
OVERVIEW OF ADULT SERVICES PORTFOLIO

Purpose of the Report

1. To inform and update Council of progress with Adult Social Care since the last meeting of Council. The following are the main areas of work under the Portfolio Holder for Adult Services.

Strategic Commissioning

2. The Strategic Commissioning Steering Group continues to meet on a regular basis. The commissioning group now has representation from health, social care and the local practice based commissioning group. All have agreed that further developing and commissioning intermediate tier services for Darlington are a priority.
3. The Adults Transformation Programme “The Customer Journey” has been revised within the overarching framework of the Corporate Transformation Programme. Projects have been developed to align with strategies and incorporate the aspirations of transformation and need to make efficiency savings. The delivering the transformation of Adult Social Care as outlined in the Government document “Putting People First” continues and has been subsumed into the broader programme of change. Projects include:
 - (a) **Access to Universal Information Advice and Support** - the project will maximise use of Council resources to ensure that signposting and information posts are robust and the information is consistent enabling local citizens to access advice, information and support they need to make their own decisions about meeting the health and social care needs.
 - (b) **Prevention and early intervention** - this looks at ensuring that a focus on supporting early intervention and prevention remains at the heart of delivering effective adult social care and includes mainstreaming use of telecare.
 - (c) **Intermediate Care** - joint development of a pathway and outcomes for service users. Adults specifically focusing on developing the re-ablement service.
 - (d) **Long term care** - ensuring personalisation is embedded to meet long term care needs. Reviewing a number of service area for day opportunities and alternatives to traditional support. The above projects will support a redesign of adult social care processes and proposed changes to the eligibility criteria leading to anticipated savings in the community care budget.
 - (e) **Supporting the Market** - to ensure that the social care services that local people want are available at a price that is good value. Link to crosscutting organisational

development programmes.

Mental Health Day Opportunities

4. Mental Health Day Opportunities project continues to review the spectrum of day support needs in preparation to procure services to meet person centred needs in the future. Service users are being asked to review the current service supported by LINKs. A stakeholder event was held on 19 October and a provider day on 4 November (current and potential providers), information gathered will inform the service specifications.

Older Persons Strategy for Later Life

5. The service review conducted on Older Peoples Day Services, including Bathing and Patient Advice and Liaison Services (PALS) will be reporting in early November and making recommendations for future services which will meet the aims of personalisation, offering choice, flexibility and promoting independence. GOLD are contributing to the review by gaining service user views and an impact assessment is being conducted.

Safeguarding Adults

6. Work is continuing to progress within the Safeguarding Section regarding recommendations from last year's Inspection by the Care Quality Commission. The first meeting of the sub groups took place on 16 October 2010. Each sub group has an identified lead officer who will feed back directly to the Safeguarding Adults Board. The sub groups identified were: Communications; Training; Quality and Performance; Policy and Implementation.

Budget Pressure

7. The development of personalised services and a greater focus on prevention and independence presents opportunities to provide more efficient and effective services with improved outcomes. More effective methods of supporting independence and reducing the need for long term support are being developed, for example, which will help to ensure that the most vulnerable people in Darlington are protected despite the current pressures on budgets.

Operational Developments

8. The Consultation within Learning Disabilities services continues until the end of October. This phase of the consultation is concentrating on some of the key themes that have come out of the first phase. A number of sessions were held in October which looked in detail at a number of options which will form the recommendations within the Cabinet report to be presented in December.
9. Planning for the restructure of the Adult Operational Teams has commenced and workshops were held in October and November involving Service Managers, Team Managers, Principal Practitioners, Care Managers and other staff. The new structure will improve the customer pathway and will ensure that the Council are using the skills and expertise of staff resource to the very best.

10. The Department of Health has recently produced new guidance for Councils on how they should calculate a person's contribution towards the cost of their non-residential Adult Social Care support and services, for example, home care, day care, bathing service. The guidance is called "Fairer Contributions". The Council sent letters to those clients who may be affected by the changes. The policy was implemented from 18 October 2010.

GOLD

11. The Tea Dance was held on 10 August and over 500 people attended the event. A number of local businesses provided sponsorship support and the YMCA 'V' involved group supported GOLD on the day, which helped to further embed the inter-generational work taking place. Evaluation showed that people had accessed services that would improve their quality of life specifically because of the input from the variety of information stands.
12. GOLD also held a Positive Health day on the 6 October enabling 90 taster sessions for alternative therapies to be undertaken as well as more traditional health checks including blood pressure and input from the Falls Service to prevent ill health.
13. GOLD is currently involved in consultation regarding community pharmacies and day care services. This will inform the service reviews currently taking place within both health and social care.
14. The Older Persons PACT is continuing to work well and has resulted in a number of issues raised by residents being addressed including speed of traffic and litter due to black bags being put out early.

Councillor V Copeland
Cabinet Member with Portfolio for Adult Services