



**DARLINGTON**

Borough Council

# Adults Scrutiny Committee Agenda

9.30 am, Tuesday, 1 April 2025

Council Chamber, Town Hall, Darlington, DL1 5QT

**Members of the Public are welcome to attend this Meeting.**

1. Introductions/Attendance at Meeting (Pages 3 - 4)
2. Declarations of Interest
3. To approve the Minutes of the meeting of this Scrutiny Committee held on 25th February 2025 (Pages 5 - 10)
4. CQC Assurance Framework - Update – Report of the Assistant Director, Adults (Pages 11 - 16)
5. Mapping of Provisions within the Borough including Commissioned Services – Report of the Assistant Director of Commissioning, Performance and Transformation (Pages 17 - 30)
6. Shared Lives – Report of the Assistant Director of Commissioning, Performance and Transformation (Pages 31 - 32)
7. Work Programme 2024/25 – Report of the Assistant Director, Law and Governance (Pages 33 - 44)
8. SUPPLEMENTARY ITEM(S) (if any) which in the opinion of the Chair of this Committee are of an urgent nature and can be discussed at this meeting.
9. Questions



**Luke Swinhoe**  
**Assistant Director Law and Governance**

**Monday, 24<sup>th</sup> March 2025**

**Town Hall**  
**Darlington.**

**Membership**

Councillors Anderson, Crumbie, Donoghue, Layton, Mammolotti, M Nicholson, Renton, Storr, Tostevin and Vacancy

If you need this information in a different language or format or you have any other queries on this agenda please contact Paul Dalton, Democratic and Elections Officer, Resources and Governance Group, during normal office hours 8.30 a.m. to 4.45 p.m. Mondays to Thursdays and 8.30 a.m. to 4.15 p.m. Fridays

**Briefing for scrutiny committees**

Climate change can affect anyone, but some people have the potential to be more affected than others. How badly a person or group will be affected will depend not just on their exposure to the event, but on their social vulnerability – that is, how well they are able to cope with and respond to events like floods and heatwaves. People and communities experiencing multiple causes of vulnerability are the most extremely socially vulnerable.

Tackling climate change is a shared responsibility. It is deeply connected to other policy issues and local action is necessary for sustainable solutions. We need to be clear how any proposal/project impacts on our carbon emissions and how it affects our resilience. It is also important that the decisions we make do not prevent other people from reducing their own emissions or improving their own resilience.

Scrutiny has a critical role to play in these cross-cutting issues. Climate change as a stand-alone issue sits in the purview of the Economy and Resources Scrutiny Committee, but everything we do either has an impact on, or is impacted by, climate change so it is important for all scrutiny committees to also ensure that everything that comes in front of them has considered it.

The Council Plan now includes climate change as a key principle underpinning everything we do. The guidance notes for cabinet and decision papers have also been updated so the “carbon impact” box should never say no impact. Clearly, proposals or projects will differ, depending on what is being discussed, and not all of the questions below will apply to everything that comes to a scrutiny committee, but they should help to tease out how the officers have come to that decision.

**Questions for scrutiny committee members to ask**

1. Will the proposal/project result in an increase in carbon emissions?
  - How have you ensured that energy is not wasted or lost through poor insulation, heating the wrong areas or inefficient lighting?
  - Will there be an increase in business travel or commuting?
  - How easy will it be for people to travel by public transport, bicycle or walking?
  - Is there a need for travel at all?
  - Will there be an increase in waste disposal?
2. How will you reduce emissions?
  - How can you reduce energy use?
  - How can you reduce use of natural resources?
  - How can you ensure suppliers are working in a sustainable way?
  - How can you reduce waste?
  - How can you improve energy efficiency?
3. Will the proposal have any impacts on biodiversity (positive or negative)?
  - Will there be a net reduction in trees?
  - Are there opportunities for planting?
  - Are there other habitats or wildlife considerations?

4. Does the proposal incorporate/promote the development of renewable energy?
  - How can you increase the use of renewable energy in your project?
5. How can you minimise emissions from transport?
  - How can your project enable and encourage active travel?
  - How can you reduce the need for travel at all?
6. How will you make the proposal/project resilient to the impacts of climate change, such as more frequent severe weather, floods and heatwaves?
  - How can your project be designed to be resilient to these occurrences?
  - How can you ensure the building does not overheat in summer?
  - How will your service travel during these events?
  - How can communities using your service be protected?

#### Supplementary questions

- Does any procurement consider the impact on the environment?
- How does the project/proposal support the climate change strategy, tree and woodland strategy and sustainable communities strategy?
- How does the project/proposal support local businesses and employers to be sustainable?
- How can the project/proposal help develop local skills?

## ADULTS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 25 February 2025

**PRESENT** – Councillors Anderson (Chair), Layton, Mammolotti, M Nicholson and Tostevin.

**APOLOGIES** – Councillors Crumbie, Donoghue, Renton and Storr.

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE** – Councillor Curry.

**OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE** – Joss Harbron (Assistant Director - Adult Social Care), Ann Baxter (Independent Chair of the Darlington Safeguarding Children Board), Amanda Hugill (Safeguarding Partnership Business Manager), Paul Dalton (Democratic and Elections Officer) and James McAllister (Elections Assistant).

### AD33 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest reported at the meeting.

### AD34 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THIS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD ON 7TH JANUARY 2025

**RESOLVED** – That the Minutes of the meeting of this Committee held on 7 January 2025, be approved as a correct record.

### AD35 CQC ASSURANCE FRAMEWORK - UPDATE

The Assistant Director, Adults, submitted a report (previously circulated) to update and inform this Committee on the CQC assurance framework and inspection activity in January 2025.

The submitted report stated that the CQC Assurance Framework for Local Authorities in England, introduced by the Care Quality Commission (CQC), was a structured approach to evaluating the performance of local authorities in delivering Adult Social Care services, and was aligned with the goals of the Health and Care Act 2022, which aimed to ensure high-quality, equitable, and sustainable care for individuals in need.

The submitted report outlined the assessment criteria, the methods of evaluation, the outcome ratings, and the focus on continuous improvement by identifying strengths and areas for development. The submitted report updated Members on the inspection undertaken between 20th January 2025 and 24th January 2025.

The Chair reported that he had met with the Senior Leadership Team, thanked the team for their work in preparing for the inspection, and stated that he was reassured that there should be no unforeseen issues arising from the inspection.

Members felt that the inspection represented a refreshing approach, and sought clarification over the scoring system. Members were made aware of the recent final report received by Middlesbrough Council and enquired whether there had been any feedback from colleagues on their report.

**RESOLVED** – That the contents of the report be noted.

**AD36 OVERVIEW OF ADULT SELF-NEGLECT REPORTED INTO DARLINGTON SAFEGUARDING PARTNERSHIP 2020-2024**

The Assistant Director, Adults, submitted a report (previously circulated) to provide an overview of self-neglect, including the local picture, for the period 2020-2024, as reported into Darlington Safeguarding Partnership, along with the trends, themes and key learning points.

The submitted report outlined that the Darlington Safeguarding Partnership was aware that self-neglect continued to be a challenge with numbers of reported concerns highlighting a steady increase year on year. It was stated that a key priority for the Partnership was to ensure partner agencies improved awareness and understanding of adult self-neglect to ensure early identification was achieved and, wherever possible, prevent serious injury or the death of adults at risk who appear to be self-neglecting.

In addition to the submitted report, the Safeguarding Partnership Business Manager gave a presentation which provided an overview of the local picture of adult self-neglect, and the definition and description of self-neglect. Particular focus was given to the Safeguarding Adult Review referrals and data reported into the Partnership relating to self-neglect, which highlighted there has been an upward trend, locally, regionally and nationally.

The presentation covered the themes, trends and key learning points identified, and the work that the Darlington Safeguarding Partnership has undertaken in response to support those working with adults who self-neglect.

Members welcomed the report and were pleased to note that self-neglect and hoarding were not considered 'a lifestyle choice', and questioned the level of work that the Partnership could undertake with those who privately rented and with private landlords. Discussion ensued on the work undertaken by Environmental Health, and the mechanism for referrals to General Practitioners. It was noted that hoarding may be viewed as a mental health condition, however was usually found alongside another primary diagnosis.

Members entered into discussion on the perceptions and misconceptions around hoarding, and use of the 'Clutter Tool'. Members were keen to understand the information sharing arrangements with safeguarding partners, particularly in relation to the Fire Service, where early intervention and a shared Fire Safety Plan may result in lives being saved.

**RESOLVED** – (a) That this Committee encourage that discussions in relation to information sharing between partner agencies be expedited to ensure, where possible, that those vulnerable people with a record of hoarding and self-neglect have greater access to fire safety services at the earliest opportunity;

(b) That the understanding of self-neglect and the key learning points identified by Darlington Safeguarding Partnership to date, be noted.

(c) That this Committee is assured that the Safeguarding Partnership is effectively

coordinating multi-agency safeguarding practice relating to self-neglect in Darlington for adults with care and support needs.

### **AD37 PERFORMANCE INDICATORS QUARTER 2 2024/2025**

The Assistant Director, Adult Services, submitted a report (previously circulated) to provide Members with performance data against key performance indicators for Quarter 2 of 2024-25.

The submitted report provided performance information in line with an indicator set and Scrutiny Committee distribution agreed by the Monitoring and Coordination Group on 4 June 2018, and subsequently agreed by Scrutiny Committee Chairs. It was stated that the indicators were aligned with key priorities. Twelve indicators were reported to this Committee, and the performance of eight of the twelve indicators as at the end of Quarter 2 2024/25, were reported on.

It was reported that, of the eight indicators reported at this point, two of the indicators showed performance better than at this time last year (ASC002 and ASC003); two indicators were comparable with the same time last year (ASC019 and ASC050); one indicator showed a lower performance than at this time last year (ASC049), and three of the indicators were not comparable and were reviewed at a point in time (ASC208, ASC209 and ASC211).

It was reported that the two indicators recorded annually (ASC054 - The proportion of people who use Adult Care services who find it easy to find information about services – and ASC055 - The proportion of people who are carers who find it easy to find information about services) were not included within the report as the 2023-24 results would be released towards the end of the year, and would appear in the 2024-25 Quarter 3 Scrutiny report.

Discussion ensued on younger adults residing in older persons settings, the use of personal assistants to help those wishing to undertake self-directed care and payments and how this could be better promoted, and the reasoning why ASC045 (Proportion of adults with a learning disability who live in their own home or with their family) and ASC046 (Proportion of adults with learning disabilities in paid employment) were no longer reported on.

The Chair reported that he had recently contacted Darlington Association on Disability (D.A.D) with a view to extending an invitation for a representative to attend a meeting in the new Municipal Year and provide an overview of the support that the organisation provides, and a further discussion ensued on the cost effectiveness of direct payments compared to commissioned services.

**RESOLVED** – That the performance information provided within the submitted report be noted.

### **AD38 CARE HOMES IN EXECUTIVE STRATEGY MEASURES / ARRANGEMENTS**

The Assistant Director, Adults, submitted a report (previously circulated) to provide the Committee with an overview of the requirements on the Local Authority to support our statutory duties regarding organisational safeguarding under The Care Act 2014.

The submitted report outlined the process and considerations in relation to Executive Strategy, and stated that since the previous six-monthly report to this Committee, the Council only had two providers within Executive Strategy Procedures (ESP).

It was reported that the first provider (a nursing home) entered ESP on 17 December 2024, following concerns in relation to increased individual Safeguarding concern referrals, concerns relating to medication omissions following audits, whistleblowing concerns received, CQC inspection identifying clinical oversight concerns, and environmental health concerns relating to infection control and establishment hygiene. The submitted report outlined the actions that had been put into place to support immediate improvement. It was noted that the Council continued to work closely with the CQC and our contracting and commissioning partners and the Integrated Care Board, as well as the provider, to support ongoing improvements.

The submitted report stated that the second provider (a residential care home) had entered ESP in November 2023, following increased individual Safeguarding concern referrals, concerns relating to medication omissions following audits, CQC inspection identifying clinical oversight concerns, environmental health concerns relating to infection control and establishment hygiene, concerns relating to self-neglect and acts of omission, and concerns held around the lack of care planning, risk assessments and physical safety. It was reported that, although the service remains in ESP, the provider had undertaken improvements across the last 14 months and was currently progressing with the action plan with the local authority and partner agencies to make the necessary improvements, and that a further meeting had been arranged to ensure that the improvements were now sustainable with clear embedded governance processes before closing the ESP.

Members welcomed the report, and expressed the view that it was reassuring that the two providers were receiving additional support to improve. Discussion ensued on how such cases are identified, and whether concerns can also be raised by whistleblowers from within an organisation or relatives.

**RESOLVED** - (a) That the contents of the report be noted.

(b) That this Scrutiny Committee continue to be updated on a six-monthly basis on care homes/services in Executive Strategy measures.

### **AD39 DARLINGTON SAFEGUARDING PARTNERSHIP ANNUAL REPORT - 2023/2024**

The Assistant Director, Adults, submitted a report (previously circulated) to enable Adults Scrutiny Committee to receive and comment upon the Annual Report of the Darlington Safeguarding Partnership (DSP) for the period 2023/24. The Annual Report was appended to the submitted report, and introduced at the meeting by the Independent Chair of the DSP.

Members requested further information on the house fire that had resulted in two deaths in May 2023, and clarified whether partnership working extended to the Probation Service, in relation to domestic violence. Concerns were raised in relation to 'cuckooing', and Members hoped that new legislation would be forthcoming to protect vulnerable adults from being abused in this manner.



**RESOLVED** – (a) That the contents of the DSP Annual Report for 2023/24, be noted.

(b) That the thanks of the Adults Scrutiny Committee be extended to the Independent Chair of the DSP, following the announcement that she would be stepping down this year.

(**NOTE:** The Chair exercised his power to vary the order of the Agenda, and Minute AD39 above was taken directly following Minute AD34 at the meeting).

#### **AD40 WORK PROGRAMME 2024/25**

The Assistant Director, Law and Governance, submitted a report (previously circulated) which requested that Members give consideration to the Work Programme items scheduled to be considered by this Scrutiny Committee during 2024/25, and to any additional areas that Members would like to be included.

The Chair reported on a request from the Health and Housing Scrutiny Committee, that this Committee give consideration to the Carbapenemase-producing Enterobacterales (CPE) data in respect of Care Homes and Domiciliary Care, and in doing so suggested that the Committee give consideration to including a wider piece of work on infection control in Care Homes and within Domiciliary Care on the Work Programme for the Municipal Year 2025/26.

**RESOLVED** – That the content of the report be noted.

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**ADULTS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**  
**01 April 2025**

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**CQC ASSURANCE FRAMEWORK – UPDATE**

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**SUMMARY REPORT**

**Purpose of the Report**

1. To update and inform Scrutiny on the CQC assurance framework and inspection outcome

**Summary**

2. The CQC Assurance Framework for Local Authorities in England, introduced by the Care Quality Commission (CQC), is a structured approach to evaluating the performance of local authorities in delivering Adult Social Care services. It aligns with the goals of the Health and Care Act 2022, which aims to ensure high-quality, equitable, and sustainable care for individuals in need.
3. The framework evaluates how local authorities:
  - a) Assess needs: Identify and understand the care and support needs of their population.
  - b) Provide support: Deliver timely, effective, and personalised care.
  - c) Ensure safety: Protect adults at risk from harm and ensure high standards of care.
  - d) Leadership and workforce: Exhibit effective leadership and maintain a skilled, motivated workforce.
4. Assessment Criteria: The CQC uses four key themes:
  - a) Working with people: Involves engagement with service users, families, and carers.
  - b) Providing support: Focuses on commissioning and direct service provision.
  - c) Ensuring safety: Covers safeguarding and risk management.
  - d) Leadership: Examines strategic direction, governance, and staff wellbeing.

5. Methods of Evaluation:

- a) Data and Evidence: Review of qualitative and quantitative data from local authorities and service providers.
- b) Inspection Visits: On-site evaluations to observe practices and gather insights from stakeholders.
- c) Stakeholder Feedback: Input from people using services, their carers, and partner organisations.

6. Outcome Ratings:

- a) Local authorities are rated on their performance, using categories such as Outstanding, Good, Requires Improvement, or Inadequate.

7. Improvement Focus:

- a) The framework emphasises continuous improvement by identifying strengths and areas for development, supporting local authorities to enhance service quality.

**Conclusion**

- 8. The CQC's assurance process aims to create transparency, foster accountability, and drive better outcomes for individuals relying on Adult Social Care services.
- 9. This report seeks to update Scrutiny members on the inspection undertaken between 20 January 2025 - 24 January 2025.

**Recommendation**

- 10. It is recommended that Members note the contents of the report.

**Climate Considerations**

- 11. This report has considered climate impact and change. All consideration was undertaken with sustainability in mind and aim to reduce the carbon footprint, and re-use energy and environmental resources where possible. The feedback and evidence for CQC assurance framework has been developed electronically and shared via emails, Teams or in the main through virtual events. Adult Services have appointed practitioners to lead on climate change within the service and develop literature and information to share with people who access services.

**Joss Harbron**  
**Assistant Director of Adult Social Care**

**Background Papers**

No background papers were used in the preparation of this report.

Joss Harbron: Extension: 5278

Council Plan	The report and the activity to support the preparation for regulation and inspection is aligned to the Council Plan priorities.
Addressing inequalities	This programme has no specific impact on protected groups however all inequalities are considered as part of the assessment process.
Tackling Climate Change	All consideration was undertaken with sustainability in mind and aim to reduce the carbon footprint, and re-use energy and environmental resources where possible.
Efficient and effective use of resources	Key aims with Adult Services is to deliver efficient, effective and person-centred care which supports a strength based approach aligned to the requirements of the Care Act and includes effective use of resources.
Health and Wellbeing	The strategy outlined in this report will continue the Council's drive to deliver services and support that enhance people's life chances and opportunities to thrive.
S17 Crime and Disorder	N/A
Wards Affected	All Darlington Wards.
Groups Affected	All adults with social care needs in Darlington.
Budget and Policy Framework	This report does not impact on the budget and policy framework.
Key Decision	This report is an update.
Urgent Decision	N/A
Impact on Looked After Children and Care Leavers	The proposed projects have no specific impact on Looked After Children or Care Leavers.

## MAIN REPORT

### Information and Analysis

12. The Care Quality Commission have undertaken an onsite inspection of Darlington Borough Council Adult Services between 20 January 2025 - 27 January 2025.
13. The inspection was undertaken by six inspectors who remained on site for three days and then undertake a further two days chairing Teams meetings with specific groups.
14. The inspection team arranged group meetings with:
  - a) Front-line practitioners from each Social Work and Occupational Therapy teams and including Commissioning, Brokerage, Contracting and Performance.
  - b) Council Members – i.e. Portfolio Holder, Shadow Portfolio Holders, and Scrutiny Chair.
  - c) Senior Leadership – i.e. Chief Executive, Director of Adult Social Services and Heads of Service.
  - d) Partners, e.g. Carers Support Services, County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust, Tees, Esk and Wear Valley, Integrated Care Board and Darlington Association of Disability.

- e) Stakeholders, e.g. carers and people who use Adult Services.

### **Outcome of Inspection**

15. On 5 February 2025 following the inspection CQC provided high-level feedback to James Stroyan, Executive Director and Joss Harbron, Assistant Director. The findings shared were overall positive with feedback from the Lead Inspector on the commitment and passion of staff, the good relationships with partners, Members, and people who use services.
16. Assessing local authorities is a new role for CQC, so they have added calibration panels as a temporary additional step in the quality assurance process. These panels will then review and validate the scores and ratings from the assessments to make sure they provide a reliable and consistent view of quality across local authorities. The panel will include both internal and external representatives.
17. A draft report will be shared with the local authority and will:
  - a) Include a short summary of the key features of the local authority.
  - b) Show CQC most up-to-date findings against the themes and for each quality statement.
  - c) Focus on people's experiences of care, including:
    - i. What people have said about their experience.
    - ii. How CQC used it in their assessments.
  - d) Include a description of:
    - i. Areas that need to improve.
    - ii. Areas of strength and good practice.
    - iii. Whether the local authority is moving in the right direction.
18. The Local Authority will be able to check the factual accuracy and completeness of evidence used in the draft report. There will be a short period between the assessment and when CQC publish the final report on our website.
19. When CQC publish the ratings, they will publish the:
  - a) Overall rating.
  - b) Score for each quality statement.
20. The score will indicate where a local authority sits within a rating, showing whether it is nearer the upper or lower threshold.
21. CQC will quality-assure their processes and reports to check that their view of quality is reliable.
22. The Department of Health and Social Care has requested that CQC include financial information in assessment reports. However, CQC do not consider this in their assessment – it is presented for information purposes only.

23. The report will make clear any areas that require improvement. CQC consider local authorities to be best placed to lead their own improvement and the assessments consider any improvement actions that Darlington Borough Council Adult Services has already put in place.
24. If CQC find that a local authority is failing to perform its functions under the Care Act to an acceptable standard, they must inform the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care. This duty is under section 50 of The Health and Social Care Act 2008.
25. The duty is triggered where any quality statement receives a score of 1. This applies to all quality statements except those under the [‘Leadership’ Theme](#). These do not directly map to Part 1 of the Care Act.
26. When this happens, the Chief Inspector of Adult Social Care and Integrated Care will write separately to:
  - a) The Secretary of State to explain how they made our decision.
  - b) The Chief Executive and Director of Adult Social Services at the local authority to inform them that a section 50 notification has been made.
27. Following this notification, the Department of Health and Social Care will provide guidance and co-ordinate any improvement or intervention activity. This is described in the [operational framework for adult social care intervention in local authorities](#).

## **Conclusion**

28. At time of writing this report the final report has not been published. It is anticipated to be published by end of March - early April 2025.

### Inspection status for North East Local Authorities (Feb 2025)

Council	Current status	Date notified	On site visit to commence	Overall Rating	Overall Score	Assessing needs	Supporting people to lead healthier lives	Equity in experience and outcomes	Care provision, integration and continuity	Partnership and communities	Safe Pathways, Systems and transitions	Safeguarding	Governance, management and Sustainability	Learning, improvement and innovation
County Durham	Complete	30/01/2024	20/06/2024	Good	67	2	3	2	3	3	3	2	3	3
Northumberland	Complete	19/02/2024	05/08/2024	Good	70	2	3	2	3	3	3	3	3	3
Gateshead	Complete	18/03/2024	28/10/2024	Good	67	2	2	2	3	3	3	3	3	3
Middlesbrough	Complete	22/05/2024	28/10/2024	Requires Improvement	62	2	3	2	2	3	3	3	2	2
Redcar and Cleveland	Awaiting Report to be published	22/05/2024	04/11/2024											
Hartlepool	Awaiting Report to be published	22/05/2024	11/11/2024											
Sunderland	Awaiting Report to be published	24/06/2024	25/11/2024											
Stockton-on-Tees	Awaiting Report to be published	24/06/2024	25/11/2024											
Darlington	Awaiting Report to be published	24/06/2024	20/01/2025											
Newcastle upon Tyne	Awaiting Report to be published	15/07/2024	27/01/2025											
North Tyneside	Awaiting Report to be published	09/09/2024	17/02/2025											
South Tyneside	Awaiting date for onsite inspection	11/11/2024												
Cumberland	Awaiting date for onsite inspection	13/01/2025												



**Adults Scrutiny MEETING  
1 April 2025**

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**MAPPING OF PROVISIONS WITHIN THE BOROUGH INCLUDING COMMISSIONED SERVICES**

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**SUMMARY REPORT**

**Purpose of the Report**

1. The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of care and support services available in Darlington, including services which have been commissioned directly by the Council.

**Summary**

2. The Livingwell Directory contains information on care and support services which are available within Darlington.
3. Information on Commissioned Services is also available to internal staff via the Commissioning, Contracts and Brokerage Resource Directory.

**Recommendation**

4. It is recommended that :-
  - (a) Members note the information contained within this report.

**Christine Shields**  
**Assistant Director of Commissioning, Performance and Transformation**

**Background Papers**

None.

Sukhdev Dosanjh Head of Commissioning, Contracts and Brokerage  
Extension: 5651

Council Plan	This work contributes to the priorities agreed in the Council Plan.
Addressing inequalities	There are no implications arising from this report.
Tackling Climate Change	There are no implications arising from this report.
Efficient and effective use of resources	This report supports the efficient use of resources through effective commissioning approaches.
Health and Wellbeing	This work supports the priorities set out in the Health and Wellbeing Strategy.
S17 Crime and Disorder	There are no implications arising from this report.
Wards Affected	All wards.
Groups Affected	All groups.
Budget and Policy Framework	There are no implications for the Budget or Policy Framework.
Key Decision	This is not a key decision.
Urgent Decision	This is not an urgent decision.
Impact on Looked After Children and Care Leavers	This report has no impact on Looked After Children or Care Leavers.

## MAIN REPORT

### Introduction

5. This report outlines the key provisions, strategies, and services available to ensure the well-being and independence of these individuals.

### Strategic Framework

6. The Accommodation with Care and Support Strategy 2024-2027 is a pivotal document guiding the provision of services in Darlington. It aims to address the key pressures facing the system and outlines the vision for future developments.
7. The strategy emphasises:
  - (a) Innovative Housing Solutions: Reducing reliance on traditional residential care homes by developing community-based support services.
  - (b) Assistive Technology: Encouraging the use of technology to increase independence and reduce restrictive practices.
  - (c) Local Provision: Minimising the need for out-of-borough placements by meeting needs locally.

### Key Services and Models

8. Supported Living: This includes housing with the necessary care and support for individuals to lead fulfilling lives. Models include:
  - (a) House in Multiple Occupation (HMO): Shared accommodation with on-site support staff.
  - (b) House with Support: Homes for one or two people, often bungalow-type, with shared communal facilities.
  - (c) Adult Social Care Services: These services focus on living independently, caring for others, and providing financial support for eligible individuals.
9. Specialist Services like the North East Centre for Autism provide tailored support for individuals with autism and neurodiversity.
10. Target Groups – The strategy and services cater to various groups, including:
  - (a) Older People: Especially those caring for working-aged adults with disabilities.
  - (b) Working-Aged Adults with Disabilities: Including those with learning disabilities, mental health issues, autism, physical disabilities, and sensory impairments.
  - (c) Young People Transitioning to Adulthood: Ensuring a smooth transition with ongoing care and support needs.

## Challenges and Future Directions

11. The system faces significant financial challenges and demographic pressures. The strategy aims to develop innovative solutions to address these issues, focusing on:
  - (a) Reducing Residential Care Usage: By providing high-standard, flexible, and adaptable supported accommodation.
  - (b) Encouraging Provider Collaboration: To ensure supported accommodation maximises the use of assistive technology and strengths-based approaches.
12. **Accessing adult care and support services in Darlington involves several steps:**
  - (a) On-line Offer: It's essential to actively encourage individuals and their families to access information online initially. The living Well directory should be the first port of call for information on available services, support and resources.
  - (b) Initial Contact: Individuals or their carers can contact the Adult Contact Team at Darlington Borough Council. This team provides information, advice, and guidance on available services.
  - (c) Assessment: If ongoing care and support needs are identified, an initial assessment is conducted by a practitioner. This assessment helps understand the individual's needs and the type of support required
  - (d) Care and Support Planning: Based on the assessment, a care and support plan is developed. This plan outlines the services and support the individual will receive. Financial assessments are also conducted to determine any contributions the individual may need to make.
  - (e) Implementation: Once the care and support plan is agreed upon, services are arranged and provided. This can include home care, supported living, or other community-based services.
  - (f) Review and Monitoring: The care and support plan is regularly reviewed to ensure it continues to meet the individual's needs. Adjustments are made as necessary to adapt to any changes in circumstances.
13. For more detailed information or to start the process, you can visit the [Darlington Borough Council's Adult Social Care page](#) or contact the Adult Contact Team directly.
14. In addition Information on Commissioned Services is also available to internal staff via the Commissioning, Contracts and Brokerage Resource Directory.

## Consultation and service Improvement

15. A review of the Directory was recently undertaken by a task and finish group comprising of Councillor McEwan, Councillor Roche, Councillor Riley, the Head of Strategy, Performance and Communications, the Director of Partnerships, the Assistant Director of Commissioning, Performance and Transformation and officers from Public Health, operational social work teams and Housing.
16. Improvements have been made to the Livingwell directory which can be found at the link below:
  - (a) <https://livingwell.darlington.gov.uk/> The internal Resource Directory is currently being updated following the recent completion and mobilisation of new tendered contracts with the new version being available by March 31 2025. An overview of current services together with our local commissioning intentions can also be found in the ASC Market Position Statement and Commissioning Strategy

<https://www.darlington.gov.uk/media/21371/market-position-statement-and-commissioning-strategy.pdf>

## Examples of Commissioned and Voluntary Sector Services available in Darlington

17. Four extra care housing schemes in Darlington are:
  - (a) Dalkeith House
  - (b) Mayflower Court
  - (c) Oban Court
  - (d) Rosemary Court
18. These schemes provide self-contained flats with additional communal facilities and on-site care services to support residents in living independently.
19. A range of preventative services including services provided by local VCSE organisations and housing related support services.

## Preventative Services

20. Health and Wellbeing Programs:
  - (a) Health Walks and Exercise Classes: Programs like health walks and exercise classes are designed to improve physical health and reduce social isolation.
  - (b) Mental Health Support: Services such as counselling, peer support groups, and mental health awareness programs help individuals manage their mental health effectively.
21. Social Prescribing
  - (a) Darlington Connect: This initiative links individuals with non-medical support in the community, such as social activities, volunteering opportunities, and support groups. It aims to address social determinants of health and improve overall well-being.

22. Assistive Technology

- (a) Telecare Services: These services include devices and systems that help individuals live independently, such as fall detectors, medication reminders, and emergency response systems

**VCSE Organisations**

23. Voluntary Organisations Network North East (VONNE)

- (a) Support and Advocacy: VONNE represents over 1,400 member organisations, providing support, advocacy, and networking opportunities for the VCSE sector in Darlington

24. Darlington Association on Disability (DAD)

- (a) Accessibility and Inclusion: DAD works to improve accessibility and support for disabled individuals, offering services such as advocacy, information, and direct support

25. Age UK Darlington:

- (a) Support for Older Adults: Age UK provides a range of services including befriending, social activities, and practical support to help older adults maintain their independence and well-being

**Housing-Related Support Services**

26. Supported Living

- (a) Darlington Mind Supported Living Services: Provides high-quality, fully furnished homes with support for individuals with mental health issues, helping them live independently and manage their tenancies

27. Homelessness Prevention

- (a) Waythrough - Humankind Charity: Offers intensive support to individuals who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, helping them secure and maintain stable accommodation. Services include tenancy support, benefits advice, and access to health services

28. Affordable Housing

- (a) Broadacres Housing Association: Provides affordable housing options and support services to help individuals maintain their tenancies and live independently.

29. Darlington's preventative services, supported by local VCSE organisations and housing-related support services, play a crucial role in promoting health, well-being, and independence among adults with care and support needs. These services are designed to prevent or delay the need for more intensive care and support, ensuring individuals can lead fulfilling lives within their communities.

### **A range of services for Carers**

30. Carers in Darlington have access to a variety of support services designed to help them manage their caregiving responsibilities and maintain their own well-being. Here are some key services available:

### **Darlington Carers Support**

31. Darlington Carers Support offers a comprehensive range of services, including:
- (a) Information and Advice: Guidance on navigating the range of services and support available to carers.
  - (b) Practical Help: Assistance with completing forms, grants, and other funding applications.
  - (c) Carer Breaks: Opportunities for carers to take a break from their responsibilities.
  - (d) Support Groups: Regular meetings where carers can connect with others in similar situations.
  - (e) Counselling Sessions: Free counselling to support carers' mental health and well-being.
  - (f) Training and Benefit Advice: Training sessions and advice on benefits and financial support.
  - (g) Digital Support: Help with using computers, smartphones, or other devices, including equipment loans if needed

### **Carers' Assessments**

32. Carers can request a Carer's Assessment from Darlington Borough Council Adult Services. This assessment identifies the carer's needs and determines eligibility for additional support, such as financial assistance or respite care.

### **Local VCSE Organisations**

33. Several voluntary, community, and social enterprise (VCSE) organisations provide support to carers in Darlington:
- (a) Darlington Association on Disability (DAD): Offers advocacy, information, and direct support for carers of disabled individuals.
  - (b) Age UK Darlington: Provides practical support, social activities, and befriending services for older carers.

### **Respite Care**

34. Respite care services are available to give carers a temporary break from their caregiving duties. This can include short-term stays in care homes or in-home respite care provided by professional caregivers.

### **Financial Support**

35. Carers may be eligible for financial support, such as Carer's Allowance, to help with the costs associated with caregiving. The Carer's Assessment can help determine eligibility for these benefits

### **Advocacy support**

36. In Darlington, several advocacy services are available to support individuals in having their voices heard and their rights respected. Here are some key advocacy services:

#### **Darlington Association on Disability (DAD)**

37. Darlington Association on Disability (DAD) provides a range of advocacy services, including:
- (a) Independent Advocacy: Support for individuals to have their voices heard and their rights respected.
  - (b) Self-Advocacy Groups: Empowering individuals to speak up for themselves.
  - (c) Specialist Advocacy: Including Independent Mental Health Act Advocacy (IMHA), Care Act advocacy, and advocacy for victims of hate crime and other crimes

#### **Darlington Borough Council**

38. Darlington Borough Council offers advocacy services to help individuals:
- (a) Secure Their Rights: Ensuring individuals receive the services and support they need.
  - (b) Represent Their Interests: Helping individuals express their views and preferences.
  - (c) Paid Advocacy: Available in certain circumstances, such as when individuals are detained under the Mental Health Act or subject to deprivation of liberty.



## Contact Information

39. For more information or to access advocacy services, you can contact:
- (a) Darlington Association on Disability (DAD): Call 01325 360524 or email [advocacy@darlingtondisability.org](mailto:advocacy@darlingtondisability.org)
  - (b) Darlington Borough Council's Adult Social Care: Visit their **website** for more details
40. These advocacy services aim to ensure that individuals in Darlington can have greater choice, control, and independence in their lives.

## Support for People living with Dementia.

41. Darlington offers a range of support and services for people living with dementia and their carers. Here are some key resources:

### Dementia Support Services

42. Darlington Dementia Hub
- (a) Information and Advice: Provides comprehensive information and advice on living with dementia.
  - (b) Support Groups: Regular meetings for people with dementia and their carers to share experiences and support each other.
  - (c) Activities and Events: Organises social activities and events to help individuals stay engaged and connected.
43. Alzheimer's Society
- (a) Dementia Advisors: Offer personalised support and information to help individuals navigate their dementia journey.
  - (b) Support Groups: Facilitates groups for people with dementia and their carers to connect and share experiences.
  - (c) Dementia Connect: A comprehensive online directory of local services and support.
44. Age UK Darlington
- (a) Day Services: Provides day care services for people with dementia, offering a safe and stimulating environment.
  - (b) Befriending Services: Matches volunteers with individuals to provide companionship and reduce isolation.

45. Darlington Borough Council

- (a) Adult Social Care: Offers assessments and support planning to ensure individuals with dementia receive the care they need.
- (b) Respite Care: Provides temporary relief for carers through short-term stays in care homes or in-home respite care.

**Specialist Care Homes**

46. Several care homes in Darlington offer specialised dementia care, providing a safe and supportive environment for residents. These homes have trained staff and tailored activities to meet the needs of individuals with dementia.

**Assistive Technology**

47. Assistive technology can help individuals with dementia maintain their independence and safety. This includes devices such as:

- (a) GPS Trackers: To help locate individuals if they become disoriented.
- (b) Medication Reminders: To ensure medications are taken correctly.
- (c) Fall Detectors: To alert caregivers in case of falls.
- (d) Occupational Therapy
- (e) Disabled Facilities Grant
- (f) Lifeline

**Contact Information**

48. For more information or to access these services, you can contact:

- (a) Darlington Dementia Hub: Visit their website or call 01325 406111.
- (b) Alzheimer's Society: Visit their website or call their support line at 0333 150 3456.
- (c) Age UK Darlington: Visit their website or call 01325 362832.
- (d) Darlington Borough Council's Adult Social Care: Visit their website or contact their Adult Contact Team directly.

49. These services aim to support individuals with dementia and their carers, ensuring they have the resources and assistance they need to manage the condition and maintain their quality of life.

**Services for People with Learning Disabilities in Darlington**

50. Darlington offers a variety of services to support individuals with learning disabilities, ensuring they can lead fulfilling and independent lives. Here are some key services available:

- (a) Day Opportunities – Techworx, offers training and employment opportunities in various fields, helping individuals develop practical skills and gain work experience
- (b) Mencap: The Gateway Centre

- (i) Offers a variety activities designed to support individuals with learning disabilities in developing their skills and independence.
  - (ii) A national charity with local services in Darlington, supporting individuals with learning disabilities.
- (c) Key Features:
- (i) Provides advocacy, information, and direct support.
  - (ii) Offers various programs to promote independence and inclusion

### **Support Services e.g:**

#### 51. Darlington Association on Disability (DAD)

- (a) Provides advocacy, information, and direct support to individuals with learning disabilities and their carers. DAD aims to promote independence and choice for disabled people.

#### 52. Healthwatch Darlington

- (a) Offers information and signposting to various services and support groups for individuals with learning disabilities. They also provide feedback mechanisms to improve local services.

### **Contact Information**

#### 53. For more information or to access these services, you can contact:

- (a) Darlington Association on Disability (DAD): Call 01325 489999 or visit their [website](#).
- (b) Darlington Borough Council's Adult Social Care: Visit their website or contact their Adult Contact Team directly.

#### 54. These services aim to support individuals with learning disabilities in Darlington, ensuring they have the resources and assistance they need to thrive.

### **Darlington Council In-House Services**

#### 55. Reablement

- (a) Service Overview: A short-term, goal-focused service lasting up to 6 weeks, designed to help individuals regain independence after a deterioration in physical health.
- (b) Key Features:
  - (i) Develops confidence and practical skills.
  - (ii) Delivered by the RIACT team in collaboration with intermediate care health colleagues
  - (iii) Contact: Adult Social Care
  - (iv) Phone: 01325 406111
  - (v) Website: Darlington Borough Council - Reablement

56. Holicotes

- (a) Service Overview: Short-term respite care services are available to give carers a break and ensure individuals with learning disabilities receive the care they need in a safe environment.
- (b) Key Features:
  - (i) Focuses on creating a supportive and homely environment.
  - (ii) Offers personalised care plans to meet individual needs.
  - (iii) Provides respite support for family carers.

57. Lakeside Lodge

- (a) Service Overview: Offers day opportunities for adults with learning disabilities.
- (b) Key Features:
  - (i) Provides a range of activities to promote social interaction and skill development.
  - (ii) Supports individuals in building independence and confidence.

58. 3 Foundations and The Links

- (a) Service Overview: Provides day services and activities for individuals with learning disabilities.
- (b) Key Features:
  - (i) Offers creative activities, workshops, and training opportunities.
  - (ii) Aims to enhance skills and promote community engagement.
  - (iii) The Community Art Project: Provides creative activities and workshops to encourage self-expression and social engagement. Sessions are held at The Links and Foundations.

59. For more detailed information or specific inquiries, you can visit the respective websites or contact the services directly via phone.

60. These services aim to support individuals in Darlington by promoting independence, enhancing skills, and providing necessary care and support.

## Conclusion

61. In summary we have the following commissioned services:

- (a) Care homes for Older People and People with Dementia – 20 homes with 19 on our contract.
- (b) Care homes for working aged adults – 37 properties with 7 contracted providers
- (c) Homecare providers – 2 Prime providers and 14 Lot 3 providers (increased by 4 in the new contract)
- (d) Rapid Response homecare service – 1 provider
- (e) Supported Living providers – 13 providers (increased by 5 in the new contract).  
Number of new services currently being established as part of the new contract.
- (f) Shared Lives provider – 1 provider (new service as part of the contract)
- (g) Day Services – 2 providers (both VCSE providers)
- (h) Extra Care Schemes – 4 schemes:
  - (i) Advocacy- One Provider
  - (ii) Several inhouse services including 4 days services, one respite service, one supportive living service and an Reablement Service.

62. Darlington's provision for adults with care and support needs is robust, with a clear strategic framework and diverse services aimed at promoting independence and well-being. Continuous innovation and collaboration are essential to meet future challenges and enhance the quality of life for all individuals in need of care and support.

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**Adults Scrutiny MEETING  
01 April 2025**

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**SHARED LIVES**

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**SUMMARY REPORT**

**Purpose of the Report**

1. The purpose of this report is to provide an overview to Adults Scrutiny Committee of the Shared Lives model of support and the new service offer in Darlington.

**Summary**

2. The Council conducted a Homecare and Supported Living re-tender exercise in 2024 which was a key commissioning intention outlined in the Adult Social Care Market Position Statement and Commissioning Strategy. The new contract became operational on 3 February 2025. The contract period is from 3 February 2025 to 31 October 2026 with a further option to extend for two years (1 plus 1 plus 1). The Council is able to exercise its discretion and re-open the framework from time to time to allow new providers to join the framework based on an assessment of market supply and demand factors.
3. A new Shared Lives service has been established as part of the new contract, and work has been initiated with the provider to develop a robust Shared lives offer in Darlington.

**Recommendation**

4. It is recommended that :-
  - (a) Members note the information contained within this report

**ASSISTANT DIRECTOR  
Christine Shields  
Commissioning, Performance and Transformation**

**Background Papers**

None.

Sukhdev Dosanjh Head of Commissioning, Contracts and Brokerage  
Extension: 5651

Council Plan	This work contributes to the priorities agreed in the Council Plan
Addressing inequalities	There are no implications arising from this report
Tackling Climate Change	There are no implications arising from this report
Efficient and effective use of resources	This report supports the efficient use of resources through effective commissioning approaches
Health and Wellbeing	This work supports the priorities set out in the Health and Wellbeing Strategy
S17 Crime and Disorder	There are no implications arising from this report
Wards Affected	All wards
Groups Affected	All groups
Budget and Policy Framework	There are no implications for the Budget or Policy Framework
Key Decision	This is not a key decision.
Urgent Decision	This is not an urgent decision.
Impact on Looked After Children and Care Leavers	This report has no impact on Looked After Children or Care Leavers

## MAIN REPORT

### Information and Analysis

- As part of the Market Position Statement and Commissioning Strategy for Adult Social Care (see link below), one of the key commissioning intentions was to develop a Shared Lives service in Darlington.

<https://www.darlington.gov.uk/media/21371/market-position-statement-and-commissioning-strategy.pdf>

- “Shared Lives offers people who require care and support the opportunity to live independently in the community and can be an alternative to living in a care home, housing with care or housing with support. The Shared Lives scheme matches people who need care and support with an approved carer. The carer shares their family and community life and gives care and support to the person with care needs. Some people live with their Shared Lives carer, while others are regular day-time visitors. Some people combine day-time visits with overnight stays.” SCIE. More information on this model can be found in the link below

<https://www.scie.org.uk/housing/role-of-housing/promising-practice/models/shared-lives/>

### Outcome of Consultation

- The re-tender of the Homecare and Supported Living contract has now concluded and the new contract becoming operational on 3 February 2025.
- St Annes (a charitable trust provider) were successful in their bid to operate a Shared Lives service as part of the new contract. Officers are continuing to work with St Annes to ensure the new service is fully established and promoted locally.



**ADULTS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE  
1 APRIL 2025**

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**WORK PROGRAMME 2024-2025**

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**SUMMARY REPORT**

**Purpose of the Report**

1. To consider the work programme items scheduled to be considered by this Scrutiny Committee during the 2024/25 Municipal Year and to consider any additional areas which Members would like to suggest should be included.

**Summary**

2. Members are requested to consider the attached draft work programme (**Appendix 1**) for the remainder of the Municipal Year, which has been prepared based on Officers recommendations and recommendations previously agreed by this Scrutiny Committee.
3. Once the work programme has been approved by this Scrutiny Committee, any additional areas of work which Members wish to add to the agreed work programme will require the completion of a quad of aims in accordance with the previously approved procedure (**Appendix 2**).

**Recommendations**

4. It is recommended that Members note the current status of the Work Programme and consider any additional areas of work they would like to include.
5. Members' views are requested.

**Luke Swinhoe  
Assistant Director Law and Governance**

**Background Papers**

No background papers were used in the preparation of this report.

Author: Paul Dalton

Council Plan	The report contributes to the Council Plan in a number of ways through the involvement of Members in contributing to the delivery of the Plan. The Work Programme contains items which enable Members to scrutinise those areas that contribute the priority of Living Well – a healthier and better quality of life for longer, supporting those who need it most, and Communities - working together for safer, healthier and more engaged communities.
Addressing inequalities	There are no issues relating to diversity which this report needs to address.
Tackling Climate Change	There are no issues which this report needs to address.
Efficient and effective use of resources	This report has no impact on the Council’s Efficiency Programme.
Health and Wellbeing	This report has no direct implications to the Health and Well Being of residents of Darlington.
S17 Crime and Disorder	This report has no implications for Crime and Disorder.
Wards Affected	The impact of the report on any individual Ward is considered to be minimal.
Groups Affected	The impact of the report on any individual Group is considered to be minimal.
Budget and Policy Framework	This report does not represent a change to the budget and policy framework.
Key Decision	This is not a key decision.
Urgent Decision	This is not an urgent decision
Impact on Looked After Children and Care Leavers	This report has no impact on Looked After Children or Care Leavers

## MAIN REPORT

### Information and Analysis

6. The format of the proposed work programme has been reviewed to enable Members of this Scrutiny Committee to provide a rigorous and informed challenge to the areas for discussion.
7. The Council Plan was adopted on 18 July 2024, and outlines Darlington Borough Council's long-term ambitions for Darlington and priorities for action over the next three years. It gives strategic direction to the Council and Council services, defining priorities, identifying key actions, and shaping delivery.
8. The Council Plan identifies six priorities, one of which is 'Living Well', which states that more years in good health leads to more fulfilling lives, and a better standard of living, however the Plan highlights that are inequalities in Darlington across all stages of life which are influenced by broader social factors including education, employment, housing and income. Seven key deliverables are identified as part of this priority.
9. The Council believes that all residents should have the opportunity to live longer, healthier lives, and wants to support residents of every age to live well. The Council has committed to improving our contact with carers and working to create a network of support for better health and wellbeing outcomes. The Council will support those who need it most and signpost for access to other provision and support, where appropriate.

### Forward Plan and Additional Items

10. Once the Work Programme has been agreed by this Scrutiny Committee, any Member seeking to add a new item to the work programme will need to complete a Quad of Aims.
11. A copy of the index of the Forward Plan has been attached at **Appendix 3** for information.

### Climate Considerations

12. Pursuant to Minute AD22/Oct/2024, any matters pertaining to climate considerations will be outlined in the individual reports submitted to Committee.

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**ADULTS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2024/25**

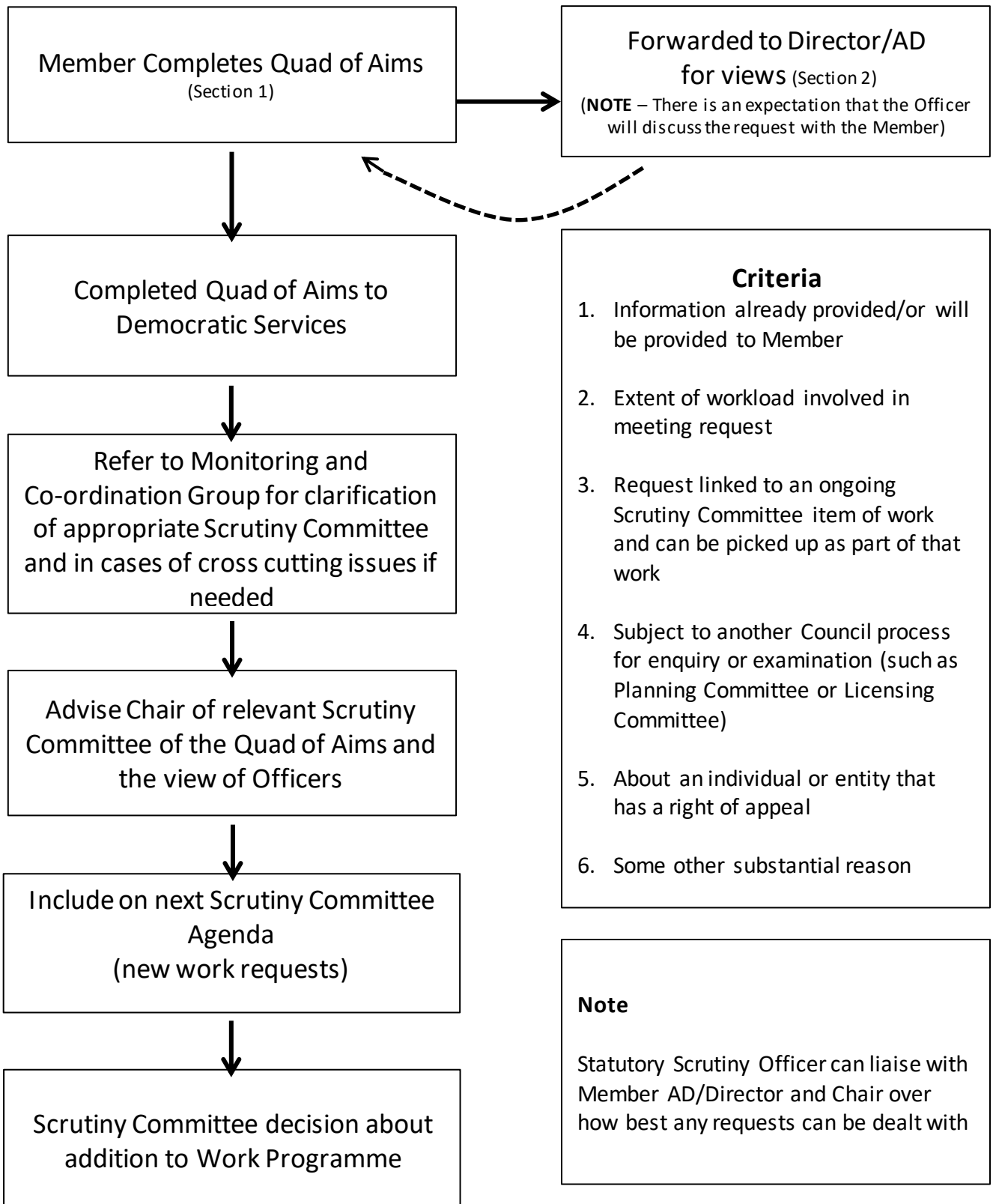
<b>Topic</b>	<b>Timescale</b>	<b>Lead Officer</b>	<b>Link to PMF (metrics)</b>	<b>Scrutiny's Role / Notes</b>
CQC Assurance Framework – Update	1 <sup>st</sup> April 2025	Joss Harbron		
Overview by Commissioning Services on Shared Lives	1 <sup>st</sup> April 2025	Christine Shields		Requested by Councillor Toms.
Mapping of Provisions within the Borough including Commissioned Services	1 <sup>st</sup> April 2025	Christine Shields		Requested by Chair (Councillor Anderson)
Reclaiming Our Communities	To be confirmed			Request from Councillor Toms. To be discussed by Chair outside of the meeting.

**Task and Finish Review Group(s)**

- **'Loneliness and Connected Communities' Task and Finish Review Group** – To recommence in 2024/25.

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### PROCESS FOR ADDING AN ITEM TO SCRUTINY COMMITTEE'S PREVIOUSLY APPROVED WORK PROGRAMME



## QUAD OF AIMS (MEMBERS' REQUEST FOR ITEM TO BE CONSIDERED BY SCRUTINY)

### SECTION 1 TO BE COMPLETED BY MEMBERS

**NOTE** – This document should only be completed if there is a clearly defined and significant outcome from any potential further work. This document should **not** be completed as a request for or understanding of information.

REASON FOR REQUEST?	RESOURCE (WHAT OFFICER SUPPORT WOULD YOU REQUIRE?)
PROCESS (HOW CAN SCRUTINY ACHIEVE THE ANTICIPATED OUTCOME?)	HOW WILL THE OUTCOME MAKE A DIFFERENCE?



Signed Councillor .....

Date .....

**SECTION 2 TO BE COMPLETED BY DIRECTORS/ASSISTANT DIRECTORS**  
**(NOTE – There is an expectation that Officers will discuss the request with the Member)**

	<b>Criteria</b>
1. (a) Is the information available elsewhere? Yes ..... No ..... If yes, please indicate where the information can be found (attach if possible and return with this document to Democratic Services) .....	1. Information already provided/or will be provided to Member
(b) Have you already provided the information to the Member or will you shortly be doing so? .....	2. Extent of workload involved in meeting request
2. If the request is included in the Scrutiny Committee work programme what are the likely workload implications for you/your staff? .....	3. Request linked to an ongoing Scrutiny Committee item of work and can be picked up as part of that work
3. Can the request be included in an ongoing Scrutiny Committee item of work and picked up as part of that? .....	4. Subject to another Council process for enquiry or examination (such as Planning Committee or Licensing Committee)
4. Is there another Council process for enquiry or examination about the matter currently underway? .....	5. About an individual or entity that has a right of appeal
5. Has the individual or entity some other right of appeal? .....	6. Some other substantial reason
6. Is there any substantial reason (other than the above) why you feel it should not be included on the work programme ? .....	

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**Signed .....** **Position .....** **Date .....**

**DARLINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL  
FORWARD PLAN**

**APPENDIX 3**



**FORWARD PLAN  
FOR THE PERIOD: 5 MARCH 2025 - 31 JULY 2025**

Title	Decision Maker and Date
Annual Procurement Plan Update	Cabinet 8 Apr 2025
Annual Statement of Accounts 2023/24	Cabinet 8 Apr 2025
Consultation on a Homes Strategy for the Borough	Cabinet 8 Apr 2025
Household Support Fund	Cabinet 8 Apr 2025
Long Term Plan for Towns	Cabinet 8 Apr 2025
North East Smokefree Declaration	Cabinet 8 Apr 2025
Physical Activity Strategy	Cabinet 8 Apr 2025
Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Strategy	Cabinet 8 Apr 2025
Update to Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) Part 1 – The Local Plan	Cabinet 8 Apr 2025
Adult Social Care Transport Policy 2024	Cabinet 6 May 2025
Dolphin Centre – Invest to Save Projects	Cabinet 6 May 2025
High Street Rental Auctions	Cabinet 6 May 2025
Schedule of Transactions	Cabinet 6 May 2025
Strategic Asset Plan	Cabinet 6 May 2025
To recommend to Council that they agree the Middleton St George Conservation Area Appraisal including the designation of a new Conservation Area	Cabinet 6 May 2025
Town Centre Regeneration	Cabinet 6 May 2025
Woodland Road Waiting Restrictions	Cabinet 6 May 2025
Consultation on the Renewal of the Town Centre Public Space Protection Order and Introduction of a Borough Wide Public Space Protection Order	Cabinet 10 Jun 2025
Representation on Other Bodies 2025/26	Cabinet 10 Jun 2025
Collection of Council Tax, Business Rates and Rent 2024/25	Cabinet 8 Jul 2025
Council Plan Performance Reporting Update - Quarter 4	Cabinet 8 Jul 2025
Disabled Facilities Grant 2025/26	Cabinet 8 Jul 2025
Housing Services Fire Safety Policy 2025-2030	Cabinet 8 Jul 2025
Housing Services Tenancy Policy 2025-2030	Cabinet 8 Jul 2025
Project Position Statement and Capital Programme Monitoring Outturn 2024/25	Cabinet 8 Jul 2025
Revenue Budget Outturn 2024/25	Cabinet 8 Jul 2025
Xentrall Shared Services Annual Report	Cabinet 8 Jul 2025
Adoption of Finalised Appraisal for the Stockton and Darlington Railway: Northgate Conservation Area Including Changes to its Boundary and Name	Cabinet 6 Jan 2026
To consider the Use of Land at Faverdale including the Former St Modwen Land for Biodiversity Net Gain and Nutrient Neutrality Credits	Cabinet

**DARLINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL  
FORWARD PLAN**