
OVERVIEW OF ADULTS AND HOUSING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

At our meeting held on 8th November, 2011, we received a comprehensive overview of Adult Social Care with particular emphasis made in relation to the Mental Health Strategy and day services, the Older People's Strategy and operational update across all service areas.

We also considered the draft Learning Disability Strategy 2012-2015, which has been developed in partnership with County Durham and Darlington NHS and looks to identify a common framework under which specialist commissioning for children, young people and adults with learning disability and their families and carers will take place and a model for supporting people to get the support they require through their own resources and universal services. The strategy identified 11 broad outcomes which were developed through the Children and Young Peoples Plan and the Valuing People Partnership Board and will be delivered through a range of emerging plans.

Following the presentation we then gave consideration to and discussed our proposed work programme for the remainder of the Municipal Year and, in doing so, we have taken into account the reduced resources available within the Authority and ensured that, in recommending our work programme to Monitoring and Co-ordination Group, that any work we undertake will have demonstrable outcomes and contribute to the work of the Council and its strategic aims and objectives. The Committee identified a number of topics that they would like to do further work on and terms of reference will be developed and submitted to the next meeting of our Scrutiny Committee.

In addition to this, we discussed the proposed terms of reference for the Housing Benefit Reforms Review Group, which have been agreed and a briefing session for all members will be arranged on this topic.

Since the last meeting of Council, I have attended the following meetings :-

- (a) Various briefings with Assistant Directors.
- (b) On 20th October attended Ageing Well Forum in Darlington.
- (c) On 31st October attended Monitoring and Co-ordination Group.
- (d) On 3rd November attended Older Persons Partnership Board.
- (e) On 7th November attended Ageing Well Regional Forum.

Councillor Bryan Thistlethwaite
Chair of Adults and Housing Scrutiny Committee