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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 Social Care and Housing.

**Adult Social Care –Strategic Commissioning**

2. The Council is, in partnership with the County Durham and Darlington Clinical Commissioning Groups and Durham County Council, developing a Dementia Strategy for the years 2014-2017. Consultation on the Strategy has been supported by Darlington Healthwatch and has included a public meeting and a drop in session which was held in Darlington on 13 and 14 May 2014. The Strategy aims to build upon the existing services available to support people with dementia and their carers. It also aims to improve diagnosis rates, review medication for those with dementia and to set up a directory of all information that people with dementia and their carers need to know. In addition, the first Dementia Health Needs Assessment will be carried out across County Durham and Darlington during 2014/15.
3. The Tender for Residential Care for Disabled Adults has been re-issued. This was as a consequence of a clarification question that could have impacted on the contract. The issue was in relation to ensuring that people could remain where they were in residential care past their 66<sup>th</sup> Birthday. There is no adverse impact as a result of this re-issue.
4. The Council, in partnership with the CCG, have recently consulted on the draft plan to deliver locally the outcomes set out in the national Mental Health Strategy – ‘No health without mental health’. This included a public event held on 13 June, 2014. Detail of the consultation will be included in the next progress report.

**Adult Social Care – Operational Developments**

5. People Services are undertaking a review of its current model of supported living for adults with a learning disability. The review will involve a systematic look at how accommodation and support is commissioned and make recommendations for the future. These recommendations will include the use of assistive technology in supporting independence and reducing costs. The work will also include the development of a future housing needs matrix that will feed future accommodation requirements into the Council’s Housing Strategy. A consequence of the review

may well be that people are supported to move into accommodation that is appropriate to their needs. Funding has been secured from the Local Government Association (LGA) as part of its adult social care efficiency programme; this will allow us access to £20,000 to secure an external consultant to assist with this project. This will be procured within the next month.

6. A report was presented to the Chief Officers Executive in May which outlined the implications of the Care Act 2014 and a proposed implementation plan, potential resource implications of implementing the legislation and where this may impact on the £3m savings target for Adult Social Care outlined in the MTFP. An Adult Social Care Lead is working in partnership with the identified Lead in the Organisational Planning Unit to project manage the implementation process. In addition, we are working with Regional ADASS leads who are providing support on key areas. A rapid piece of work was completed based on the 'Surrey Model' which was recommended by the LGA for Councils preparing for the Care Act 2014. The 'Care Act Implementation Tracker' for Darlington outlines the clauses and potential impact, with RAG ratings currently of Red 12, Amber 20, Green 44. Links have also been made to other projects e.g. Integration with Health.
7. A 'Scoping Session' was held on 3 June, with representation from Adult Social Care, Finance, Housing, Human Resources, Legal and Training and Development. The aim was to provide an overview of the implications of the Act and the key implementation dates. Following this session four work streams have been agreed:-
  - (a) Prevention, Housing, Information, Advice and Advocacy;
  - (b) Finance – Paying for Care and Charging for Care;
  - (c) Care Management, Care Planning and Personalisation, Assessment and Eligibility; and
  - (d) Care Markets.
8. The work streams will be responsible for delivering the requirements of the Act, with support from the Adult Social Care lead and the Organisation Planning Unit lead. The 'Draft Guidance' on the Care Act 2014 has been released for consultation and we are currently working on this.
9. Managing Cost of Care Programme – This is a programme of small to medium sized projects and process reviews all of which will contribute both individually and in a complementary manner to deliver efficiency savings across Adult Social Care. Packages of work currently underway and due to commence include Section 117 Funding Arrangements; Mental Health Co-Location at West Park; a Rapid Improvement Event (RIE) on Validation of Care Packages; First Point of Contact and Direct Payment Training.

## **Safeguarding Adults**

10. The Safeguarding Rapid Improvement Event took place in June 2014, involving Council staff, health and police colleagues. The event focussed on ensuring the safeguarding adult process is clearly implemented by all; that individuals, carers, families, partner agencies, voluntary and third sector agencies are all involved; and

that we are using all resources efficiently. This was well attended and sub groups will now work to implement the various recommendations.

11. Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) – The post of MASH Manager is currently being recruited to and they will be responsible for the development and implementation of policies for the MASH in respect of Adults and Children and victims of Domestic Abuse.

## **Housing Services**

### **North East Regional Homelessness Group Annual Report and Conference**

12. The North East Regional Homelessness Group conference was held in Darlington on 5 June 2014, chaired by Baroness Hilary Armstrong.
13. After significant work by Officers in Housing, First Stop and Adults Social Care, during the last year there have been a reduced number of reports of rough sleeping in Darlington over the year (five). All of these were investigated and there was one genuine homelessness case, I am pleased to report that this person is now appropriately accommodated and receiving care and support.
14. Following a successful bid for Regional Homeless funding, resources have been secured to pay for a No Second Night Out Bed for one year in The Lodge bed and breakfast run by The 700 Club.

### **Open Events – Extra Care Schemes - Oban Court, Rosemary Court and Dalkeith House**

15. On the 20 and 21 May, 2014, I attended two of the three events at our Extra Care Schemes to introduce the new care providers 'Making Space' and to reassure our tenants of the Council's on-going commitment to provide happy places to live that offer quality, affordable, well-maintained accommodation with a vibrant atmosphere and excellent communal facilities.
16. The event on 20 May coincided with the Cakey Bakey coffee morning held at Oban Court, when the Council's catering team offered freshly baked products. There was a Get Together with a Buffet at Rosemary Court and on 21 May, a cream scone coffee morning at Dalkeith House. Each event was well attended with tenants, family members and the local community coming along to enjoy the event, meet the teams and ask any questions.
17. Making Space's Chief Executive, Chair of the Board and several board members attended. They had specifically asked to attend the events and travelled from Warrington as they had heard of the quality of accommodation we provide and of the care and attention we give to ensure they are beautifully appointed and well furnished. One board member went so far as to say Dalkeith House was probably the best Extra Care or Sheltered complex she had ever visited and all remarked that the complexes were as good as '5 star hotels'. I am pleased to say that the tenants have found the transition of our existing care teams to Making Space

seamless and I have only received positive comments.

## **GOLD**

18. The special Project Group, made up of the Service Development Officer and five volunteers, continues to look at the future of GOLD on the basis of Council funding ending by April 2015. From the expressions of interest, only two potential providers came forward and discussions are on-going as to whether either proposal can be progressed. It was therefore not possible for a decision on the future for GOLD to be made at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) on 14 May.
19. The tea dance arrangements are progressing well for 13 August. The members have been reviewing and updating their publicity and documents (newsletter, expression of interest form and guidelines for speakers) and continue to share information on their Facebook page and website with help from Council Officers.
20. All of the 'pilot' courses of the Level 2 training course Dignity and Respect in Care: Theory and Practice have been completed and the course is now finalised. It will now be offered to both residential and domiciliary care providers on a rolling programme. There will be a small charge for each learner to the provider concerned which it is hoped will generate income to support future GOLD activities.
21. Both the Health and Positive Images and Publicity Group continue to meet monthly, with good attendance from Members. Following the AGM, the Focus Group will be developing the work programme for the current year which will be supported by both of these groups.
22. Members have supported the distribution of the 71<sup>st</sup> issue of the GOLD Newsletter, to all members on the GOLD database.
23. I have also :-
  - (a) attended the GOLD Annual General Meeting;
  - (b) visited Oban Court and Rosemary Court to meet with Making Space homecare staff and residents;
  - (c) attended the Governing Council meeting of the Foundation Trust;
  - (d) attended the opening of the First World War exhibition at Preston Park, Stockton-on-Tees;
  - (e) met with the Citizens Advice Bureau to discuss additional finance advice for veterans;
  - (f) met with Coast and Country to look at the proposals to convert Regent House into one-bedroomed apartments; and
  - (g) Attended the D-Day commemorations organised by the Royal British Legion

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