparation of this report.

Maxine Naismith : Extension 3258

S17 Crime and Disorder	This report has no implications for S 17 Crime and Disorder
Health and Well Being	This report has no implications for the Councils Health and Well being agenda
Sustainability	This report has no implications for the Councils Sustainability agenda
Diversity	This report has no implications for the Councils Diversity agenda
Wards Affected	All wards
Groups Affected	Individuals suffering from mental illness
Budget and Policy Framework	This report does not recommend a change to the Council's budget or policy framework.
Key Decision	This is not a key decision
Urgent Decision	For the purposes of call in this report is not an urgent decision
One Darlington: Perfectly Placed	This report has no particular implications for the sustainable Community Strategy
Efficiency	No efficiencies

## MAIN REPORT

### Information and Analysis

6. The Council's Constitution provides the Director of Community Services with delegated power to exercise the functions of the Council as defined in the Local Authority Social Services Act 1970. This includes the responsibility to approve Approved Mental Health Practitioners (AMPH) ( formerly Approved Social Workers) to carry out all powers and duties under the Mental Health Act 1983 and additionally to authorise sufficient AMHP's to carry out the functions on behalf of Darlington Borough Council. The appointments are currently required to be reported to Cabinet for information. In future this can be carried out via electronic mail without the need for a formal report.
7. The following staff were approved and authorised during 2009/10:-

<u>Name of AMHP</u>	<u>Date of Approval</u>	<u>Expiry Date</u>
Ann Newson	01.03.10	01.03.15
Deborah Cross	01.03.10	01.03.15
Rachel Wallace	01.03.10	01.03.15

8. The Approved Mental Health Practitioners submitted detailed portfolios of their work providing evidence of their competency to practise.

### Outcome of Consultation

9. No consultation is required for this authorisation.