

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. CQC Inspector carried out a follow up visit on 19th April, to discuss the progress that has been made against the recommendation contained within the Inspection Report presented to Cabinet in December 2009.
3. Work has continued within the Safeguarding Section to address the recommendations in the report.
4. The inspection action plan update was signed off at the meeting and passed over to the CQC Area Business Manager for ongoing review.

Operational Developments

5. The Family Intervention Team is now operational, all personnel are in post and the Team Manager commenced employment February 2010. The team are working on referral pathways and their operational policy. Their focus will be working in a whole system way with families where there is significant issues relating to substance misuse, mental ill health, offending behaviour which affects the success and outcomes for the family unit.
6. Work is complete on the Accessible Changing Spaces at the Dolphin Centre. This is a joint initiative between Children's Services, Adult Services and Cultural Services. It is in-line with Valuing People Now and a launch will be arranged.
7. The Green Light initiative is being undertaken and is now a joint initiative with colleagues in County Durham. The Learning Disability and Mental Health Services are engaged within this process and the improved outcomes for clients will be access to mainstream mental health services for adults with a learning disability. The initial scoping was funded by the PCT and TEWV in-patient services are also engaged within this pathway.
8. The Dementia Collaborative is work in progress which is gaining momentum. The collaborative is underpinned by LEAN methodology and is project managed by a TEWV project manager. To date one Rapid Process Improvement Workshop has been held with key members of staff who are looking at the barriers within the pathway to ensure that people with a diagnosis of dementia move seamlessly into the correct services. This information is being collated and has been fed back to the four Chief Executives.

Personalisation/Social Care Transformation

9. 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) A Joint Strategic Commissioning Steering Group has been developed with NHS partners. The task of the group is progress a number of strategic commissioning projects and develop more effective partnership working. The initial group agreed four key priorities for achieving in 2010: support for those with dementia, supporting prevention, older people and developing intermediate care.
 - (b) Further modelling of the Personal Budget Calculator continues to take 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. A working calculator will be in place by 4 May 2010.
 - (c) Work continues on ensuring that the general public are aware of the changes to adult social care and how personalisation is being developed. Each current user of adult social care has received a letter along with an explanatory leaflet outlining planned changes to Adult Social Care.
 - (d) Three Social Care Teams have been trained in the use of the new paperwork designed to facilitate greater choice and control. They are able to offer a personal budget using existing processes, until the Resource Allocation System is fully trialled and then agreed by Cabinet. There is also a plan in place to train every member of adult social care staff.
 - (e) A further framing day that will look at key partnerships is being planned for June.
 - (f) 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 Co-ordination in Darlington. Local Area Co-ordination 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 Central and Mowden. The finished report is to be ready for July 2010. The initial work has started on this and an event is planned for 21 May to progress ideas locally.
 - (g) The development of the new Adult Social Care website is almost complete and is now available. This has been developed in partnership with GOLD and support from the Learning Disability Web Group.
 - (h) Work is currently under way to secure some additional support to ensure that those people who currently use services and family carers have a bigger say in the transformation agenda. A specification has been written and we are seeking expressions of interest from organisations who are skilled in including and supporting those who use services to have a voice and contribute to future service provision.

Reablement

10. Reablement focuses on maximising people's long-term independence, choice and quality of life, while at the same time attempting to minimise the requirement for ongoing support. To achieve these goals, a project has commenced which will seek to reduce the whole-life cost of support, by applying resources at the early stages of a service user's recovery process in an attempt to support independent living and delay or reduce the need for ongoing support.
11. The aim of the project is to implement a short term community based reablement scheme in Darlington with the Independent Sector. The scheme will provide services for people with declining physical and/or mental health to foster well being by helping them to accommodate their condition by learning or relearning the skills necessary for all the activities of daily living and by regaining the confidence to perform these skills.
12. The objectives of the scheme are to improve outcomes for service users, to promote service users' independence and to increase the potential for regaining and sustaining skills.
13. The reablement scheme is a part of the Putting People First approach towards social care provision, and comes within the overarching policy on self-directed support (SDS), sharing the same goal of promoting the independence, health and wellbeing of service users, while improving the choice and control of support offered to service users.
14. This initiative is being supported by the North East Regional Improvement Programme who have targeted funding for additional capacity building to support three priority Councils (Darlington, Durham and Redcar and Cleveland). Social Work Co-operative was successful in being awarded this bid and will work closely with the Project Group. In addition the NERIEP have commissioned a company OPM to provide training and development toolkit for first tier managers and practitioners across the region with targeted investment into the three priority Councils. I have set up training in April 2010 with the Independent sector, Homecare Providers and our In-house homecare teams. Further training will be scheduled for social care practitioners, up to first tier managers.
15. Darlington is undertaking a 'mini tender' with the independent sector within the Framework Agreement we have with the 11 Homecare Providers' that we commission with. The training scheduled will begin the procurement exercise by giving Homecare providers information on what is expected in providing a reablement service and how their businesses can be shaped to potentially bid for the service, which will ultimately lead to obtaining expressions of interest.

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Cabinet Member with Portfolio for Adult Services