

**ADULTS AND HOUSING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

1 November 2016

**PRESENT** - Councillor S Richmond (in the Chair); Councillors Culley, Kane, Lister, Lyonette, T Richmond and Storr (7)

**APOLOGIES** – Councillors Knowles and M. Nicholson (2)

**ABSENT** – Councillor Grundy and D Jones (2)

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE –**

**OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE** – Pauline Mitchell, Assistant Director, Housing and Building Services, James Stroyan, Assistant Director, Adult Social Care, Emma Chawner, Safeguarding Board's Business Manager and Patricia Simpson, Senior Project Officer.

**AH12. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – There were no declarations of interest reported at the meeting.

**AH13. MINUTES** – Submitted – The Minutes (previously circulated) of a meeting of this Scrutiny Committee held on 6<sup>th</sup> September, 2016.

**RESOLVED** – That the Minutes be approved as a correct record.

**AH14. SYRIAN REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT** – The Director of Neighbourhood Services and Resources submitted a report (previously circulated) updating Members on the current position in relation to the Syrian Refugee re-settlement programme in Darlington.

It was reported that, as part of the Government's existing Syrian Vulnerable Person Scheme (VPS), there were ten families to be re-settled into Darlington in the current year and, to date, four families had arrived, with the remainder expected by the end of November, 2016.

It was reported that the properties accommodating these families had been sourced from private landlords, wherever possible, however, two low demand Council first-floor flats were also being used and we were advised that all the properties were fully furnished and decorated according to the statement of requirements issued by the Home Office and that all rental charges were covered by Housing Benefit with individuals being expected to cover all domestic charges, including water rates, council tax and general costing from their benefit allocation.

The submitted report outlined the support provided to the families by Officers from Housing Services together with the support provided from the voluntary sector and other agencies and it was reported that the families had settled and integrated well into the community and were accessing and using local services and progressing well with English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) lessons.

Discussion ensued on the challenges faced in ensuring that the families were accommodated appropriately, the lessons learnt; a 'Taste of Syria' evening which had been held in Willow Road Community Centre, which had been a great success, the support provided by other organisations, particularly from Darlington Action for Refugees (DAR) and the difficulties in locating dentists for the families, which was due to a waiting lists and a general lack of spaces generally.

**RESOLVED** – That the report be received.

**AH15. DARLINGTON SAFEGUARDING ADULTS PARTNERSHIP ANNUAL REPORT 2015/16** – The Director of Children and Adult Services submitted a report (previously circulated) together with the Annual Report (also previously circulated) of the Darlington Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board (DSAPB) for 2015/16.

It was reported that, although the Partnership Board had been in existence within Darlington since 2007, the implementation of the Care Act 2014, placed Safeguarding Adults on a statutory footing and brought a range of new duties and responsibilities for local authorities to establish a Board with a number of statutory agencies to be represented on it.

The Annual Report outlined the six priority outcomes of Empowerment, Prevention, Proportionality, Protection, Partnership and Accountability together with three core duties, one of which was to publish an Annual Report detailing what it had done during the year to achieve its main objective and implement its strategic plan. It also had to outline what each partner agency had done to implement the Strategy, as well as detailing the findings of any Safeguarding Adults Reviews and subsequent action.

Discussion ensued on the switch on of the Joint Safeguarding Boards' website; the governance arrangements around the Board and how it was held to account; the budgetary risks for 2017/18; to work being undertaken by the Independent Chair to agree future contributions with partners to ensure its sustainability into 2017/18 to meet statutory requirements; and how this Scrutiny Committee and the Board could work together in the future and further develop relationships.

**RESOLVED** - That the report be received and that quarterly reports on the key issues for the Partnership Board be submitted to future meetings of this Scrutiny Committee.

**AH16. RESPONSIVE INTEGRATED ASSESSMENT CARE TEAM (RIACT) REVIEW** – The Director of Children and Adults submitted a report (previously circulated) advising Members of an in-depth joint review of the joint RIACT service and Intermediate Care provision in Darlington which had been commissioned by the Darlington Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and the Council and was funded under the Better Care Fund (BCF) to ensure that the service could help people regain optimum independence in a cost-effective way and reduce demand for other services.

The submitted report outlined the background to the review, which was a key deliverable within the BCF 2016/17 and was part of the hospital to home

workstream and it was reported that the scope of the review, which would help to ensure the service met future needs against a challenging health and social care landscape, had now been finalised by the CCG, the external consultant involved and the Council and would cover all elements of the service and associated provision, including the reablement provider service, intermediate care beds, reablement beds and community beds, therapy and sensory impairment reablement.

Discussion ensued on the timescale for the review and it was reported that it was expected that the review would take around 23 days in total, spread over approximately two months from pre-visit to follow-up, and that any recommendations arising from the review would be available by the end of 2016.

Members questioned the data in relation to the delay of transfer from care, and it was confirmed that Darlington was below the National average and, although the quarter one figure showed a slightly higher position, it was still below the national average, however, it was more about ensuring the patient experience was correct and that the outcomes were right for each organisation involved.

In addition, the report also advised of the work being undertaken in relation to manage winter pressures and to discussions which were taking place to support safe and timely discharges from hospital, preventing and delaying needs for individuals and ensuring that independence was maximised wherever possible and to the feasibility of the new model of discharge to assess being implemented as a pilot. It was reported that although the model did have significant benefits, there were potential risks in terms of system pressures being moved from one organisation to another and we were advised of a local Accident and Emergency Local Delivery Board which was meeting to consider this and identify where there were currently gaps in resources.

**RESOLVED** – (a) That the report be received

(b) That the Officers be requested to submit a report to a future meeting of this Scrutiny Committee detailing all aspects comprising the BCF performance metrics and outcomes for people, together with an update on the outcome of the RIACT review.

**AH17. WORK PROGRAMME** – The Director of Neighbourhood Services and Resources submitted a report (previously circulated) requesting that consideration be given to this Scrutiny Committee's work programme for the remainder of the Municipal Year 2016/17.

Pursuant to Minute AH10/Sep/16 and following a question by a Member, it was reported that an update on the current position in relation to the implementation of the Housing and Planning Act would be submitted to the next ordinary meeting of this Committee scheduled for 10th January, 2017.

The Chair reported that the Dementia Review was nearing conclusion and a special meeting of this Scrutiny Committee to consider the final report would be held on 13<sup>th</sup> December, 2016 and that, once this piece of work had been

concluded, the next piece of review work that it would be undertaking would be in relation to adults with autism.

Discussion ensued on a report which was due to be considered by Cabinet at its meeting scheduled to be held on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2016, in relation to the Adult Social Care charging policy and it was suggested that a briefing on the proposals within that report be given to all Members of this Scrutiny Committee prior to its consideration by cabinet.

**RESOLVED** – That the report be received.