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**OVERVIEW OF ADULT SERVICES PORTFOLIO**

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**Purpose of the Report**

1. To inform and update Members on progress within 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 Framework Agreement for Mental Health Day Opportunities was considered by Cabinet on 5 April 2011. An outcome based service specification has been developed following stakeholder consultation and service reviews. The procurement process also includes a number of Supporting People services.
3. On 14 March 2011, a market event was held in the Dolphin Centre as part of the ongoing work to modernise in house day opportunities for people with a learning disability. The event was developed in response to people with a learning disability and their family carers asking what alternatives to in house services were there on which they could spend a personal budget. The event was attended by more than 150 people and involved 15 local service providers.
4. A project commenced earlier this month with NHS partners which will review the existing Lifeline and Telecare functions in order to fully mainstream these services in Darlington. Lifeline and Telecare has the ability to support many older and vulnerable people to remain in their own homes, remain healthy and safe and have as much control of their own lives as possible. The review will ensure there is a robust, fair and equitable service across the Borough. This will be taken forward by a Darlington Telecare Strategy and Action Plan being implemented throughout 2011/12.

**Safeguarding Adults**

5. Work is continuing with regards to the Communications; Training; Quality and Performance; Policy and Implementation Sub Groups. In addition, work is progressing on the development of thresholds for the purpose of how safeguarding alerts will be managed.
6. Work is also continuing on the integration of the Adults and Children's Safeguarding Team. The Safeguarding Adults Team is very closely linked to the restructure of the Adult Operational Teams. Integration of the teams is planned for the end of April.
7. The Council have also taken part in a two week campaign named 'See It, Report It Campaign' to raise the profile of safeguarding adults and to encourage the reporting of neglect and abuse. This started on 14 March for a two week period on 'Real Radio'.

## Operational Developments

8. **Learning Disability Services** – The plans to bring the Children and Adult Learning Disability Service together is progressing well. Vacancies have been advertised for the posts to support the new structure and interviews will be held very soon. Work continues in terms of accommodation for the integrated service with options being considered. Once appointments have been made, the total number of staff across the integrated Children and Adults service will be approximately 60.
9. **The Grange** – Alternative day opportunities have been identified for the 15 clients who attend The Grange Day Service following the notice by the landlord. These placements are within in-house services and are an interim position until all of the work has been undertaken with regard to the report on Modernising Day and Employment Services which will be submitted to Cabinet in early summer. Clients have moved in small friendship groups and members of the staff team from The Grange has moved with specific client groups to support the placements and ensure as good a transition from The Grange as possible.
10. **Adult Operational Restructure** – Work is continuing with regard to the restructure with the proposed structure going out to staff in order that they can make their preference as to which area they would like to work within. Links are being made across People with specific areas – Single Point of Access, Care First, Administration Support being looked at across Children and Adult Services. This links to the Corporate Transformation Programme.

## GOLD

11. A Celebration Event took place on 29 March 2011 which looked back at the past year and incorporated discussion by GOLD members about the workplan for the coming year. These ideas will be prioritised together with outcomes required by the funders including support for service review work in adult care.
12. Consultation on planning policy also took place with an event held on 28 February 2011 to examine the Accommodating Growth Development Plan Document to ensure older people had a say on the future of Darlington.
13. Work has commenced on the implementation of the Gold Standards Framework. It is a national training scheme which aims to ensure that people have the best care possible when they near the end of their life. This will include visits by trained GOLD members - who have enhanced CRB checks going into care homes to look at the way people are cared for before implementation of training and then a post-training visit to evaluate how the care improves.
14. GOLD supported the re-launch of the Older Persons PACT in the Market Square in Darlington on 15 March 2011. The PACT enables the Council and Police to understand the concerns of older people relating to community safety and anti-social behaviour and to take action to address these issues in partnership.

## **Darlington Dementia Collaborative**

15. Council, Hospital Trust staff and other key stakeholders worked together to plan and deliver a week-long rapid process improvement workshop in late March. The workshop had two aims:-
- (a) To reduce unnecessary attendances and admissions to Darlington Memorial Hospital's A&E department from local nursing and residential homes;
  - (b) To improve the experience of patients over 75 who attend A&E.

Significant changes to the way that the Hospital, Council, Care Homes, GP's and Ambulance staff operate were trialled during the week and will lead to measurable improvements for those people using A&E.

## **Scrutiny Reports to Cabinet**

16. Cabinet has received the following reports:
- (a) **North East Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Review of the Health of the Ex-Service Community.** The report was considered under my portfolio and the Health and Leisure portfolio. We approved the recommendations contained within the report which we hope will raise the awareness of the issue affecting ex-service personnel and improve the support and range of services available and promote and improve accessibility to existing support services. I have also been appointed as member champion for the ex-service community.
  - (b) **Personal Budgets Task and Finish Review Group – Final Report.** We have accepted the recommendations of the Personal Budgets Task and Finish Review Group and asked Services for People to action the outstanding recommendations. We hope that the recommendations will enhance the current model of self-directed support.
  - (c) **Framework Agreement – Day Opportunities for Adults and older people with mental health needs** – We have approved the procurement strategy for the proposed Framework Agreement to provide day opportunities for those adults and older people with mental health problems. This will enable us to meet local and national drivers for the development of day opportunities and provides a sound platform for future service/support design that is in line with the personalisation agenda and looks to secure value for money.

**Councillor Veronica Copeland**  
**Cabinet Member with Portfolio for Adult Services**