
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. Adult social care has a duty to provide paid advocacy in a number of circumstances, notably:
 - (a) Independent Mental Health Act Advocacy (IMHA). When an individual is detained under the mental health act
 - (b) Independent Mental Capacity Advocacy (IMCA). When an individual does not have capacity to make certain decisions
 - (c) Relevant Persons Representative (RPR). When an individual is subject to a deprivation of liberty in a care home or hospital
 - (d) Care Act Advocacy. When an individual needs substantial support to engage in the assessment, review or safeguarding process under the Care Act
 - (e) Court of Protection 3A representative. When an individual is subject to a Deprivation of Liberty and lives in the community
3. The Advocacy contract was recently re-procured for a period of two years with an option to extend by a further twelve months plus twelve months.
4. The new contract starts on 1 April 2018 and the existing providers, Darlington Association on Disability (DAD) was successful in retaining the contract.

Operational Developments

5. The Director of Children and Adult Services has recently hosted the Darlington Social Work Conference 'A profession to be proud of'. The conference brought together lead professionals and speakers of national renown, including Lyn Romeo, the Principal Social Worker for England.
6. The conference also included inspirational workshops that covered a range of current social work issues for example, strength based approaches, restorative practice and professionalism and personal resilience in change. The conference

was extremely well received by our social workers and gave colleagues the opportunity to reflect on best practice and take forward their professional and personal development goals.

7. An employment fair was facilitated by the Life Stages Team on behalf of the Preparing for Adulthood Group. The 'getting a job fair' took place on 22 February. The fair brought together, support providers, employers, colleagues from the job centre and people with learning impairments.
8. The event aimed to raise employment aspirations, and awareness of support available, for adults with a learning impairment and or autism and started a discussion about possible employment opportunities in Darlington.
9. The fair was also accessible to members of the public and local health and social care organisations and enabled local providers to showcase their support offer.
10. The outcomes will be evaluated and learning will be used to stimulate further dialogue between providers, employers and people with learning impairments as to the best way to support people into sustainable employment.

Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board

11. At the Board meeting on 12 January 2018, there was a thematic discussion on the subject of workforce learning and development. Members were advised that the Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board is compliant in the delivery of training for all practitioners who have responsibility for safeguarding in the evaluation of the effectiveness and impact of the training provision.
12. Members discussed the Workforce Stability Report and it was highlighted that agencies have developed workforce strategies and have arrangements in place to monitor staffing levels and workforce pressures. Plans are in place in relation to the recruitment and retention of staff and the promotion of the North as a place to live and work
13. DSAB recently reviewed and revised the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Policy and Procedures to Safeguard Adults at Risk of Abuse and Neglect. The document is now available on the Safeguarding Board's website. The procedures have been updated to reflect recent changes in practice guidance and incorporate recent learning from national and local Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SAR's) and Lessons Learned Reviews (LLR's).
14. The Board has developed and ratified new multi-agency practice guidance in respect of Self-Neglect and Hoarding. This document outlines the guidance for supporting adults with care and support needs who are at risk of harm as a result of self-neglect. The document is intended as a multi-agency guide to issues of self-neglect and to provide procedural guidance to practitioners within Adult Social Care.

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Cabinet Member with Portfolio for Adult Social Care