
OVERVIEW OF ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND HOUSING PORTFOLIO

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 Darlington Dementia Action Alliance (DAA) has recently been formed and will act as a vehicle to make Darlington a ‘Dementia Friendly Community’. This is a community which pulls together and makes small changes to improve the lives of people living with dementia and of their family carers, so enabling them to not only feel part of their community but also to have the understanding and support of their community. This will enable people to lead independent lives for longer and forms part of the preventative agenda required by the Care Act.
3. As part of the work of the DAA Jenny Chapman MP, has agreed to host a public Dementia Friends session, which will showcase the work of the Alliance and highlight the importance of Darlington becoming a Dementia Friendly community.

Adult Social Care – Operational Developments

4. The Department of Health has confirmed that the second significant phase of the Care Act implementation will now be delayed until 2020. The funding reforms were due to come into force in April 2016, but the Government has decided to delay implementation until April 2020. The Government has said that the delay will allow time to be taken to ensure that everyone is ready to introduce the new system and to look at what more can be done to support people with the costs of care. The extension to the means test has been delayed, as has the Appeals System; this element is subject to the Comprehensive Spending Review in November at which point it is expected that the Chancellor will set out the timescale for implementation.
5. The immediate impact is that the local authority can stop planning or undertaking early assessments of self-funders. In the interim, communications and messages will be shared with key stakeholders about the changes and the associated implications. It is expected that further statutory guidance will be issued in the autumn, the details of which are not known at this time. The stocktakes are expected to continue but this will be confirmed in due course.

6. Work is ongoing in relation to reviewing our current Care and Support Needs Assessment and the Resource Allocation System. A project group, which is led by the Care Act Lead Implementation Officer, is looking to undertake this work. Consultation will be required in relation to any significant changes to the eligibility criteria or resource allocation system.
7. Progress is continuing in relation to the replacement of the case management system for Adult Social Care. A project manager from Liquid Logic has been appointed and the Local Authority Project Team is working closely with Liquid Logic to ensure a smooth transition to the new system. This will include training and development of staff, data cleansing and migration and system redesign as well as providing mobile working for the staff group. It is envisaged that once implemented, the new system should provide a framework which supports good practice and more efficient ways of working.
8. Work is continuing in relation to the review of the Responsive Integrated Assessment Care Team (RIACT). A specification for community bed provision has been drafted, as has a specification for a rapid response domiciliary service. The appropriate tendering processes will need to be followed but it is hoped that the rapid response service will be in place in time for the winter period. The service will assist in preventing admissions to hospital and 24-hour care, as well as facilitating a timely discharge for those individuals who do require hospital admission. Local Authority staff are currently involved in a project group with the County Durham and Darlington Foundation Trust to look at creating a multi-disciplinary patient discharge team within the hospital. This work links to the Trust's transformation work which includes Safer Discharge and Home to Assess.
9. The work within the GP and the RIACT Multi-Disciplinary Teams (MDT's) is continuing. Staff within the MDT's have developed good working relationships, they have a clearer understanding of their roles and services and the increase in referrals to the voluntary sector has continued. The success of the MDT work has been recognised with the work winning a regional award for its achievements. Further work is required in relation to high impact users and using a similar approach to help manage their needs more effectively whilst reducing demand upon the various organisations and agencies. Operational staff are linking into this work.
10. The Law Commission has opened a consultation on the law of mental capacity and deprivation of liberty. A final report with recommendations and a draft Bill is expected to be published in 2016. The Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) aim to protect people who lack mental capacity, but who need to be deprived of liberty so they can be given care and treatment in a hospital or care home. If a person's right to liberty needs to be infringed in other settings, an authorisation must be obtained from the Court of Protection. In March 2014, a House of Lords Select Committee published a detailed report concluding that the DoLS were 'not fit for purpose' and recommended that they be replaced. At the same time, a case in the United Kingdom Supreme Court held that far greater numbers of people fell to be dealt with under the DoLS system than had previously been thought. This has placed increasing burdens on local authorities administering the DoLS. The Law Commission are provisionally proposing that they be replaced with a new system,

called 'Protective Care'. This system is not focused on authorising deprivations of liberty, but instead upon providing appropriate care and better outcomes for people who lack mental capacity and helping their family and carers.

11. The co-location of Adult Mental Health Services provided by the local authority and Tees, Esk and Wear Valley Foundation Trust (TEWV) has now been completed.

Housing Services

12. The regeneration of Red Hall estate is progressing well and the Community Event on 17 September 2015 was an opportunity for local residents and key stakeholders to come together and reflect on the achievements to date and discuss future opportunities and proposals for further improvements. The event centred between the local primary school, community centre and adjoining play area. In particular, residents commented on what they liked /did not like and how we could encourage them to be involved in the future planning and longer term.

13. Achievements highlighted were :-

- (a) the demolition of Epsom and Elland Courts and the partial demolition of Aintree and Anfield Courts;
- (b) the energy efficiency measures, including the installation of external wall insulation, new doors and windows;
- (c) the newly built flats at Deepdale Way;
- (d) the building work in progress at Badminton Close to provide additional flats;
- (e) improved reception facilities at the local school;
- (f) the setting up of a shared Red Hall Facebook page with various organisations sharing administration rights. This page is being accessed by an increasing number of users and provides key links to the websites of respective stakeholders;
- (g) the adoption of a Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy and Communications Strategy and communication on the overall Master Plan for the estate and surrounding area;
- (h) regular monthly liaison meetings established between the primary school and community centre helping to share opportunities and resources over the Summer holidays;
- (i) the Employability Programme being linked to the Red Hall play scheme enabling improved engagement with parents, including Groundwork facilitating bi-monthly aspirational talks within the school to year 5 and 6 pupils;

- (j) the development of a local lettings policy to support the sustainability of the local community; and
 - (k) Promotion of the work of a wide selection of partners now involved in the local community, such as, the primary school, community centre, Health, Police, Fire Service, British Gas, and MITIE as well as providing opportunities for local businesses and the voluntary sector to start to understand the opportunities for them to be involved.
14. Improvements have been identified to the choice based lettings system used by ourselves, neighbouring local authorities and Registered Housing Providers to benefit any of our residents who are seeking accommodation in the Tees Valley area. Consultation is almost complete and improvements include :-
- (a) adverts being added throughout the week, rather than just on a Thursday;
 - (b) applicants will be allowed to make unlimited bids for available properties (this is presently three);
 - (c) vacant properties will remain advertised for more than one week if there is low demand;
 - (d) after one week an advert can be closed if an applicant is interested in an immediate offer.

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