

**COUNCIL
24 SEPTEMBER 2020**

OVERVIEW OF ADULTS PORTFOLIO

Purpose of the Report

1. To inform and update Members on progress within Adult Services since the last meeting of Council. The following are the main areas of work under the Portfolio for Adult Services.

Operational Services

2. A Task and Finish group with key stakeholders has been established in relation to the recovery of in house Day Opportunities. A consultation with individuals and their families has been undertaken and proposals and recommendations are now being firmed up. Operational staff continue to use the risk rating tool to ensure individuals and their families are supported through this time. This includes the ongoing use of Holicote short break services in supporting individuals and families through the challenges that have arisen for people as a result of the pandemic.
3. The service continues to provide a seven day working response and this discharge pathway is now well established. The new model has been effective in supporting individuals from discharge into the community. Our reablement service continues to play a vital role in enabling individuals to regain independence skills and confidence at the earliest opportunity. In addition, the new model has along with partners been successful in maintaining the flow from hospitals.
4. Operational teams have adapted and embedded changes to the approach required in response to infection control measures. They have robust risk assessments in place providing them and the people we are working with an increasing confidence and assurance. Therefore, the number of face-to-face contacts has continued to increase as a result in both community and care home settings.
5. Work with key stakeholders, including health partners has now started in relation to winter planning and the anticipated challenges of COVID-19 during this time. Officers are involved in preparing for winter and are participating in a system wide planning event. This will ensure that partnership learning from the response to COVID is incorporated within preparations for winter.

Commissioning and Contracts

6. The latest position regarding the picture in care homes is a positive one in terms of COVID. Monitoring calls continue to be made to all care homes. COVID related deaths have dropped dramatically over the last 8 weeks and no COVID positive cases have been reported for either residents or staff.
7. 18 of the 20 Older People's residential homes have received their testing kits and have undertaken testing of both residents and staff with all results to date having been negative. The remaining homes are on track to undertake tests upon receipt of

testing kits which is expected to happen in the next few days. Where issues have arisen, support has been given to homes by Public Health colleagues as appropriate.

8. Learning Disability/Mental Health residential homes are scheduled to receive testing kits imminently. PPE supplies are reported to be plentiful.
9. A contract with the Alzheimer's Society for the provision of a Dementia Friendly Communities Coordinator commenced on 1 April 2020. The postholder has initiated work to support the development of Dementia Friendly communities within and across Darlington. This work has been focussed on Haughton, Springfield, Whinfield and Cockerton, and has included the delivery of online Dementia Friends information sessions and the development of a Dementia Voice Project, designed to ensure that the voice of people living with dementia is heard when developing Dementia Friendly communities in Darlington. Work is due to start in Northgate and Hurworth shortly.
10. The postholder has worked alongside the existing Dementia Advisor, to ensure a holistic approach is taken and is also developing links with other key stakeholders who can support the delivery of a Dementia Friendly Darlington.
11. Commissioning officers have been working with colleagues across the Tees Valley to strengthen domestic abuse services. The Council will co-host an on-line event for professionals with a view to sharing best practice during the Covid 19 emergency period. This will help to profile predicted future demand for services and to highlight further opportunities for collaborative working.

Darlington Safeguarding Partnership

1. The Statutory Safeguarding Partners (SSP) continue to meet every three weeks and engage with wider partners on a rotational basis by inviting key leads to provide an overview of current issues and provide assurance for their service areas.
2. Statutory Partners invited me to attend as cabinet members with portfolios for Adult Services and provided me with an overview of current arrangements and how they have been adapted due to C-19 to enable the key statutory partners to have oversight on vulnerable adults. Partners reiterated the benefit of having a joint approach to safeguarding and obtaining a whole family approach. I was also assured of the transparent and open approach and opportunity to further scrutinise partnership activity.
3. Tees, Esk and Wear Valley NHS Trust and Education sector attended in July. Partners were assured of the measures in place and how services have adapted to cope with the crisis and continued to engage and support families. It was positive to hear agencies are working together to support each other which demonstrates there are robust partnership arrangements in place even during these unprecedented times.
4. The Chair of the Quality Assurance and Performance Management sub-group provided a presentation on work to date. Partners were assured by the amount of activity that has taken place between this group and the Learning and Development sub-group. Partners were encouraged at the activity undertaken and agreed the

presentation provided a good view across collective systems and it was clear to see what is working well and what needs to be driven forward.

Councillor Rachel Mills
Cabinet Member with Portfolio for Adults