

---

**ADULT SOCIAL SERVICES ANNUAL PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT**

---

**Responsible Cabinet Member –Councillor Bryan Thistlethwaite, Adult Services Portfolio**

**Responsible Director – Cliff Brown, Director of Community Services**

---

**Purpose of Report**

1. To inform Cabinet of the outcome of the Annual Performance Assessment of Social Care Services for Adults carried out by the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI).

**Information and Analysis**

2. The notification of star ratings was sent first to Councils on the 21 October 2007 being embargoed until the 29 November 2007, when all Authorities' ratings were then published nationally. A copy of the notification letter is attached at **Appendix 1**.
3. The Council's star rating has been maintained at the 2006 position of 3 stars (the performance range is from zero to 3 stars).
4. There are two judgements in the summary report, which show firstly that Adult Services has been rated as 'good' at delivering outcomes. In previous years this judgement was based on how well we serve people. In the second judgement capacity for improvement, which is based on a combined judgement from the Leadership and Commissioning and Use of Resources domains, Darlington was judged to be 'Excellent'.
5. The star rating is awarded following an annual review meeting (ARM) with Adult Social Services Departments earlier in the year. The ARM sets out the context and summarises the separate priorities for adult services for the following year. In assessing overall performance, CSCI use evidence against a set of seven outcomes, the Department's PAF performance indicators, any Inspection reports, and monitoring information from the Department's Self Assessment Submission (SAS), which is submitted in May.
6. CSCI have identified several key strengths within Adult Social Care in Darlington, most notably:
  - (a) How people are supported in their own homes;
  - (b) That assessments are undertaken promptly;
  - (c) The use of intermediate care, and the introduction of support workers to help people return home;
  - (d) The availability of preventative services as an alternative to traditional forms of support;

- (e) The very prompt delivery of equipment, and the fact that major adaptations are started quickly;
  - (f) The carers break voucher scheme.
7. In terms of areas where we will continue to seek improvements over the next year, focus will be directed to improving feedback processes for service users, progressing integration and joint working with the PCT, completing the implementation of new day care services for the Learning Disabilities Service and enabling those with learning disabilities to move into paid work.

### **Outcome of Consultation**

8. No consultation was required in the production of this report.

### **Legal Implications**

9. This report has been considered by the Borough Solicitor for legal implications in accordance with the Council's approved procedures. There are no issues which the Borough Solicitor considers need to be brought to the specific attention of Members, other than those highlighted in the report.

### **Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998**

10. The contents of this report have been considered in the context of the requirements placed on the Council by Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, namely, the duty on the Council to exercise its functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent, crime and disorder in its area. It is not considered that the contents of this report have any such effect.

### **Council Policy Framework**

11. The issues contained within this report do not represent change to Council policy or the Council's policy framework.

### **Decision Deadline**

12. For the purpose of the 'call-in' procedure this does not represent an urgent matter.

### **Recommendation**

13. It is recommended that Member note the contents of the Annual Performance Assessment

## **Reason**

14. To comply with the requirements to report the outcome of the performance ratings and judgements within two months of notification and to make it available to the public.

**Cliff Brown**  
**Director of Community Services**

## **Background Papers**

- (i) Performance Review Report for Adult Social Care, Darlington Borough Council.

Jane Robinson : Extension 3440  
SL