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**OVERVIEW OF ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND HOUSING PORTFOLIO**

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**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 Services and Housing.

**Adult Social Care –Strategic Commissioning**

2. **In house provision for Learning Disability** - A review is being carried out at Nubeck Nursery to consider future options for re-providing the support; this may include greater use of Direct Payments to access other community activity.
3. **Residential Care Contract** - The current Framework contract ends in March 2013. Work has been continuing to develop revised quality indicators and initial workshops have been held with providers.
4. **Supporting People** - Negotiations took place before the end of March in order to achieve savings on the contracts. Where providers offered a saving, risk and impact assessments were carried out to ensure that potential savings would not have an adverse affect on people being supported. A significant saving has been achieved and the providers have been very supportive of the Council in achieving these.
5. **Day Opportunities Older People and Physically Disabled People** - Three framework contracts have been awarded for Older People day opportunities. The day service for physical disabilities will be decommissioned in June as people are transferred on to Direct Payments.
6. **Dementia Collaborative** - The collaborative has been formally closed but won a Best of Darlington Award for “Putting Darlington on the Map”. A new role of Dementia Advisor was developed through the collaborative to co-ordinate community support for people and their family and carers. It will be provided by a voluntary sector organisation and funded from an allocation of £25k to support the Dementia Strategy in the first year and Tees Esk and Wear Valley Trust for a second year.
7. **Lead Members Networking Event** – There was a Lead Members Networking event for Adult Social Care held in Darlington on 27th April, 2012 that I attended.

**Adult Social Care -Operational Developments**

8. **Changes to Eligibility Criteria** - Work is continuing to reflect legal advice. A group has been set up and it will work through the changes which may be required to the Assessment and recording process within Adult Social Care. It is anticipated that a further consultation event will be held in the next few weeks. This will be for a period of six weeks and a

further report will go to Cabinet in the Summer.

9. **Intermediate Care and Reablement** - The interview took place in April 2012 for the appointment of the Intermediate Care/Reablement Coordinator. This is a jointly funded post with Health and will be for at least one year. Following this appointment the plan is to move the Reablement staff from Central House to be based with the health intermediate care team at Hundens Lane. This will produce many positives in terms of staff with a range of skills and expertise who will work from the single point of access. Updates have been held with local GP's regarding the Responsive Integrated Assessment Care Team (RIACT).

### **Safeguarding Adults**

10. We remain in Executive Strategy with regard to a Local Provider, who we have been working closely with over the last nine months. The multi agency team remain focussed on working with this provider to ensure the quality and safety of all of the residents and a positive outcome.

### **Growing Older Living in Darlington**

11. GOLD has now finalised the Gold Standards Framework (GSF) reports that will provide the local authority and residential care providers with a baseline against the GSF criteria. This has involved seven trained volunteers going into six residential homes and undertaking interviews with residents, their family members, management, members of staff and observation sessions. This will be repeated annually through the three year GSF training programme to evaluate the benefits of the training and how well it has been implemented. The GOLD annual report is now available and I attended their Annual General Meeting.

### **Housing Services**

12. **Housing Investment** – Significant housing investment has been made in the Council's housing stock including:
  - (a) Regeneration and Remodelling of Parkside at around £3.5m. Properties have been extensively improved both internally and externally with new kitchens, bathrooms, and doors. External landscaping has taken place including new fencing, lighting and verge hardening which has improved the safety and security of the area. Sixty two small unpopular flats have been converted into much needed three bedrooomed family homes.
  - (b) The sheltered housing scheme at Rockwell House in the Springfield area has been remodelled and upgraded at over £2.3m. All the flats have benefitted from new kitchens, bathrooms, level access bathing, rewiring, modern heating systems and new Telecare equipment. A key focal point is the new entrance which is much larger and together with the provision of powered doors throughout and a wheelchair store makes the building much more accessible for people with disabilities or increasing frailty. External areas have been landscaped with designated recreational areas and additional seating.
  - (c) The sheltered housing scheme at Ted Fletcher Court in the Haughton area is of a relatively modern design and has been refurbished throughout at round £1m. All of the flats have benefitted from new kitchens, bathrooms and level access bathing with rewiring as necessary. Communal areas have been improved and remodelled to create an additional flat, larger, more accessible guest room facilities, wheelchair store and

larger laundry area to reflect feedback from residents.

(d) Over £2m has been spent on internal planned maintenance to over 300 Council homes at various locations including: North Road, Bank Top, Cockerton, Haughton, Firthmoor and the Town Centre area.

(e) A further £1m has been spent on new heating systems adaptations to individual homes to help support older and disabled people live independently in the community, and also garage improvements.

13. **Tenants Board Annual General Meeting 25 April 2012** - I attended the Tenants Board AGM which was held in St Cuthbert's Church Hall. The AGM had been organised by the Tenants Board and the theme this year was looking back at Council housing over the years. Tenants were invited to share their old photographs and there was a display of these and pictures from Officers of some of our newer developments. The Tenants Board had extended invitations entitled 'Tenant Board – Can we Help' to every tenant. There were prize draws and information stands, including Lifeline Services, Welfare Rights, Darlington Credit Union, Streetscene, Police and Neighbourhood Watch.

**Councillor V Copeland**  
**Cabinet Member with Portfolio for Adult Social Care and Housing**