
DARLINGTON PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

**Responsible Cabinet Member - Councillor Veronica Copeland,
Adult Services Portfolio**

Responsible Director - Cliff Brown, Director of Community Services

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. To request that cabinet approve the attached Partnership Agreement between Darlington Borough Council and Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Trust for Adult Mental Health Services, Mental Health Services for Older People and Adult Learning Disability Services.

Summary

2. The purpose of the agreement is to set out the requirements and approach necessary for the provision of mental health services for adults and older people, and people with a learning disability living in Darlington. The agreement aims to set out clearly the undertakings given by each party on the intended basis of their relationship. It is the intention of both parties to operate this agreement in the spirit of mutual trust as partners. The mental health trust works in partnership with the Council with regards to these three service areas and the partnership agreement formalises the integrated arrangements in relation to specialist provision.
3. The partnership agreement does not include any transfer of funds and nor does it operate on the basis of a pooled budget. The finances of each organisation will remain separate.
4. The Council will host the adult learning disability service and will provide integrated management whilst the Trust will host the mental health services and provide integrated management.
5. The overarching aim of the agreement is to provide a high quality, comprehensive service for the citizen's of Darlington and reflects existing custom and practice.

Recommendation

6. It is recommended that Cabinet approve the partnership agreement as attached in **Appendix 1** to this report

Reasons

7. The recommendations are supported because this will provide :-
- (a) Maximum opportunities for independence and recovery
 - (b) Enablement for people who use services and their carers to contribute in providing effective services
 - (c) Support for individuals to develop and maintain social inclusion, community membership and integration
 - (d) Equitable access to specialist services
 - (e) Appropriate and relevant information to inform increased choice and control
 - (f) A comprehensive whole system approach to integrated services in terms of meeting the needs of people with complex issues on a formalised basis

Cliff Brown
Director of Community Services

Background Papers

Partnership Agreement – March 2010

Maxine Naismith : Extension 3258

S17 Crime and Disorder	Some impact in terms of a reduction in hate crime
Health and Well Being	The partnership agreement will contribute to enhancing individuals mental health and wellbeing and their general health
Sustainability	No impact
Diversity	The partnership agreement will have an impact in terms of equitable access to services with a specialist focus upon BME communities for adults with mental health issues
Wards Affected	All groups
Groups Affected	Mental health adult and older people, adult with a learning disability. Carers
Budget and Policy Framework	This report does not recommend a change to the Council's budget or policy framework.
Key Decision	This is not a key decision
Urgent Decision	This is not considered an urgent decision
One Darlington: Perfectly Placed	This proposal contributes to the Safer Darlington theme and Healthier Darlington theme
Efficiency	Joint working provides opportunities for greater efficiencies

MAIN REPORT

Information and Analysis

8. The overarching aim of the partnership agreement attached as Appendix 1 is to achieve comprehensive services focussing upon the delivery of New Horizons, Dementia Strategy and Valuing People Now. The Agreement covers the management arrangements which are eligible for provision by either or both the Council's Department of Adult Social Care and the Darlington locality of the Trust. This will contribute to achieving the aims and objectives of local forums with regards to strategic partnerships and planning and will actively involve a large range of stakeholders in the monitoring and evaluation of the key service areas in Darlington. The purpose of this Agreement is to set out the integrated management arrangements which the Parties have agreed to in respect of the services referred to below:
 - (a) Adult Mental Health Services (AMH);
 - (b) Mental Health Services for Older People (MHSOP);
 - (c) Learning Disability Services (LD);
 - (d) Forensic Mental Health Services;
 - (e) Forensic Learning Disability Services;

Joint Aim

9. The over arching aim of the Parties is to achieve a comprehensive mental health service serving the people of the area through:
 - (a) The delivery of the National Service Frameworks for Adult Mental Health, Learning Disabilities and Older People, the NHS Plan and Social Services legislation/policy implementation in the context of other statutory requirements and the policies and local commissioning strategies;
 - (b) Contributing to achieving the aims and objectives of the local forums which contribute to Strategic Partnerships and planning (e.g. LSPs etc);
 - (c) Actively involving a wide range of stakeholders, including users and carers, in the management and monitoring and evaluation of Adult Mental Health Services, Older People Services and Learning Disabilities Services in the area.
10. This would encompass:
 - (a) providing care through a comprehensive range of health and social care professionals in locally based services;
 - (b) delivering services in ways which help achieve social inclusion and regeneration;
 - (c) accessing services which are timely, convenient and comprehensive;
 - (d) development and implementation of procedures for services to meet statutory responsibilities in respect of approved social work functions and care co-ordination, including assessment, care planning and reviewing individual needs in a way which seamlessly co-ordinates and delivers health and social care services;
 - (e) offering continuity of care to service users and their carers;

- (f) development of services for those not being reached at present or who are difficult to engage in services;
- (g) ensuring that the diverse needs of the population are met appropriately, so that needs relating to gender, ethnic minorities and culturally different groups can be met sensitively;
- (h) providing services that respond appropriately and quickly;
- (i) involving service users and carers in the planning of services.

11. To achieve these key aims the following objectives are agreed:

- (a) To adopt evidence based approaches with service users to ensure maximum opportunities for recovery;
- (b) To enable people who use services and carers to help design, select from among, monitor and evaluate and contribute to providing effective services;
- (c) To support individuals to develop and maintain social inclusion, community membership and integration into non-specialist resources within the community;
- (d) To work with generic community services groups, education services, employers, benefits agencies, consumer groups and organisations, family and friends, carers, housing agencies, to ensure a whole person, person centred approach to supporting and promoting recovery;
- (e) To, wherever possible, assist service users and their carers to continue living in their own homes;
- (f) To use at all times the least restrictive services possible;
- (g) To ensure people with mental health issues have access to and receive service equitably according to their need and wherever possible according to their choice;
- (h) To ensure that appropriate information is available for service users and carers;
- (i) To establish close links with other partners as appropriate;
- (j) To facilitate the development of a skilled and motivated social care workforce, with planned access to high quality training and development opportunities;
- (k) To establish close links with other parts of the Council's work i.e. commissioners etc;
- (l) To ensure that each person who needs care and support can identify a single professional who has overall responsibility for the arrangements being made to help them and who is in a position to deal rapidly with problems and changes in the person's circumstances.

12. The Agreement will commence on 1 August 2010 and be subject to annual review with an end date of 31 March 2013, unless terminated earlier by either party in accordance with clause 12 of the Agreement. This end date will coincide with other end dates which TEWV have in place with other statutory organisations. At any time during the period of the Agreement, including the period following a review, the nominated representative's from

each Party can jointly agree to vary any provision in the Agreement.

13. The partnership agreement will enhance integrated practices and will meet the statutory functions of both organisations with a specific remit for Approved Mental Health Professionals, assessment and care planning in a way which seamlessly coordinated and delivers social care and health services. The integrated approach will ensure that the diverse needs of the population are met in a sensitive manner utilising all available multi-disciplinary skill sets. Council employees will be subject to the Council terms and conditions and will be managed through the Council's policy and procedures .It will also contribute further to close links with Tees, Esk and Wear Valley NHS Trust.
14. Funding for the partnership is provided from each organisation with accountability for the Council's budget being with the Head of Adult Social Care and accountability for the Trust budget being with the Trust's General Managers. There will continue to be separate budgets held by each organisation and run in parallel, although funds will not pooled.
15. Each Party shall remain individually responsible for any claims, damages or liabilities arising in respect of work carried out or services provided by their respective employees. In the event that a dispute arising, the partners will follow the Council's Dispute & Resolution Procedure, which should involve initially discussions with relevant parties to resolve the dispute on an informal basis.

Consultation

16. TEWV have consulted widely with their various partner organisations and respective legal teams in compiling this agreement and as stated previously the agreement largely reflects current joint practices and procedures and this agreement is seeking to formalise those existing strong working relationships.