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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 the Portfolio Holder for Adult Services.

**Stroke Strategy**

2. In response to the National Stroke Strategy, Darlington Adult Social Care has been given £249k over three years to support services for people who have had a stroke. The plan is to recruit a specialist OT and Care Manager whose aim will be to provide a streamlined care pathway from the Stroke Unit at Bishop Auckland Hospital into the community. The grant will also be used to support the funding of the stroke family and carer coordinator employed by the Stroke Association. This part time post is based in Adult Social Services and aims to provide support and information for all newly diagnosed stroke victims in Darlington.

**Older Persons Mental Health Strategy**

3. The Older Persons Mental Health Strategy has been well received by all stakeholders and will be presented as a final draft to the PCT Board on 6 November 2008 and to Health and Well Being Scrutiny on 9 December 2008. The strategy has been updated to take account of the actions required to meet the expectations on the forthcoming National Strategy for care and treatment of Dementia and a review of the Action Plan where priorities and timescales have been set, with leads and working groups being identified has begun.

**Older Persons Strategy - A Strategy for Later Life**

4. The Action Plan is being worked on in terms of the current position with the work that has already begun and identifying priorities, leads etc for the coming year. The Action Plan is seen as a 'working document' to allow flexibility in light of new Government drivers. For example, there is legislation and policy frameworks evolving around Housing, Health and Social Care in terms of being integral when commissioning services. The Older Person Housing Strategy 2007 needs to be reviewed in respect of whether it captures the current thinking and consequently action taken to ensure it covers Government expectations.
5. A sub-group, Older Persons Strategy Review Group has been set up by members to oversee the delivery of the action plan objectives. A verbal update was given to the Health and Well Being Scrutiny on the Action Plans progress on 21 October 2008 and the final draft will be taken to Scrutiny following member's involvement at the beginning of the New Year.

## **Older Persons Day Care**

6. A tender is currently in progress for the provision of day services for older people to provide social support/activities and relief for carers. The service is encompassed by the Older Persons Strategy and meets performance, national and local agendas to enable older people to live independently in their own homes. The contract is being let as a framework agreement and it is hoped that a number of providers will be offered a contract in order to offer service users a choice of day service provision.

## **Assistive Technology**

7. The Assistive Technology Project uses the 'Prevention Technology Grant' (PTG) to develop a local Telecare service throughout 2008/09. The following are key actions or outcomes for the project:
  - (a) Development of a sustainable Darlington Telecare Strategy.
  - (b) Providing a Telecare Service to 541 housing properties (including sheltered, good neighbour and extra care schemes). These properties are hard wired allowing a fully integrated lifeline and telecare service through the introduction of warden call linked smoke detection.
  - (c) 60 care assessed service users are now benefiting from a telecare service, with fall, bed and exit (or wandering) sensors the most installed devices.
  - (d) Development of a new community equipment demonstration room at Hundens Lane. Rosemary Court demo flat continues to provide excellent facilities for both staff training and resident demonstration.
  - (e) Equality and Disability Impact Assessment with respect to a shift from a project focused on particular services for the purpose of a pilot, towards a fully integrated mainstreamed service available to all areas.
  - (f) Development of a charging model for the Telecare Service.
  - (g) Negotiating with Durham and Darlington Fire Service for them to form part of the telecare service. This partnership would see the Fire Service install a smoke alarm and carry out a safety check with residents of the borough. However, they would use one of the Telecare smoke alarms, which benefits the resident by linking to the warden controlled call handling software.
  - (h) Two separate six month telehealth pilots focusing on Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disorder (COPD) and Angina and Heart Failure in partnership with Darlington Primary Care Trust.
  - (i) Replacement of current warden call handling software used by the CCTV call handling service.

## **Mental Health**

8. Implementation of the Mental Health Act 1983 Amendments 2007 is nearing completion for implementation 3 November 2008. The project board continues to steer progress, utilising the CSIP Implementation Toolkit. The majority of training has taken place and the transitional training from ASW to AMPH has been completed. The trust staff are being trained and the social care consultant is undertaking this training for the Darlington locality with Darlington medics. The plans will be on schedule to meet the implementation date.

9. A workstream has been devised to take forward the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards which are to be implemented by April 2009. The funding has been identified and there are plans to employ an expert practitioner/project lead to take forward this piece of legislation. This post will be temporary for two years. A model is being developed with the PCT to ensure the discharging of legal responsibilities
10. The integrated teams have undergone a process of moving from generic mental health teams to two specialist teams, psychosis service and affective disorder service. This change went live on 20 October 2008.

### **Learning Disabilities**

11. The closure of NHS campus sites at Aycliffe is on track for completion by November 2008, Struan was transferred from the Tees, Esk and Wear Valley Trust to Dimensions on 15 October. The New Opportunities project will be subject to independent evaluation and Inclusion North have been commissioned to undertake this.
12. The official opening ceremony for 'Lakeside Lodge' at South Park was held in September, the Mayor formally opened the building.
13. The tenders for independent day opportunities and specialist domiciliary care are currently going through procurement and commissioning processes. Users and carers are involved within the tender processes and a bespoke training pack for users in terms of meaningful engagement is being developed.
14. The publication of Valuing People Now has been put back until November 2008; as a result all subgroups of the Learning Disability Partnership Board will be streamlined in keeping with the VPN core objectives.
15. The employment of people with a learning disability is a key target and as such an independent company have evaluated the four in-house "employment/training" facilities to assess their business viability. Work is ongoing in this area between Adult and Cultural Services to expand opportunities for meaningful employment.
16. A Carer Support Worker post has been established and is due to be advertised. This individual will be a key post holder within the service; this has been undertaken in partnership with carers and DAD.

### **Substance Misuse**

17. An operational senior management group has been established to take forward the implementation of the new specialist community alcohol service. This will be made up of ten experienced professionals in the field, including medicine, social work, nursing, administration and counsellors. Links have also been made with the National Probation Service, Citizens Advice Bureau and the Emma Project. The team will be based at the Imperial Centre on Grange Road and are currently equipping the office for the team to move in. Five of the staff are currently in post, interviews are taking place for two further counselling posts on 13 October and adverts are out for a youth engagement worker and a support worker. It is hoped there will also be a role that will link with Darlington Memorial Hospital. The Community Alcohol Service will be publicised soon in the Communications

Newsletter and hopes to be fully functioning before the year is out.

18. It is envisaged that the team will be functional by end of October/early November and there are three additional posts funded for the service which are being advertised currently, Social Care Practitioner, this individual will undertake triage assessments and treatment effectiveness plans tier three and tier four where appropriate. An additional counsellor post is being recruited into as is a group worker; the latter two posts will be hosted by NECA.
19. The Alcohol Strategy was launched two weeks ago and this is a key part of the LSP. As yet there are no Government targets relating to specialist alcohol functions but these will be formulated within the next 12 months. All performance reporting will be into the DAAT. A management structure is in place for the senior practitioner and this is via the team manager of the psychosis team which neatly picks up dual diagnosis and alcohol related psychosis.

### **Engagements**

20. In addition to my regular briefings with officers I have undertaken the following visits and meetings:
  - (a) 6 October - GOLD Health Group
  - (b) 13 October - Meeting on reform of the Care Support System
  - (c) 15 October - Foundation Trust Governor Training Day
  - (d) 22-24 October - National Children and Adult Services Conference
  - (e) 27 October - Open meeting for Adult Services staff
  - (f) 29 October - Trust Board and Governing Council meeting
  - (g) 31 October - Older People's Partnership Board
  - (h) 6 November - Meeting on cycling in the town centre
  - (i) 11 November - The Assembly on Seizing the Future
  - (j) 13 November - Public meeting on Seizing the Future
  - (k) 17 November - Meeting with the Chair of the County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust
  - (l) 18 November - Opening of Linden Court
  - (m) 19 November - Conference on Patient Safety

**Councillor V Copeland**  
**Cabinet Member with Portfolio for Adult Services**