
OVERVIEW OF ADULTS AND HOUSING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

1. Since the last meeting of the Council, the following are the main areas of work the Adults and Housing Scrutiny Committee has undertaken :-

- (a) **Residential/Nursing Care Arrangements** – We received an informative presentation from the Head of Strategic Commissioning and Health Partnerships on the present residential/nursing care arrangements that are due to end on 31st March, 2013, and are currently being consulted on with our contracted residential care providers to review their agreements, including fee levels. The consultation on quality standards and cost of care is open to all residential care providers with a current contract in Darlington and will run until July initially. The results of the consultation, together with other available information would be used to make recommendations regarding the fees to be paid to residential care home providers from the beginning of April 2013. We were informed of the fourteen Quality Standards, which were graded and linked to the environmental standards and fee levels for each of the twenty two care homes signed into the current agreement and also the potential major risks for this Authority on the arrangements. We have requested further update in November on the arrangements and how it links with health sector which links into the work that we will be undertaking in relation to Nutrition in Care Homes.
- (b) **Darlington Safeguarding Adults Board** – We received a comprehensive overview on Darlington Safeguarding Adults Board and its functions and also the roles and responsibilities of this Authority within the Board. We were informed of the Board’s key recommendations that were devised by the Care Quality Commission at the Local Authority Safeguarding Inspection in August, 2009, and it was pleasing to note that at the Inspection Progress Review held in April, 2010 all of the recommendations had been achieved. We felt that the action plans and services that had been devised by this Authority met and improved the standards expected in relation to prevention and protection of vulnerable adults and were particularly pleased to note that we compared well against national statistical profile with ninety per cent of cases being closed, and all required information being complied against each case.
- (c) **Work Programme** - We have given consideration to the Work Programme for this Committee and possible review topics and in doing so, we have taken into account the reduced resources available 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.

Councillor Bryan Thistlethwaite
Chair of Adults and Housing Scrutiny Committee