
OVERVIEW OF ADULT SOCIAL CARE PORTFOLIO

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. Commissioners have again procured a Rapid Response and Night Sitting Service, which commenced on 2 October 2017, and which will operate throughout the Winter period until 31 March 2018. The service provides a rapid response and out of hours (including an overnight sitting service) home support for people across the Borough in their own home.
3. Through this service, the Council is strengthening arrangements for those individuals who may require an out of hours domiciliary care service to be provided out of hours, or who may need urgent /crisis intervention. The service has two elements:
 - (a) A waking night crisis response overnight service
 - (b) An evening and weekend domiciliary care response service
4. The provider is required to deliver support at short notice, within a maximum of a two hour timeframe and support can be delivered for up to 48 hours.
5. The service can be accessed by both social care and health professionals. It is already being well utilised, and is proving effective both in preventing hospital admissions and in facilitating hospital discharges.
6. A further evaluation of the service following the Winter period will inform future commissioning intentions.

Operational Services

7. Performance in a number of national key indicators continues to improve, particularly in relation to individuals receiving self-directed support and the proportion of people receiving a direct payment. This would indicate that our transformation agenda is achieving one of the objectives set in assisting individuals to maximise their independence.

8. The Adult Social Care staff forum has recently hosted a carousel event at Central Hall where social work teams hosted stalls providing information to colleagues across the Council on the varying aspects of the work they undertake with individuals, their families and the wider community. The event was well attended and everyone who attended felt it was informative, interesting and a good opportunity for front line staff to demonstrate the work they do.
9. Following a twelve week public consultation, the decision has been made by Cabinet to amend the Adult Social Care eligibility criteria. This change means that our criteria will now mirror the national minimum criteria contained within the Care Act 2014. This will support the service to deliver its statutory requirements.

Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board

10. At the Board meeting on the 30th November, there was a presentation from the Care Quality Commission (CQC). This focused on the quality of care in provider settings in Darlington and provided an update regarding the new phase approach to inspection which began in November 2017. The Board received assurance that there is effective information sharing in Darlington between the Local Authority and other agencies and the CQC, which is facilitated by bi-monthly meetings.
11. The Board, via the Adult Learning and Improvement Group, has ratified a briefing document which summarizes the main learning points from the Safeguarding Adults Review. The review was in respect of an eighty six year old lady who sadly died in a care home following a succession of falls. The Board commissioned a Safeguarding Adult Review, the findings of which were reported in April 2017. The briefing document, which is intended for dissemination to professionals, can be accessed via the Board's website and provides a resource that can be used across the partnership to embed learning.

Councillor Sue Richmond
Cabinet Member with Portfolio for Adult Social Care