
OVERVIEW OF ADULT SERVICES PORTFOLIO

Purpose of the Report

1. Since the last meeting of Council, the following are the main areas of work under the Portfolio Holder for Adult Services.

Carers

2. Work in relation to the development of services and support for carers is ongoing and includes the following:
 - (a) New carers' assessments process trialled successfully in two older persons teams and is currently being rolled out incrementally across all teams. The new process is now more carer focused and enables the delivery of more flexible and innovative services to carers in their own right. Carers can also be signposted more effectively to opportunities to take part in leisure activities/employment opportunities. The new process has been received well by carers, some of whom have noted that they find it therapeutic in its own right.
 - (b) Work with Cultural Services to publicise the support available to carers via the Live Darlington card.
 - (c) Work with Business Engagement to raise employers' awareness of carers' rights and needs.
 - (d) New Carers' Emergency Support Service commenced from 1 April 2010 to provide carers with peace of mind that help will be available in an emergency.

Personalisation/Social Care Transformation

3. The task of delivering the transformation of adult social care as outlined in the Government document "Putting People First" continues. Developments since the last overview include:-
 - (a) Adult Social Care are now offering a personal budget to all new referrals of older people. The personal budget is calculated using a combination of hours and services rather than against a Resource Allocation System. This does offer the opportunity to test out the supported self assessment process and self directed paperwork. Current indications are that it is proving effective in identifying individual need.
 - (b) Work is ongoing on the modelling and remodelling of the Personal Budget Calculator or Resource Allocation System that will be used to allocate resources for personal budgets.

- (c) A number of local events have taken place to further support the development of and raise awareness of the personalisation agenda. The local LINK ran an event for local people, offering an overview of the personalisation agenda and supporting people to think about the support they would want to meet their needs. This information was then taken to a range of providers at an event facilitated through the Connecting with Communities service. This offered local providers first hand information about the sorts of services and ways of support people were asking for. Further targeted events are planned with local providers.
- (d) A number of Members training sessions in relation to Personalisation have taken place. 13 Members attended the two planned sessions.
- (e) An event took place on the 21 May 2010 in partnership with the North East Improvement and Efficiency Partnership. This event was arranged to support a piece of research that will look at a cost benefit analysis of Local Area Co-ordination in Darlington. Local Area Co-ordination is a model of community support that looks to support people closer to their community rather than looking towards the statutory services. The research will look at the viability of such a model in Darlington. The research will focus on the two wards of Central and Mowden. The finished report is to be ready for July 2010. Initial feedback on the event has been mixed; detailed feedback will be given both to the Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnership and to Peter Fletcher Associates.
- (f) The relaunch of the new Adult Social Care website is complete and is now available. This has been developed in partnership with GOLD and support from the Learning Disability Web Group.

Operational

- 4. Adult Social Care is one of the Council's largest budgets covering a wide range of services. Clearly with the current financial situation and emerging pressures on the Council, a review of all operational service areas will be undertaken. This work commenced some twelve months ago in partnership with Northgate Public Services in terms of establishing potential efficiencies. This work will continue in tandem with the transformation programme. Any impacts on service users will be identified and consultation undertaken.
- 5. The annual plan for the Learning Disability Partnership Board has been submitted to the Regional Programme Board and signed off by service users and family carers. The Board has a clear annual plan with regards to delivering on Valuing People Now.
- 6. Work is continuing on the development of the Intermediate Care Service, a strategy is being written in conjunction with NHS colleagues and systems and processes are being streamlined to ensure that clients receive an improved service which equates with improved outcomes.

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