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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. The first of a series of partnership events with Third Sector partners was held on 23 March 2018 which was very well attended. The key theme of the day was 'Partnerships and Complementary Working' and how statutory and Third Sector partners can work together for our local communities. Further events are being scheduled.
3. We have embarked on the annual programme of quality monitoring visits of the 19 residential and nursing care homes who we contract with in Darlington. This is a comprehensive review programme of both care and environmental standards, resulting in every care home receiving a grade.

### **Operational Developments**

4. Adult Social Care continues to achieve good performance in key areas relating to the Adult Social Care Outcomes Framework (ASCOF). In particular, we continue to reduce reliance on permanent residential placements, and are supporting more people at home with Direct Payments, with 45 per cent of people who need adult social care receiving this via a direct payment, 15 per cent more than in 2016/17. This demonstrates that we are supporting people to remain at home where this is possible, and enabling them to have more choice and control over how their care needs are then met.
5. Adult Social Care continues to deliver good performance in delayed transfers of care (DTC), which means that people are not in hospital beds unnecessarily due to social care issues. The latest Local Government Association (LGA) rankings relate to January 2018 data. At this time the LGA ranked Darlington as a comparatively high performer regarding the rate of delayed days attributable to social care. This shows our ongoing commitment to working in partnership with NHS colleagues to ensure that people are discharged from hospital in a timely manner.

6. The new online directory went live on 2 March and is now available to use. 'Living Well Darlington' is a resource that brings together a wide range of community based information, advice and guidance. This enables easy access to information regarding community resources that can help support people with a range of individual needs, from social activities to more complex health and social care issues. It will evolve to reflect changes within communities and will be maintained to ensure that information is up to date and accurate.
7. 'Living Well Darlington' also provides residents with new and modern ways of interfacing with Adult Social Care. Screening tools are available to enable people to gain insight as to whether they are likely to be eligible for Adult Social Care services and whether they are likely to make a financial contribution towards cost. The system is under further development as the next phase is to enable completion of financial assessments online.
8. The Agile Working rollout plan has recently been tested within the service. This has included practitioners from different teams using new IT equipment to test how it can help them become more efficient and avoid duplication of tasks. The most appropriate equipment will now be formally rolled out, along with new ways of working. This is part of our approach to ensure that the service, and its business processes, keep pace with modern practices and are as efficient as possible.

### **Darlington Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board**

9. The last Board meeting was held on 9 March 2018. Members were informed of the current work and future plans for increasing collaboration and integrated working between health and social care locally, with details regarding the Healthy New Towns initiative being highlighted.
10. Members were informed of the first meeting of the Partnership Co-ordination Group, which consists of the Chairs of each of the four strategic Partnership Boards. The Group met recently and highlighted the importance of collaboration between the Health and Wellbeing Board, the Community Safety Partnership and the Adult and Children Safeguarding Boards. Domestic Abuse was identified as an area of shared concern and it was agreed that a workshop should take place to explore the detail further.
11. Board Members were also updated on the work carried out in respect of Sexual Exploitation and Modern Slavery. A joint task and finish group established with Durham has developed a briefing/guidance document for staff which is being finalised.

### **Safe and Well-Being Visits**

12. This month I have had the opportunity to accompany County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service Red Watch to attend and observe the Safe and Well-Being visits.

13. A Safe and Well-Being visit is a totally free service offered by County Durham Fire and Rescue Service. Residents contact them to arrange a mutually convenient appointment for trained Fire and Rescue Service staff to visit and give personalised fire reduction advice and guidance.
14. The appointment normally lasts about 20 minutes and covers topics such as using electricity safely, cooking safely, making an escape plan, what to do if there is a fire in your home, keeping children safe and good practice – e.g. night time routine and any other points particularly relevant to the resident.
15. The Service will fit free smoke alarms where required and now also offers advice with respect to other areas of well-being, including winter warmth, flu vaccinations, dementia support, falls and isolation, smoking and alcohol safety tips and support for those who want to give up or reduce the amount they smoke or drink.
16. There are established and agreed referral pathways to the relevant partner agencies depending on issues raised and this is an excellent example of extended support which can be offered, particularly to more isolated residents.

## **Dementia**

17. Dementia Action Week is taking place on 21<sup>st</sup> to 27 May, 2018 and there will be a series of events taking place to raise awareness and offer support.
18. A further Dementia Friends Information training session for Members took place on 29 March, 2018.

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