

**COUNCIL
15 JULY 2021**

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

COVID Funding

2. The Government has extended COVID funding to facilitate hospital discharges and prevent hospital admissions. Up until the 30 June 2021, people will have up to six weeks of funded care. From 1 July 2021 and up to the 30 September 2021, the funding will reduce to up to four weeks of funded care. The reduction is not an issue for the operational teams as assessments are being completed in the specified timescales and the teams are confident moving forward.

Acute Frailty Team

3. Darlington Memorial Hospital recently established a front of house, Acute Frailty Team. This is a multidisciplinary team, with a focus on the completion of assessments of older adults, who are experiencing difficulties due to issues with frailty, such as falls or delirium. The team's aim is to complete assessments and devise management plans at the earliest point in an individual's stay in hospital. This then allows the team to plan safe discharges at the earliest point and ensure clear collaboration with community services. Social Workers are now proactively involved in the work within the Frailty Team and have been positively received by their health colleagues. They can share their knowledge and expertise, in the completion of assessments and offer guidance on the range of services available in the community to ensure the right support is identified and put in place.

Commissioning and Contracts

4. This year's Carers Week took place from 7-13 June 2021. As in previous years, the week was themed and this year's theme was "Make Caring Visible and Valued." This annual campaign raises awareness and highlights the considerable challenges that all carers face particularly during the current Covid 19 emergency pandemic. During this time, carers have played a vital role by providing support and taking on additional caring responsibilities for our most vulnerable residents in Darlington. Darlington Carers Support have also held a session for the Council's staff to raise awareness and provide support.
5. The vaccination programme within Darlington has been focusing on the rollout of the second dosage of the vaccine. On 10 June 2021, 96 percent of care home residents have now received the required two dosages of the vaccine. 84 per cent

of Priority 1 social care eligible staff which (as previously reported includes older people care homes, older people domiciliary care, assisted living, private sheltered housing and Direct Payment personal assistants) who want to have the vaccine, have now received two dosages. Following the recent Government announcement stating that all CQC registered care home staff had to be vaccinated, we can report that out of the 1211 staff working in Darlington 26 are medically able to receive vaccines but to date have not done so. We continue to work with care home management and health colleagues to address this issue.

6. The Commissioning and Contracts Team are now working with the Older Person's Care Home Sector to reinstate and conduct the annual quality standards assessments. The assessments consist of a review of essential care standards including effective recruitment procedures, social and leisure outcomes, medication management and health and safety. Levels of compliance and resulting grades are linked to the weekly fee levels for the Council's commissioned placements. This quality assessment programme was suspended for the year 2020/21 because of the Covid 19 pandemic emergency. The team has consulted closely with care homes to develop a process of self- assessments which are then evaluated by the Contracts Section. Care homes will be informed of the outcome of the assessments in August. Any amendments to fee levels will be back dated to April 2020 as agreed in the correspondence between the Council and the Care Homes during the pandemic suspension.
7. The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 Act places a duty on local authorities to provide accommodation-based support for victims of domestic abuse and their children in refuges and other safe accommodation. Local authorities will also need to ensure all victims of domestic abuse have access to the right support within safe accommodation when they need it. The Act requires tier one local authorities to:
 - (a) appoint a multi-agency Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board
 - (b) assess the need for accommodation-based domestic abuse support for all victims in their area, including those who require cross-border support
 - (c) develop and publish a strategy for the provision of such support to cover their locality, having regard to the needs assessment
 - (d) monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the strategy
 - (e) report back to central government

The government has allocated £50,000 Capacity Building Funding and £222,365 Burdens Funding to Darlington Borough Council.

A Commissioning Officer for Domestic Abuse has been recruited on a one-year fixed contract to coordinate the local implementation of the Act.

Darlington Borough Council and Durham County Council are currently members of the Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence Executive Group (DASVEG) and work is nearing completion to agree how Governance arrangements are reconstituted moving forward

A local Implementation Plan has been developed to ensure that the following outcomes are achieved:

- (a) the completion of a Darlington Heath needs assessment which will inform Darlington's Domestic Abuse Strategy and identify any areas where Darlington may not be compliant with the new bill (deadline September 2021)
- (b) the completion of a detailed expenditure plan of the additional funding provided by the Government to the Council to fund new domestic abuse responsibilities (deadline September 2021)
- (c) increased engagement with key partners in relation to the new duty
- (d) mapping all existing local domestic abuse safe accommodation support providers both commissioned and non-commissioned to determine whether there are any gaps in service provision
- (e) a review of all current contracts/frameworks
- (f) a review of the expected accompanying Statutory Guidance and Regulations
- (g) demand modelling in the context of the Covid 19 pandemic emergency

Darlington Safeguarding Partnership

- 8. Colleagues from TEWV attended the meeting of Safeguarding Partners to provide an update of measures implemented since the recent CQC inspections, which included West Park Hospital. As part of their response to the inspection findings, TEWV held a rapid improvement event on risk assessments and recovery plans. Improvements are to be reviewed by CQC and partners were informed that robust action plans are in place which NHSE/I improvement board have oversight of. Partners were assured of the high level of scrutiny in place through NHS Improvement Board and that TEWV were able to demonstrate a strong focus on improvement activity.

Climate Change

- 9. We have recently introduced Climate Change to the agenda for all Team Meetings. We are encouraging staff to identify possible efficiencies/reduction of waste and continue to promote paperless ways of working.

Councillor Rachel Mills
Cabinet Member with Portfolio for Adults