
OVERVIEW OF ADULT SERVICES PORTFOLIO

Purpose of Report

1. Since the last meeting of Council, the following are the main areas of work under the Portfolio Holder for Adult Services.

Care Services Efficiency Delivery (CSED)

2. The exercise of process mapping within care management to seek efficiencies continues to progress. The action plan in respect of medium and long term goals is being implemented. The success of this process has been shared with other staff in Adult Social Care and is currently being rolled out to the in-house Homecare Service where again it has been very much welcomed, and some of the early benefits have been observed to be:
 - (a) Raising staff moral
 - (b) Removing duplication in and volume of paperwork
 - (c) Clarity of roles and responsibilities
 - (d) Developing more effective practices/protocols with other teams the interface with.

Assistive Technology

3. Training for all staff within Older and Disabled Teams has been completed in respect of Assistive Technology in the demonstration flat at Rosemary Court. In the flat staff are able to see in use, pieces of equipment such as fall monitors, and door entry systems which can support people to remain in their own homes. The training will continue to be rolled out to all Adult Social Care staff, our health colleagues, the voluntary sector and domiciliary providers from the independent sector.
4. A project initiation document has been completed for Assistive Technology to ensure the effective mainstreaming of the service.

Home Care

5. The Draft report on the Homecare Strategy was taken to the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny meeting of 14 April 2008.

Older Persons Strategy

6. The Older Persons Strategy was launched under a "Talking Together Event" at the Dolphin Centre on 22 April 2008.
7. The three themes where Adult Social Care will have a direct impact in bringing about changes identified in the action plan, are:

- (a) Valuing older people
- (b) Improving access to information
- (c) Improving health and well-being

Older Persons Mental Health Strategy

- 8. The Older Persons Mental Health Strategy has been drafted underlining national objectives and challenges, mapping current services and current practices that are identified as models of good practice, and detailing the future direction of travel based on the above. On 22 April 2008, a Listening Event was set up on “Joint Action for Older People who have a Mental Health Problem”. A number of relevant stakeholders will attend to outline current good practice and where there are gaps in the service in light of the Government Agenda.

Learning Disabilities

- 9. Person Centred Planning mini team established within the service comprising of three members of staff to ensure consistency of approach and implementation on a service wide basis.
- 10. New providers being stimulated in terms of modern approaches to commissioning and two providers coming on line on a spot purchase basis to provide specialist provision in the field of forensic learning disability and autism specific approaches to person centred care.
- 11. Meetings being held with Cultural Senior Managers in terms of accessing enhanced employment and training opportunities across the wider Council structure.
- 12. One service user being funded and supported to under go leadership training with Inclusion North, he is the co chair of the LD partnership board.
- 13. Closure/de-commissioning of Woodlands Terrace, planned for May 2008.
- 14. On going work with health colleagues around the closure of the NHS campus sites at Tyne Tees, Wear and Struan.
- 15. Autism Visioning Day planned for late June 2008 in collaboration with Durham County Council as part of their role within the North East Autism Consortium.

Mental Health

- 16. On going work around the implementation of the amendments to the Mental Health Act 1983 and Deprivation of Liberties, strategic and working groups in place on a trust wide basis.
- 17. Allocation of Mental Health Capital Grant awarded to a number of third sector organisations to improve outcomes for clients on the basis of individualisation and modern approaches to service delivery. At least one of these initiatives is wholly client led.
- 18. NSF6 steering group continues to monitor the work of the two carer support workers with an ambitious action plan in terms of meeting the needs of carers within the mental health arena.

19. Autumn assessment taking place, current position is that the self assessment has been undertaken and the service mapping is currently underway.

Substance Misuse

20. Senior Practitioner Post advertised and short listing completed. Interviews to be held in May 2008 to enable the specialist alcohol service to be progressed. The base will be Blacketts Health Centre and this will be a service based on social models but incorporating medicine, nursing and therapies.

Safeguarding Adults

21. The Lead Officers Group for safeguarding met on 31 March and as a result several joint initiatives are planned with health colleagues and in liaison with Durham Adult Social Care and Health Department.

Ongoing Refurbishment of Sheltered Housing

22. As part of Housing Services upgrade of facilities in Sheltered Housing, Rockwell House guest bedroom and library have been refurbished and Roxby Court lounge furniture has been replaced. Tenants have been fully involved in the choice of decoration and furniture. The new sheltered housing scheme at Linden Court continues to progress and is due for completion in July. The returning tenants were given a tour of the building recently. They were able to look at the layout of the communal facilities and go into their flats. Everyone was pleased with the building and commented on how much bigger the flats were when compared to the old building. During the rebuilding programme the tenants have met regularly for social events so that they remain in contact. The demolition and rebuilding of Dinsdale Court will commence as soon as Linden Court is complete. All of the tenants have been visited and their re-housing options discussed. Some tenants have already started to move and are being supported to do this by the Tenant Liaison Officers. The tenants have had an opportunity to comment on the design and layout of the new building and the design was changed to reflect their comments

Engagements

23. The Portfolio Holder has undertaken the following:
 - (a) 7 April – Learning Disability Partnership Board
 - (b) 22 April – Older People’s Strategy Launch
 - (c) Briefing Meetings with the Director of Community Services

Cabinet Member with Portfolio for Adult Services