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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.

**Strategic Commissioning**

2. Following a full service review and re-modelling of the service, Commissioners successfully re-tendered the Home Care and Support Contract. The new three-year contract commenced on 2 October 2017, and will operate under a new model with the Borough being divided into two geographical zones (east and west) with a single prime provider required to deliver support within each zone. The successful providers were Careline and Positive Life Choices (PLC).
3. There will also be ten additional providers on the framework contract who will be offered packages in instances where either of the prime providers is unable to meet demand. For individuals who have more specific support needs, there are a further four elements of the contract to meet the needs of people with learning disabilities, mental health issues and dementia, autism and families with children.
4. Commissioners, operational staff and the successful providers have worked closely together to ensure a seamless transition for those individuals who are affected by the award of the new contract and, as of 2 October, all individuals who needed to transfer to an alternative provider due to the geographical split have done and all packages for support were met from the beginning of the new contract.
5. Commissioners will continue to meet regularly with the two main providers to ensure that the quality of the service being delivered is maintained.

**Operational Developments**

6. A twelve week public consultation exercise regarding proposed changes to the Adult Social Care eligibility criteria closed on 23<sup>rd</sup> October. There have been a number of events held at a variety of locations that have given the public the opportunity to discuss with Council Officers the implications of the proposed changes. The final event took place at Rockcliffe Court on 9 October. A report will be presented to Cabinet to enable them to make a decision in December.
7. Plans to attend the Social Work Job Fair in London in November are now at an advanced stage, as part of our continued recruitment campaign. Darlington

continues to lead the North East initiative 'Put your Heart into Social Work in the North East' in attracting social workers to live and work in our region.

8. Colleagues within Adult Social Care have been working in partnership with the NHS and other providers to plan for Winter Pressures. Much of this work is co-ordinated by the Local Accident and Emergency Delivery Board (LADB). Adult Social Care has submitted its Winter Plan and Escalation Plan to the LADB. Both plans detail the role of Adult Social Care in responding to additional pressures. At the present time we are maintaining a strong performance with regards to delayed transfers of care (DTC), with very few delays attributable to social care. A Rapid Response Domiciliary Care service has been commissioned to support timely discharges and avoid unnecessary admissions to hospital and care homes during the winter period.

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

9. The last DSAPB meeting was held on 28 September, 2017. This meeting had two parts, one with a particular focus on the new categories of abuse as defined by the Care Act 2014 with a presentation on one of the categories, Modern Slavery and the second part on Board business, where highlight reports from the sub group chairs, which is the assurance and progress against their work plans, were received.
10. The new categories of abuse are: Self-Neglect, Domestic Abuse and Modern Slavery and the Board considered how it has developed multi-agency practice to appreciate the new abuse categories. Assurance was received and the multi-agency safeguarding policies and procedures now include the new abuse categories, including further development work to develop multi-agency practice guidance on self-neglect and modern slavery.
11. The Board received the final DSAPB annual report styled for public consumption; a small number of suggested amendments were made which were incorporated before the final version was made available on the Board's website.
12. It also received and approved the Terms of Reference and Governance Arrangements, which will also be made available on the Board's website and was updated on the progress of the DSAPB Business Plan, which highlighted that many actions were on track and making good progress.

### **Dementia Friends Information Sessions**

13. Members will be aware that one of the recommendations arising from the piece of work undertaken by the Adults and Housing Scrutiny Committee in relation to support services for those living with dementia in the Borough, was for all Members to attend a Dementia Friends Information session. A number of these sessions have now been held and 18 Members have undertaken this training. Further sessions will be arranged.

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