
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 – Safeguarding Adults Board

2. The last Safeguarding Adults Board was held on 24 June 2016. Sadly, the Independent Chair, Mike Vening, has resigned from his position due to personal reasons. The last meeting was chaired by Suzanne Joyner, Director of Children and Adult Services as the DASS (Director of Adult Social Services) pending a new Chair starting.
3. The Multi-Agency Training Annual Report was presented which highlighted positive updates in take up and satisfaction rates and reported a high per cent of practitioners recognising that their practice had improved as a result of training. It was also noted that there had been an increase in safeguarding concerns and the Local Authority and the Board have advised they will look into this to ensure that they are appropriate.
4. The Board received an informative presentation by the North East and Cumbria Learning Disability Network (NHS England) which is promoting a pilot in the region of reviewing all cases where a person has died with a learning disability to improve the equality of this vulnerable group as they are more likely to die earlier than their peers without a learning disability. The Board are to determine if they will incorporate the learning from these reviews within their governance arrangements.
5. It also received the findings from the multi-agency making safeguarding personal (MSP) thematic audit which provided assurances that the principles of MSP are being applied but it is variable. It agreed to review the current training and to host an event which promotes MSP, with a particular focus on adults at risk who may not have capacity or their capacity fluctuates.
6. The Board endorsed the multi-agency data items to be included in the critical data set that will provide it with an understanding of the whole safeguarding system and how each agency contributes to safeguarding adults at risk. This is scheduled to be implemented by October 2016.
7. The Darlington Dementia Action Alliance continues to grow, as does the number of Dementia Friends in Darlington. The most recent numbers were 106 Dementia

Friends Champions, 4962 people who had become Dementia Friends by attending an information session run by a Dementia Friends Champion and 1322 people who had become a Dementia Friend by undertaking an online information session (6390 in total).

8. Work continues to develop Darlington's Dementia Hub which was re-launched on 30th June when the Alzheimer's Society Dementia Roadshow Bus was at the Pease Statue. We now have an information pack to give out to people and pop-up banners which can be displayed at different locations around the Town. In addition, the Dementia Hub continues to operate on the second Tuesday of the month between 12 noon and 3.00 p.m. at Crown Street Library, staffed by members of the Darlington Dementia Action Alliance. This gives people with dementia and their carers the opportunity to find out more about the support available for people living with dementia in Darlington.

Better Care Fund

9. The Darlington Better Care Fund (BCF) plan for this year has received full assurance from BCF national governance. As in 2015/16, quarterly monitoring reports to the national team are required.
10. Nationally reported measures of success in 2016/17 are; the number of emergency admissions to hospital; delays to transfers of care; admissions to 24-hour residential care; the effectiveness of reablement; and the ease with which people can find information about their care.
11. Emergency admissions to hospital increased slightly in May but the overall trajectory remains downward. An analysis of the causes of the overall trend and associated peaks and troughs will be delivered through the BCF evaluation work to be commissioned by the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) using the Local Integration Support Fund grant of £25,000.
12. In the first quarter of this year, admissions to residential care are on target, but close monitoring is needed in this area.
13. Delays to Transfers of Care continue to be low and in line with our BCF target.
14. Associated projects to deliver the BCF continue to be focused on delaying and reducing demand for health and social care services while maximising independence, self-management and overall wellbeing of Darlington people. As reported in July the work is grouped into 'Hospital to Home', 'Safe at Home', 'Multi-disciplinary Teams delivery', 'Long Term Conditions', and 'Social Prescribing'.

Care Quality Committee (CQC) Inspection

15. A recent CQC inspection of our Reablement Provider Services and Supported Living Services found the services to be good in the five key domains and they secured an overall rating of good. The report notes and evidences that the services are safe, effective, responsive, caring and well led. This is extremely pleasing for all concerned and reflects the hard work and professionalism of all staff who work

within the services. The services are focused on delaying and reducing need, promoting independence and achieving the best outcomes for individuals. The effectiveness of the Reablement service is critical in respect of supporting Adult Social Care to manage its demand for statutory services.

Silver Employer Recognition (ERS) Award 2016

16. I am delighted that the Council has been successfully awarded a Silver Employer Recognition Award (ERS) for 2016. The ERS award publicly recognises the support that employers and organisations provide the Armed Forces Community and is a formal way of thanking those businesses and organisations for their on-going support. The Award will be formally presented by HRH Prince Michael of Kent later in the year.

Housing Services

17. The implementation of the Red Hall Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy is continuing and I am pleased to report that during the school holidays, Housing Services, in partnership with Groundwork Trust, Learning and Skills, Children Services, the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) have been offering a range of activities mainly based around the Community Centre and these have been well received.
18. It is recognised that a number of children access free school meals and when these are not available, families face increased financial pressures. There is also evidence that some families struggle to offer meals that have the same nutritional value as the school offer. As a response to this, a twice weekly, 'Eat Together, Play Together' has been offered for a small charge. Parents and children attend the first part of the two and a half hour session and prepare and eat the food together. Afterwards there is an activity for the children and a chance for parents to meet and chat. Ten local residents have volunteered and completed food hygiene courses. Funding was generously given by Aldi and it is the intention that the group build on this learning and offer similar sessions in the October half term and at Christmas.
19. The community centre kitchen is to be renovated in September with funds from a successful lottery bid. The lunch club group are preparing a bid to the Housing Community Fund for small items of electrical equipment so that a wider range of meals can be prepared.
20. Learning and Skills have been delivering weekly sessions for parents to encourage learning activities that benefit both parent and child. In many cases this is the first time that parents have engaged in learning since school. The sessions allow parents to interact with their children to improve their parenting. They also interact with other parents and the tutors and supporters to develop relationships and self-esteem in a fun and friendly atmosphere. The intention is that this will build confidence and also allow the opportunity for the adults to learn skills that are important in preparing to undertake further learning or employment. In the Autumn term further courses will be on offer. Alongside the above sessions, Officers from the DWP have been available to give advice on benefits and opportunities for work and learning.

21. A small, but enthusiastic group of residents decided that they wanted to restart the Red Hall carnival and this took place on 14 August 2016. The event was well attended by a variety of statutory and voluntary organisations and provided lots of opportunities for conversations, during which officers were able to advise people what was available at the Community Centre, what the Healthy New Town Initiative was able to offer Red Hall and opportunities for developing this further. The group were supported by Groundwork Trust and learned new skills around marketing, health and safety risk assessments, budgeting and financial management, all important skills as we continue to build the capacity of local residents to lead.

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