
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 event, 'Living Well with Dementia in Darlington' that took place on the 4th June proved a success in gaining greater insight into the issues users and carers face living with dementia and the support and care they receive in terms of improving the quality of life through the implementation of the National Dementia Strategy. A report is due to be produced following a two month engagement programme from the PCT that will further assist commissioners in identifying the areas which need to be addresses locally.
3. The Strategy for Later Life in Darlington “Joint Action for those with a Mental Health Problem” incorporates the actions that fall out of the National Dementia Strategy. It is due to be published this month in a two-document format, the strategy itself and the action plan.
4. Work is underway following the completion of the Action Plan of the Local Commissioning Strategy. Two steering groups have been formed to lead on the implementation of the strategy where a number of priority work areas already have been identified, reflecting local, regional and national priorities based on engagement with users and carers. For Adult Social Care the main area of work in the coming year will address the delivery of care in Residential and Nursing homes and the interface with Acute and Secondary Care. The main focus will be on dementia and ‘end of life’ care.

Older Persons Strategy for Later Life

5. There are five work leads that cover the actions areas of work identified within the document for health and wellbeing, accessible information, policy and planning, a safe environment and economic/learning. They are each led by a cross section of both statutory and independent leads, demonstrating effective partnership working. Some of the work is well under way, for instance, the work that the Information and Access work stream are looking at is to work closely with Children Services that have a dedicated lead for maintaining and managing a website for Children Services and are in the throws of developing a Communication Strategy. The intention for older people is to develop a website building on the one that has been set up by GOLD and develop various hubs in the Darlington locality. These hubs may have facilitators available to aid people in accessing the information. A business case is to be taken to the Older Person Partnership Board for a joint decision on how this will be funded and taken forward. Other examples of work underway is the completion of a mapping exercise on health aging programmes where working with members from the Health and Well Being Scrutiny Group, a ‘listening event’ was organised inviting all those involved in health aging programmes to showcase the work

they are doing and to share and coordinate their work with other organisations. A document on all health-aging programmes has been published outlining to people what is available and being provided for older people living in Darlington.

6. The Older Person Partnership Board is to stage an away half day to look at its terms of reference and governance arrangements in order to make it more effective in terms of its overall decision capabilities in respect of commissioning and to review its communication mechanism with the five main themes from the Sustainable Community Strategy, along with information being shared more widely with users and carers and frontline staff.

Regional Disabilities Network

7. The Regional Disabilities Network has recently been established to look at issues that cut across local authorities in commissioning services for adults with a disability. One of the main areas that has been established as needing action is for those people who suffer from neurological conditions. Work has started in each area developing Neuro forums. We are looking to set up one in Durham and are involved with the development of a North East Neurosciences 5 year Commissioning Framework 2010 – 2015.
8. This 5 year commissioning framework is based on the needs identified through the regional audit carried out in 2008, informed by the Health Needs Assessment document (NEPHO 2009) and subsequent work streams. The framework sets the direction of travel required to achieve the quality requirements set out in the National Service Framework for Long Term Conditions (neurological). The time frame for the National Service Framework is also 2015.

Operational Developments

9. The Family Intervention Team has recruited a social worker from Adult Mental Health and a social worker from Children's Services to work with the multi-disciplinary service. The Team Manager post is about to be advertised, as is the Specialist Midwifery post. The team have secured a base and the Family Intervention Programme workers will be working as part of this holistic service. A specialist worker trained in the field of models of care within specialist alcohol interventions will also join the team. It is envisaged that the team manager will be recruited in the next 2-3 months and the YCAP action group will continue to meet to take this forward.
10. The Learning Disability People's Parliament is now well established and will shortly cease to be facilitated by Council employees. This responsibility will be commissioned to Inclusion North and they will develop the potential to become a Community Interest Company.
11. The Person Centred Planning Team within Adult Learning Disability is starting to be seen as a national area of good practice, there are plans to develop person centred approaches across the whole of Adult Services and the Access and Contact Team are working up a pilot scheme in terms of the implementation of the One Page Profile.
12. The implementation of an accessible changing space within the Dolphin Centre is a project, which is nearing total implementation and will promote inclusion in Darlington for a broad range of children and adults with a disability. This has been an excellent example of partnership working across the whole of Community Services and DAD has been at the

forefront of discussions.

13. Work is ongoing in terms of integration plans regarding the Intermediate Care Service with the PCT and in addition work is also in progress in terms of developing an initial point of contact with Adult Services, Children's Services and the PCT. This would streamline the prevention agenda across care groups and ages and would deter from a complicated myriad of referral routes to access advice, signposting or intervention.
14. A Transition Team is being developed across the age range 14-25. This service will address transition issues for children with both physical and learning disabilities into Adult Services. Connexions are also engaged and the well-established Transitions Panel continues to meet to discuss cases and to budget build over a 5-year period in terms of care planning and commissioning intentions and expectations.
15. The subgroups have been formed via the Learning Disability Partnership Board with regards to taking forward the objectives detailed in Valuing People Now. The majority of action plans have been submitted and a position statement will be given at the September LDPB. The service users and family carers on the board will have the responsibility to sign off the annual action plan for the board. In terms of streamlining, one strategic group has been established with service user and carer representation to be answerable to the board. This group undertakes decisions around grant funding and holds the leads and co leads of the subgroups to account.
16. The National Service Framework for Adult Mental Health is nearing the end of its life and a consultation document, New Horizons, has been published. This provides a different strategic slant and incorporates 3 care groups, CAMHS, Adult Mental Health and Mental Health for Older People, with the focus being on public health. The Mental Health Partnership Board will discuss how this will be facilitated and the complicated governance arrangements which will be associated if this policy is to be implemented.
17. Work is being undertaken in terms of developing the business of the commissioned service Age Concern. The Service Manager is working closely to reduce the waiting list and to consolidate links with GOLD and opportunities within extra care housing to develop socialisation options for older people. Age Concern are also submitting a capital mental health bid for their building which will be considered by the Mental Health Capital Planning Group.
18. The second autism visioning day is to be held in October 2009. Much work is being progressed in terms of a specialist provider developing a base in Darlington and this is planned for September 2009 and will have the added benefit of the provision of a local specialist service and the potential to repatriate 4 Darlington residents back home.

Safeguarding Adults

19. The Safeguarding Adults Team recruitment is now complete and the team is fully operational.
20. Work is underway on developing an easy read version of our policies and procedures to ensure it is accessible to a wider number of people.

21. The outcome of a serious case review has been presented to the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee.
22. The theme of Safeguarding Adults and Improved quality of Life for Older People has recently been subject of a Care Quality Commission inspection.

Personalisation/Social Care Transformation

23. The task of delivering social care transformation outlined in the Government document “Putting People First” continues. Developments since the last overview include:-
 - (a) The development of a Programme Board to manage this wide ranging change agenda, which includes key partners from the NHS.
 - (b) The development of a Programme Steering Group, whose role it is to offer expert advice and guidance to the change programme. This includes key stakeholders, including people who use services.
 - (c) Monthly meetings with staff, to keep them updated and seek their views on proposed and planned changes.
 - (d) Work continues on the Resource Allocation System or Personal Budget Calculator. This is the way in which people who need social care have their personal budget calculated.
 - (e) A paper has been written that examines the new language of social care. A paper that has been distributed widely across the country and is viewed as a piece of good practice.
 - (f) Work is underway on further developing the social care website to ensure even easier access to information and support.
 - (g) The draft Commissioning Plan has been widely distributed and views are being sought.
 - (h) The Business Transformation Team, have attended a number of meetings with organisations to both share the social care transformation vision and seek views, this has included:- The Peoples Parliament, LINKs and local carer groups.

Councillor V Copeland
Cabinet Member with Portfolio for Adult Services