
OVERVIEW OF ADULTS AND HOUSING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

1. Since the last meeting of the Council, the following are the main areas of work the Adults and Housing Scrutiny Committee has undertaken.

Adult Social Care – Year-End Performance 2015/16

2. Together with the Health and Partnerships Scrutiny Committee, we have considered the year-end performance for 2015/16 against the top level scorecard for adult social care. During 2016, the Adults Social Care Outcomes Framework (ASCOF) indicators have been used as the Council's high level scorecard to measure performance. For 2016/17, a revised scorecard has been developed, based on the (ASCOF) indicators and on priority indicators within the Authority which Officers felt were important and which tracked the journey of individuals through the system. We have asked for this to be submitted to our Scrutiny Committee once finalised.
3. We also noted that the Darlington Safeguarding Adults Board received comprehensive data from its Performance Sub-Group which described the safeguarding arrangements in place and that that data set needed to evolve to enable the Board to understand how the safeguarding system was working as a whole from a multi-agency perspective and that, as a result, a further nine multi-agency performance indicators have been recommended for inclusion.
4. The information presented to us in future as part of the performance reporting mechanism framework will be used to inform our work programme going forward.

Housing and Planning Act 2016

5. We received an update on the changes which will affect a number of areas of the housing service as a result of the introduction of the Housing and Planning Act 2016, which received Royal Assent in May 2016.
6. The Act introduces a number of significant changes to housing and planning in general and we were advised of the four changes which were being introduced which affected Council housing only, namely the introduction of fixed term (flexible) tenancies for all new lettings; pay to stay; the charge for vacant higher value Council properties; and the obligation to consider selling vacant higher value Council properties.
7. The Government has indicated that it wants the changes to be implemented by April 2017 and the legislation is designed with this in mind, however, the draft guidance has been delayed and is expected to be published in September/October 2016 at the earliest, which provides uncertainty about the timetable for

implementation.

8. We will continue to receive updates on this and on the impacts for residents of Darlington.

Money Wise Service

9. On 8th September 2016, we met with staff from the Money Wise Team regarding the personal budgeting support and advice that they give to Council tenants. The service gives advice on benefits which tenants might be entitled to as well as offering support with budgeting, debt problems and seeking the best energy providers. Following the introduction of various Welfare Reforms, including Universal Credit, this service is proving valuable to both tenants and to the Council in keeping rent arrears low.

Dementia Review Group

10. As previously reported our piece of work to look at the dementia pathway and the support and advice services in Darlington is continuing. This has been a fairly long and detailed piece of work however, the Review Group is nearing its conclusion and there are a number of recommendations arising. Once the report is complete and finalised, it will be submitted to Cabinet and Council for consideration of those recommendations which they are required to approve.

Councillor Sue Richmond
Chair of Adults and Housing Scrutiny Committee