
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.

Direct Payments Support Service Tender

2. Work is currently underway to re-tender the Direct Payments Support Service. The service is in place to support those eligible for a Direct Payment to have the support they need to do so effectively. The re-tender has a focus on supporting more people to employ their own staff to meet their assessed needs, doing so proves more cost-effective for the Council and improves individual outcomes.

Autism Self-Assessment

3. The annual autism self-assessment has recently been completed. The self-assessment allows the Council and its partners, notably health, to benchmark local services and progress against national expectations. The Council is the lead for completing the assessment, however it includes questions for a range of partners including the Police, Criminal Justice, Employment services and Housing. The self-assessment is evaluated by the Department of Health and a RAG rating agreed. The last self-assessment indicated an amber rating and it is likely that this year's rating will be similar. The next steps include the development of an action plan to address the gaps identified within the Assessment. There is an existing autism task and finish group which includes membership from most of the key partners who will be tasked with progressing with this work.

Team Developments within Adult Social Care

4. Following the introduction of the Care Act in 2015, Adult Social Care now has a duty to provide information and advice to support the health and wellbeing of people who might have or may develop social care needs. In response to this, work has been underway to ensure that we are meeting this requirement and, as a result, we have re-configured some of the social work teams.
5. We have strengthened our First Point of Contact team and have dedicated staff to support this function. The purpose of the Team is to handle all enquiries that may need an Adult Social Care response, including concerns that are submitted by other agencies but which may fall below the adult safeguarding threshold. A core function of the Team is to triage enquiries and determine the most appropriate

response, to enable people to receive the support they need to remain independent. Wherever possible, the aim is to provide tailored advice, guidance and information to enable people to access appropriate alternatives to formal care. If an assessment is required, the Team will refer onto colleagues in one of the Social Care Teams best placed to undertake a strength-based assessment; Responsive Immediate Assessment Care Team (RIACT), Short Term Assessment and Review team, Ongoing Assessment and Intervention Team or the Occupational Therapy Team.

6. Recruitment is underway for a new post of Community Navigator. This person will work within the community and will encourage people to build on their strengths and networks to connect individuals to existing sources of support within the voluntary and community sector.

Liquidlogic

7. The implementation of the Adult's casework management system, Liquidlogic, continues to be on track for Summer 2017. A lot of work is being undertaken to ensure the system is able to meet the requirements for Adult Social Care, post Care Act 2014. The new system will also ensure that we will be able to deliver on key aspects of the Adults Transformation programme which will include delaying and reducing the need for care and support, developing robust preventative support, targeting reablement support and safeguarding individuals whose circumstances make them vulnerable.

Learning Disabilities Project

8. The Learning Disability Project was initially part of a Local Government Association (LGA) commissioned report, to assist councils in offering guidance as to where opportunities could be found to make efficiency savings and provide best value services for adults with a learning disability.
9. Darlington staff met with Professor John Bolton from the Local Government Association (LGA) in May 2016. Positive comments and feedback were received, including reference to the work being undertaken published on social media and covered by Community Care. The final report, published in September, which is available on the LGA website, references Darlington in many of its good practice examples.
10. The Learning Disabilities project links to a number of other development areas including the homecare project, Assistive Technology, Workforce training and development and the Adult Social Care Transformation: Efficiency programme.

Making Safeguarding Personal

11. Adult Social Care continues to be regional and national leaders in the introduction of Making Safeguarding Personal into the lives of individuals whose circumstances make them vulnerable. The Safeguarding Team will be leading on a pilot, early next year, which will introduce a new assessment tool for practitioners, based on

Signs of Safety; a strengths based method of working with individuals developed in children's safeguarding and adapted for use with adults.

12. The Safeguarding Adults Board has endorsed the proposal for a conference to launch and embed Making Safeguarding Personal across the Darlington area. The conference will also highlight the Mental Capacity Act 2005 and the work that is going on in Darlington. A Task and Finish group, made up from the Board's subgroup leads met on 14 October and are actively planning two conferences in February and March 2017. Further updates will be provided in future overview reports.

Darlington Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board (DSAPB)

13. The last DSAPB meeting was held on 27 September, 2016. After the previous Chair's resignation, the Board has an Interim Independent Chair from September 2016, Ann Baxter.
14. The Board agreed to the revised Terms of Reference and the DSAPB Annual Report.
15. The Board will be hosting a development day in December for all its members to review the Strategic Business Plan based on the learning from the 2015/2016 DSAPB Annual Report and the local and national influences.
16. The Board received an informative presentation from Changing Lives on a study that had been commissioned by the Police, Crime and Victims Commissioner for County Durham and Darlington to have an understanding of the nature of sex work in County Durham and Darlington, and to examine interactions between sex workers and the services that they are likely to come into contact with. The study used the successful, peer-led methodology of Changing Lives' Girls Are Proud (GAP) project, to uncover truths about the lived experiences of sex workers that operate in County Durham and Darlington. The study is informing a joint piece of work between Durham and Darlington and across the Children and Adults Board on how to support victims of sexual exploitation.
17. The Board agreed to a Multi-agency Mental Capacity Act audit, to assess the quality of assessments and if the adult at risk has been asked throughout their safeguarding experiences what their outcomes were even if they had no capacity to consent to the safeguarding process. The headlines of the audit will be reported at the next Board meeting.
18. The Board has also agreed to switch on their Joint Safeguarding Boards' website - www.darlingtonsafeguardingboards.co.uk before October half term, which is another tool to communicate with practitioners, the general public and for them to access timely information such as the multi-agency procedures and training.
19. The Board have commissioned a Safeguarding Adult Review which has started in September and the report findings will be reported to Board in early 2017. The family of the adult at risk concerned is being included in this process.

20. The Board's budget for 2017/2018 is under intense pressure and it is of concern. Partners have been asked to meet the Independent Chair to agree future partners contribution to ensure its sustainability into 2017/2018 as it is a statutory requirement to have a Safeguarding Adult Board.

Housing Services

Red Hall Regeneration

21. Following on from the great success of the Red Hall Summer Carnival which attracted over 250 people a steering group of residents who live on estate are assisting us in arranging an event for 30 November 2016, called the Red Hall Spectacular. This event is to make residents aware of progress being made on the estate, in addition to consulting on the new Play Park approved by Cabinet last April. Over 20 stalls will be available with a mixture of arts, crafts and information. Red Hall school choir will be performing, and the Red Hall dance group are offering activities to attract young people on the estate. The theme for this event is based on health, activities and new skills.
22. The Summer Holiday Hunger sessions proved very popular and two further sessions were therefore arranged for October half term. Residents who attended the summer food hygiene course provided their services for these sessions. The outcomes of all of the sessions will be evaluated before deciding on future arrangements. Other Council estates are being considering for the further development of holiday hunger clubs based on the model that has been established at Red Hall.
23. The increasing involvement of the community in events and more importantly their willingness to volunteer and help organise demonstrate that the progress in improving the stock and environment is being matched by the increasing confidence and capacity building within the community.

Community Fund

24. The HRA Community Fund continues to be used to support and encourage residents on Council estates to create more sustainable communities. Recent approvals include:
- (a) Purchase of gardening equipment that will form part of a Tool Library run by Firthmoor Residents' Association.
 - (b) Provision of a greenhouse and equipment to enable residents at Ted Fletcher Court to grow their own fruit and vegetables.
 - (c) Purchase of a folding snooker table at Rockwell House to support and encourage more social inter-action amongst residents and visitors.
 - (d) Contribution towards holiday hunger projects at Red Hall and Cockerton where a high proportion of local children receive free school meals. This included the Red Hall Community Centre benefitting from enhancing their catering facilities

and being able to purchase table top ovens to support healthy eating sessions and provide basic cooking courses.

25. I have also :-

- (a) Chaired a meeting of the Darlington Ageing Well Network;
- (b) attended the McMillan coffee morning held at the Reservists Centre in Neasham Road;
- (c) attended the Health and Well Being Board;
- (d) attended a meeting of the Tees Valley Armed Forces Forum;
- (e) attended the Remembrance Day Service and Parade and met with veterans afterwards;
- (f) represented the Council at the Employer Recognition Silver Awards presentation dinner; and
- (g) attended a meeting of the County Durham and Darlington Foundation NHS Trust Council of Governors.

Councillor Veronica Copeland
Cabinet Member with Portfolio for Adult Social Care and Housing