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**OVERVIEW OF ADULT SERVICES PORTFOLIO**

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**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.

**Project Manager** for people with physical disabilities

2. A new Project Manager started with the Council on Tuesday 22 September 2009, a post funded through the PCT for one year. She will be based in Room 6 at North Lodge. Her main areas of work centre on developing a Long-Term Conditions Strategy with Durham NHS alongside developing a local Physical Disabilities and Sensory Impairment Commissioning Strategy. It is this Strategy that will act as the framework for the work being directed by the Physical and Sensory Impairment Board. It will be the Project Manager's responsibility for re-establishing this group applying the methodology from the Partnership Toolkit. In addition she has responsibility for overseeing the development of both strategic and operational management of Assistive Technology.

**Neurosciences Network**

3. Work has been taking place with Lynn Barr, the Regional Programme Co-ordinator for Neurological conditions in developing the Neuro Sciences Network, which links into the Regional Disability Group and the North East Neurosciences Joint Commissioning Strategy Group. The latter is in its planning stage however we have identified a number of priority areas regionally that will support the delivery of the NSF for Long Term Neurological Conditions, and address equity and standards across the North East Region. Its main focus is on the regional profile that will:-
  - (a) Promote improved Transitions from Children's to Adult Services;
  - (b) Increase options for supported living/extra care housing for adults with neurological conditions;
  - (c) Address equity and standards of specialist rehab care for all with neurological conditions across the region and explore the benefits and opportunities for utilising individual budgets with individuals having more choice and control in managing their condition and their lives.
4. The official launch of the Neurosciences Network took place on 26 March 2009, and was well attended by over 130 representatives. The annual report for the network was shared at this launch with the Directors of Commissioning in Health (DOCs). It will be reported to the DOCs on a quarterly basis producing an action plan to demonstrate future work streams.
5. Durham and Darlington have developed a Neurological Forum, the second to do so with three others being developed in the Region. The purpose of the Group is to articulate the

vision for improving individuals care within the North East Neuroscience 5 Year Commissioning Framework 2010 -2015 that will provide a platform for members, and users and carers to inform the commissioning process and intentions of the region for neurological services.

6. The Neurosciences Network has received funding from the Workforce Innovations Fund to launch a workforce innovations programme for neurological conditions. A Workforce Innovations Co-coordinator has been appointed and the programme she is leading on is to find 10 mentors and 20 mentees. The geographical net for the appointment of mentors covers almost all of the North East with a strong field having been shortlisted. The programme will last for 15 months and will involve one day a week working with the mentor/group of mentees etc. There will be a three month lead in time and will begin in April 2010.
7. An evidence based Practice Group has been formed and its aim is to act as a single focal point which will develop a Regional wide approach to gathering evidence to support future commissioning decisions. A priority area will be collecting patient/users experiences and outcomes.

### **Operational Developments**

8. Adult Services are co-coordinating a regional approach with regards to supporting people with learning difficulties who come into contact with the criminal justice system. We have met with senior representatives from Offender Health, Prison Services, Probation & other local authorities to look at how we can develop partnership working. The aim is also to develop a clear pathway that supports the individual as they come into contact with the criminal justice system and also how partners support them at the end of the process to hopefully reduce reoffending. We are planning a regional event for January/February 2010. This work will also link into some of the key recommendations of the Bradley Review.
9. The DLDLive website is now fully established and working well, this website is an adult learning disability website and is effectively utilised by service users and family carers.
10. Adult Learning Disability is involved in rewriting the Health Performance Assessment Framework at a national level.
11. The second Autism Visioning Day was held in October 2009. This day focussed around service users and family carers and the action plan agreed will build on the initial action plan and take this forward to ensure that planning for people on the AS will be fully inclusive.
12. A Team Manager has been recruited who will manage the Family Intervention Team. It is envisaged that the team will be fully operational by the New Year and they are working on a virtual basis currently taking referrals through Child Protection planning processes.
13. An independent evaluation of the New Opportunities Project has been completed and was commissioned by Adult Services to Inclusion North. The findings from the evaluation will be contained in 2 reports; both easy read versions and will be presented to the Learning

Disabilities Partnership Board in early 2010.

14. Work is due to start on the Accessible Changing Place within the Dolphin Centre and the launch of this will be early 2010.
15. The BME Charter across all care groups has been signed off by the Chief Executive. Each charter will be promoted at the partnership boards and will be taken forward operationally.
16. Adult Services have achieved a 4 star Excellent CQC inspection rating for the Supported Living facilities within Adult Learning Disability, this is for the fourth year running and they have also retained the Customer Services Excellence Award again for the fourth year running.
17. A first point of contact for carers has been established within the Access and Contact Team linking directly with the Carers Strategy to ensure that carers are specifically recognised within an initial contact function, to ensure that they get the information, advice and access that is needed.

### **Safeguarding Adults**

18. There are on-going developments within the safeguarding arena which include:-
  - (a) The Safeguarding Adults Team has a vacancy for a Team Manager which is being recruited to. An interim arrangement is in place until this is completed.
  - (b) Development of our Care First System in order that we can electronically record the safeguarding process and extract statistical information that will be used to inform future developments, and produce statutory returns.
  - (c) Development of an Action Plan that will address the outcomes from the Care Quality Commission inspection report.

### **Personalisation/Social Care Transformation**

19. The task of delivering social care transformation outlined in the Government document "Putting People First" continues. Developments since the last overview include:-
  - (a) The Programme Board has met twice. It now includes senior representation from all NHS partners. The Board has agreed that it will progress a number of projects that fall outside of the Putting People First programme, including formal integration between health and social care. The Board has been expanded to include representation from the local Foundation Trust and Public Health.

- (b) Version one of the supported self assessment is complete, plans are in place to test it with a small group of people currently using services. The assessment has been developed in partnership with a number of people who use services and their carers and will lead to the allocation of an indicative personal budget. The supported self assessment is a precursor to developing a model that will increasingly allow individuals to self assess for a number of social care supports.
- (c) The personal budget calculation work is currently being developed. The calculator is also known as the Resource Allocation System or RAS. The calculator will be tested along with the self assessment questionnaire initially on a small number of people who use services. The outcome is that individuals will know what their indicative social care budget is. This piece of work will also test the support planning process. A support plan will lay out how an individual intends to spend their personal allocation. The go live date for personal budgets remains April 2010.
- (d) A number of framing days have taken place to launch the work streams to develop and support the change programme. These include, Self Directed Support, Supporting the Market, Systems and Process and Communication and Workforce all have included wide representation including users and carers.
- (e) Framing days have been arranged to launch the remaining work streams, those of Partnerships and Prevention, Access Information and Support and Provider Services. All framing days will be complete by the end of November.
- (f) The overarching commissioning strategy is being updated and finalised. It is currently at the design stage.
- (g) Work has started on a number of commissioning strategies, including for people with a learning disability and for disabled people.
- (h) Work continues on the development of the social care website. GOLD have agreed to support development. They will, using a task and finish group contribute to the look of the site and advise on its content.
- (i) Work has started with NHS County Durham to develop a strategy to shift existing resource from acute care to support the early intervention and prevention agenda. This is a significant piece of work which it is planned to have completed by October 2010.

### **Lifeline Services – Assisted Living Innovation Platform (ALIP)**

20. The Technology Strategy Board (TSB) is a public body, which invests in technology research, development and commercialisation. The TSB currently funds a range of Innovation Platforms, one being the **ALIP**. Darlington Borough Council is a member of a consortium which has won funding to develop a new Telecare product. The funding will be used for trials, proof of concept and product development of the Council's proposition. *(Other members are Tynetec Ltd, Aid Call, Newcastle LA and Intrahealth (provider of services to NHS and PCTs)).*

21. As the system is developed over the next twelve months it will be able to monitor and highlight changes in the average daily activity pattern from those that have been learned, for example it could indicate:
  - (a) that the use of the kitchen has reduced; this may indicate that an individual is not eating well.
  - (b) that there is abnormal activity at night; this may indicate that the individual is suffering from disturbed sleep.
  - (c) that the daily medication has not been taken; this may be because it has been forgotten, or because the person is unwell.
  
22. Through this development we hope to provide:
  - (a) Reduced emergency health situations arising through the use of simple early warnings.
  - (b) Greater piece of mind for the users and relatives through a greater understanding of their health.
  - (c) Increased confidence and feeling of security for those living independently in their own homes.
  - (d) Clear demonstrable improved Quality of Life.
  
23. The funding secured gives the Council the technology to install in 100 properties (value approx 40k) and a further £35 k of funding over the 18 month period – approx 25k 2009/10 and 10k 2010/11 to participate in the project as a contribution to staff resources, attending meetings, consulting with the participants, etc. Lifeline Services are currently absorbing this work within their existing staff resources.

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