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## **OVERVIEW OF ADULT SOCIAL CARE PORTFOLIO**

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### **Purpose of the Report**

1. To inform and update Members on progress within Adult Social Care since the last meeting of Council. The following are the main areas of work under the Portfolio for Adult Social Care.

### **Adult Social Care –Strategic Commissioning**

2. Following a full service review and re modelling of the service, Commissioners have successfully re-tendered the Home Care and Support Contract. The new three-year contract will commence on 1 October 2017, will operate under a new model with the Borough being divided into two geographical zones (East and West) and with a single provider required to deliver support within each zone. There will also be a safety net of additional framework providers who will be offered packages in instances where the prime provider is unable to meet demand.
3. For individuals who have more specific support needs, there are a further four framework agreements to meet the needs of people with a learning disability, mental health problems and dementia, autism and families with children.
4. Commissioners, operational staff and the successful providers, will work closely together to ensure a seamless transition for those individuals who are affected by the award of the new contract.
5. Carers Week took place from 12 to 18 June. This is an annual campaign organised by Carers UK to raise awareness of caring, highlight the challenges carers face and recognise the contribution they make to families and communities throughout the UK. A number of activities took place in Darlington during the week, including information stalls at the outdoor market and the Dolphin Centre run by Darlington Carers Support and an information stand in the Dolphin Centre run by DISC Young Carers Service.

### **Adult Social Care – Operational Developments**

6. Following the Manchester Jobs Fair on 8 May, there has been a significant increase in people who are exploring social care jobs in the region. The North East jobs site saw 547 new views of the campaign in one day and 271 new accounts registered. Plans to attend London in November 2017 and Birmingham in March 2018 are being developed. The North East and Darlington, in particular, are benefitting from the increased exposure and opportunity to showcase the region as

an excellent place to live and work.

7. There has been a recent Care Quality Commission (CQC) inspection of Holicote, Darlington Borough Councils' in-house respite service for individuals with a learning disability. The outcome was very positive with all areas within the inspection with them receiving a rating of good.
8. The development and implementation of Liquid Logic continues to be a major programme of activity for adult services. The new social care database went live at the end of June and has replaced Care First. Work is now underway to ensure that the system implementation continues so that it becomes embedded within the service and it will continue to develop and meet operational requirements.

### **Darlington Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board (DSAPB)**

9. The last DSAPB meeting was held on 18 May 2017. At this meeting, the Vice-Chair resigned due to taking on another role and the Board was pleased to appoint a new Vice Chair Karen Agar from Tees Esk and Wear Valley NHS Foundation Trust.
10. The Independent Chair, Ann Baxter, provided feedback to the Board on what practitioners had said at the recent multi-agency 'practitioner event' which included their views and opinions on what was going well and areas for improvement. In relation to Safeguarding practice, consideration is being given regarding feedback and closing the loop.
11. The Board also endorsed the updated and more robust approach to assessing the effectiveness of multi-agency's arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of adults at risk and to seek assurances of these arrangements. There will be a report presented to DSAPB in November and to the Health and Wellbeing Board in January 2018.
12. I have also attended :-
  - (a) the Health and Well Being Board;
  - (b) the 700 Club;
  - (c) Darlington Cares;
  - (d) visited Medequip; and
  - (e) attended the Dementia Action Alliance

**Councillor Sue Richmond**  
**Cabinet Member with Portfolio for Adult Social Care**