

---

**OVERVIEW OF ADULT SERVICES PORTFOLIO**

---

**Purpose of Report**

1. Since the last meeting of Council, the following are the main areas of work under my Adult Services Portfolio:-

**Launch of “Together” Advocacy Service**

2. On Thursday 17 November 2005 I launched the new Advocacy Service for Adult Social Care Service Users. Provided through a formal contract with the national organisation “Together” (formerly known as MACA) the service supports adults and older people and/or their carers who require advocacy support.

**“Access to Adult Social Care Services and Employment” Minority Communities Event**

3. On Saturday 20 November 2005 I launched a combined “Access to Adult Social Care services and jobs opportunities event” aimed at improving access and employment opportunities for members of the local minority communities within Darlington at the Dolphin Centre. Over 150 people attended.

**Cookery Support for People who have a visual impairment.**

4. On Wednesday 14 December 2005 I attended a Cookery Course meal preparation demonstration at the Darlington Technology College. The meal was prepared by local people who have a visual impairment who are supported by Adult Social Services to gain meal preparation skills.

**Engagements**

5. During November and December 2005 I undertook: -
  - 28 November, launched the Giving Tree Appeal on Alpha Radio.
  - 28 November, visited Age Concern.
  - 3 December, opened the GOLD Christmas Party.
  - 14 December, presented awards for Learning Disability at the Gateway Club.
  - 19 December, packed gifts for the Giving Tree and undertook a photo call.
  - 20 December, attended SAH Scrutiny.

**Councillor Bryan Thistlethwaite**  
**Cabinet Member with Portfolio for Adult Services**