
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.

Safeguarding Adults

2. A Safeguarding Team Manager was appointed in December 2009, who is working with the Team on the action plan following the Inspection in August 2009.
3. Work has continued on the electronic data collection to ensure it will be able to capture the statistical data required.
4. The Mental Capacity Act Grant is being utilised appropriately to do some initial capacity build work within the Safeguarding Service, to allow the work required through Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards to continue. It has been acknowledged that the service still requires growth in terms of being able to meet demand within professional parameters.

Personalisation/Social Care Transformation

5. The task of delivering the transformation of adult social care as outlined in the Government document "Putting People First" continues. Developments since the last overview include:-
 - (a) Work has started with the NHS to develop the local prevention agenda. We have started a piece of work that has placed a Care Manager in the local Accident and Emergency service. The Care Managers role is to advise on possible alternatives to admission and begins to plan discharge on admission for older people. The outcome of this work is that older people will be supported to move from hospital back to their own homes rather than into residential care.
 - (b) Further modelling of the Personal Budget Calculator has taken to place to ensure that the points allocated will equate to existing resources. It is the calculator that lets an individual know what their personal budget will be.
 - (c) Work continues on ensuring that the general public are aware of the changes to adult social care. To this end an article has been written, which has been published in the latest edition of the "Town Crier". The article includes an interview with a resident of Darlington who currently has a direct payment and discusses her hopes for how the changes will improve her quality of life.

- (d) In addition an introductory leaflet outlining the changes to Adult Social Care, will shortly be sent to all individuals who receive social care support. This document has been developed with key stakeholders and has been “checked” through the GOLD readers group.
- (e) Training guides are currently being drafted to support the staff with the implementation of Self Directed Support. Plans are in place to train all staff who work in Adult Social Care about self directed support. There will be two types of training breadth and depth. Every member of staff will undertake breadth training and key individuals will undertake depth training.
- (f) All six framing days have now been completed and Project Initiation Documents (PIDs) have been approved by the Transformation Programme Board. Each project plan contains an action plan designed to deliver the change needed.
- (g) A further framing day that will look at key partnerships is being planned for April.
- (h) An easier read version of the overarching commissioning strategy has been finalised and is currently being printed.
- (i) Adult Social Care has in partnership with the North East Improvement and efficiency Partnership secured a piece of research that will look at a cost benefit analysis of Local Area Coordination in Darlington. Local Area Coordination is a model of community support that looks to support people closer to their community rather than looking towards the statutory services. The research will look at the viability of such a model in Darlington. The research will focus on the two wards of Mowden and Central. The finished report is to be ready for May 2010.
- (j) In partnership with a number of local providers we have secured some additional funding from the North East Improvement and Efficiency Partnership to support local innovation. Managers are working with a local residential care home and a GP surgery to undertake simple health checks.
- (k) Work continues on the development of the new Adult Social Care website. This is being developed in partnership with GOLD and support from the Learning Disability Web Group.

Gold Standard Framework

6. The Gold Standards Framework is a programme that Darlington Borough Council and Durham and NHS are very keen to adopt in terms of delivering improved care and support for people nearing the end of their lives. This programme delivers on many fronts, namely end of life care, dignity in care and dementia care, all of which sit with the actions on the End of Life Care Strategy (EOL) and the OPMH local strategies.
7. Durham and Darlington NHS have identified this within their actions from the EOL Care Strategy and put forward at the last Annual Operating Plan (AOP). It spells out the annual goals of the business, the revenue projections, the budgeting of costs and the allocation of resources in alignment with business goals, to secure funding in applying the programme within Nursing Homes in Durham and Darlington. Funding continues to be realised through the AOP.

8. The intention is to roll out the programme to domiciliary care providers and to eventually incorporate into our Contracts aligning these standards within our current standards framework.

Provider Development Innovation Fund via the North East Improvement and Efficiency Partnership

9. Two Care Home providers (Eden Cottage and The Gardens Care Home), Teesside University, Darlington GP Practices and Darlington Borough Council have been successful in being awarded funding via the NEIEP, to develop a prevention programme utilising assistive technology.
10. This is an innovative bid that demonstrates great partnership working and potentially huge financial returns for low investment. It is a clear opportunity to establish a case study which has regional and national significance. It supports the move from tele-care to tele-health.
11. The project will look to buy equipment which will monitor vital signs (blood pressure, weight and so on) of existing residents. The data provided will be shared with the service user's GP Practice, giving early warning signs of impending illness or identify complications arising with existing long-term conditions, thus cutting down on unnecessary GP visits and hospital admissions, reducing emergency admissions in particular.
12. This process will also assist day care service users to monitor their own general health and manage existing long term conditions much more effectively, reducing the number of social and health care visits required for service users in their own homes. It should therefore enable them to access activities provided in the care homes, reducing isolation and improving health and wellbeing. It will support older people to remain living independent in their own homes for much longer and will support carers in giving them reassurance. Providers will work with Teesside University, School of Health and Social Care to evaluate the outcomes and advise on the potential for rollout of the service to other providers across Darlington.
13. The outcomes of the partnership will be:-
 - (a) Greater liaison with NHS Darlington and GPs
 - (b) Reduction in emergency admissions
 - (c) Reduction in district nurse visits
 - (d) Reduction in care management visits
 - (e) Reduction in GP referrals
 - (f) Early detection of health problems
 - (g) Promotes and maintains independent living
 - (h) Promote choice and dignity
 - (i) Involvement of families, carers and advocates [especially for confused service users] with routine inclusion in decision making.

Older Persons Strategy

14. At the recent Older Persons Partnership Board meeting, a review of the action plan of the Strategy for Later Life was undertaken where it had identified that many of the actions had been completed. It was agreed that some of these actions need to be shared with the LSP in how they were progressed and the outcomes they achieved. Other actions were identified as being no longer relevant or no longer a priority.
15. It was agreed that greater emphasis was required in focusing on specific actions under each heading of the Sustainable Community Strategy which identifies real benefits within a whole systems approach for Darlington citizens. The overarching theme of 'Dignity in Care' and 'Early Intervention and Prevention' were areas identified that presented the greatest challenges and opportunities across the sector. A review of the Actions will be circulated to all stakeholders once the leads of the action plan have met and redesigned the action plan in light of the comments highlighted from the Review.

Councillor V Copeland
Cabinet Member with Portfolio for Adult Services