
OVERVIEW OF ADULT SERVICES PORTFOLIO

Purpose of the Report

1. Since the last meeting of Council, the following are the main areas of work under the Portfolio Holder for Adult Services

Older People Mental Health

2. The Older Person Mental Health Strategy has been finalised and ratified by the Council and Durham and Darlington NHS.
3. The strategy for Mental Health Services for Older People (OPMH) will propose a joint social and healthcare delivery of service in Darlington by developing a model that reflects the key components of a modern OPMH service as set out in 'Everybody's Business' (2005). It is this document that is now incorporated into monitoring of progress in the development of OPMH services.
4. In addition, with the recent publication of the National Dementia Strategy this too will provide a framework for the delivery of better services for people suffering from dementia. The OPMH strategy very much incorporates the key themes coming out of the strategy and has a detailed action plan that is specifically related to the recommendations made within the national strategy.
5. An event, 'Living Well with Dementia in Darlington' is scheduled for the 4th June to give participants the opportunity to discuss and raise any issues relating to the three main areas for development:
 - (a) Improved knowledge about dementia for the public, carers and professionals to reduce stigma;
 - (b) Improvement in assessment and diagnosis so that people have the best chance to make decisions and choices about their treatment care;
 - (c) A range of service that meet the changing needs of people with dementia over time.

Mental Health

6. The Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards were implemented on 1st April 2009. The Supervisory Body has been established and to date 2 referrals have been made with regards to individuals being deprived of their liberty.
7. A Mental Capacity Act Coordinator/Expert Practitioner has been recruited, this post is a 2 year fixed term contract and will have the responsibility of advising the Supervisory Body and coordinated the efficacy of the application of the Mental Capacity Act.

8. A project management post to lead on the Green Light Initiative is being advertised, funded by the PCT and hosted by TEWV. This postholder will be key in terms of the scoping and mapping work to enable adults with a learning disability to access mainstream mental health services in terms of their needs being appropriately met.
9. The Autumn Assessment process in terms of the National Service Framework for mental health is underway, the commissioning information has been completed and ratified and has been sent to the Strategic Health Authority. The self assessment process within the Autumn Assessment is being completed for the formal validation panel.

Learning Disabilities

10. The Valuing People Now regional launch took place in March and was well attended by members of the Darlington Learning Disabilities Partnership Board (LDPB), including robust user and carer representation spanning transitions and older age. In addition there was excellent representation from the PCT, the Acute Trust and Tees Esk and Wear Valleys Trust.
11. The LDPB has recommended a number of key work areas to the Peoples Parliament in terms of each LDPB being thematic. The areas recommended are Transitions (young and older age), Inclusion, Choice and Control (personalisation), Health and Employment (including training, volunteering and vocational opportunities).
12. Officers are currently seeking interest for the chair and vice chairs of subgroups in order to take the strategy on a thematic basis forward. Each subgroup lead will develop an action plan and the objectives will be set by the Peoples Parliament with reference to VPN. The 5 action plans will be collated by the lead officer and the VPN coordinator and this will form the basis of the annual work plan for the LDPB. This plan will be signed off by service user and family carer representatives of the LDPB.
13. A strategic group has been formed which will underpin the work of the LDPB. This group will be chaired by the lead officer and has significant representation from family carers, service users and junior members of staff to ensure buy in and implementation at all levels. This group will also make decisions on financial spend, mainly related to grant funding and what was the LDDF.
14. The tender process with regards to the joint Domiciliary Care/Housing Related Support service has been undertaken and the results will be reported back to cabinet.

Safeguarding Adults

15. The Safeguarding Team appointments have commenced with the recruitment of Deborah Barnett to the post of Safeguarding Team Manager and Ged Docherty to the post of Senior Practitioner. The support officer post is currently being advertised.

Lifeline Services

16. The procurement has recently been completed to purchase the latest Jontek Lifeline Calls Handling Software which became live 1st April 2009. The quality of the reporting tools will enable detailed feedback to Care Managers and health providers and detailed analysis of the number, frequency and type of call-out with performance information.
17. The system can be networked and in due course will be extended to Scheme Managers and mobile staff to maximise communication, information and effectiveness. In essence the advanced software will enable the service to make best possible use of the advances in technology in people's homes, enhance service delivery and enable more efficient use of staff time, automated testing without any disruption to service and management reporting.
18. Lifeline Services, linked to the Council's CCTV Centre, now provide a 24/7 good neighbourly support and an emergency response service to more than 3000 older people within the borough. This encompasses over 860 units of sheltered accommodation with day-to-day contact Monday to Friday; 650 council properties with hardwired pullcords; 950 Lifeline clients living in private housing with a Lifeline unit and pendant; 400 Housing Association properties and 80 Telecare clients who are provided with technology such as bed sensors which sends automated alerts.
19. In addition to briefings with officers I have attended the following:-
 - (a) The exhibition 'Vision Solutions', held at the Arts Centre which demonstrated the range of equipment and services available to assist the visually impaired.
 - (b) A meeting of the Dignity in Care Champions in order to discuss the challenge of providing high quality services that respect people's dignity.
 - (c) A meeting held with the North East Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnership to discuss the personalisation of both health and social care.
 - (d) The GOLD Annual General Meeting.
 - (e) A meeting with DAD to discuss matters of mutual interest.

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