
OVERVIEW OF ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND HOUSING PORTFOLIO

Purpose of the Report

1. To inform and update Members on progress within Adult Social Care and Housing since the last meeting of Council. The following are the main areas of work under the Portfolio for Adult Social Care and Housing.

Adult Social Care –Strategic Commissioning

2. A tender exercise is currently underway for consolidated advocacy services. This includes priority for Independent Mental Health Advocacy (transferred responsibility from the Primary Care Trust), Independent Mental Capacity Advocacy and Responsible Persons Representative. General advocacy will also be provided within this contract.
3. A consultation and Equality Impact Assessment is in progress on the delivery of care within Extra Care Housing.
4. A consultation and Equality Impact Assessment has also been undertaken in respect of re-contracting for Domiciliary Care and Housing Related Support for people with a Learning Disability. The current Framework Agreements expire on 30 September 2013. The proposal is to consolidate into one contract with a standard and an enhanced fee rate based on the complexity of individuals' needs. A report will be submitted to Cabinet for consideration on 5 March 2013.
5. A joint Carers Strategy is also in the process of approval with the Shadow Clinical Commissioning Group. Proposals have been put forward to provide a joint Carers Support Service which will be re-contracted in 2013.
6. A new Improvement Collaborative for Long Term Conditions is being led by the four Chief Officers of Statutory Health and Social Care in Darlington. This will carry forward from the learning of the dementia collaborative and be based on improving quality and value for money. The first phase is to ask people with long term conditions about their experience and contacts with health and social care. An impartial organisation has been contracted to undertake the initial work.

Adult Social Care – Operational Developments

7. A further management restructure of Adult Social Care is currently being considered. The restructure will consider the safe delivery of Adult Social Care services for vulnerable people.
8. Award Nomination - as previously highlighted, the RIACT service has been nominated for a national award through the LGA. We are delighted at this nomination. This service is a Health and Local Authority joint service with a shared manager post.

Safeguarding Adults

9. We remain involved in two Executive Strategies with regard to local care home providers. Both providers are engaging with the partner agencies and working towards the Executive Strategy process being completed.
10. We are also working closely with the Police, Health and the Care Quality Commission regarding a local private hospital.

Housing Services - Cockerton

11. The first phase of demolition at Cockerton is now complete with the second and final phases to be completed by February 2013. A planning application has been submitted for consideration to re-provide 60 new homes for rent and up to 24 new homes for market sale due to be completed by July 2014 on the cleared areas alongside new enhanced open space areas. Dunelm Property Services will be building the new homes, with the new rented homes owned and managed by Endeavour Housing Association subject to Cabinet approval of the Development Agreement in February 2013. The next phase of the improvement works will be to consider how best to improve the existing Nickstream Lane shopping area, examining options with the local community and existing leaseholders. The first community newsletter was issued in December 2012 with the second published this month to keep everyone informed of progress.

GOLD

12. Volunteers will finish visits to care homes taking part in the National Gold Standards Framework training. The results of all their work will be written up into reports and circulated as agreed later in the year. There will be an overview report that will be publically available and any issues arising will be picked up through discussion with individual homes.
13. Volunteers have developed training for older people themselves to deliver training to care staff on Dignity in Care. GOLD has applied to get this training accredited so it counts towards a qualification for the volunteers. GOLD has already recruited volunteers but need more, they will be given training on 'becoming a trainer' if they don't already have this.

14. The GOLD Christmas party took place on 8 December and over 150 older people attended. The party had a great atmosphere, great music and good food and all sorts of people came, including some who say they don't go out often and feel quite isolated. Members raised their own funds for the party by holding market stalls etc and they organised it and did all the hard work on the day.
15. I attended the GOLD Christmas party and thank the members of GOLD for all their hard work and thank the band for providing the entertainment.
16. I have also attended the following meetings/events :-
 - (a) 30 November 2012 – Young Carers Conference
 - (b) 3 December 2012 – Learning Disability Network
 - (c) 4 December 2012 – Health and Well Being Board
 - (d) 8 December 2012 – GOLD Christmas Party
 - (e) 11 December 2012 – GOLD Focus Group
 - (f) 12 December 2012 – I chaired the meeting of DAWN (Darlington Aging Well Network) and received an update on the Dementia Collaborative
 - (g) 19 December 2012 – County Durham and Darlington Foundation Trust Governors
 - (h) 8 January 2013 – GOLD Focus Group
 - (i) 10 January 2013 – I attended the opening of Memory Lane Café at Age UK Darlington
 - (j) 17 January 2013 – visit to Abbeyfield, Darlington
 - (k) 18 January 2013 – Adult Safeguarding Board
 - (l) 25 January 2013 – I attended the Darlington Assembly dealing with the Welfare Reforms

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