

COUNCIL
15 JULY 2021

OVERVIEW OF ADULTS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

1. Since the last meeting of the Council, the following are the main areas of work the Adults Scrutiny Committee has undertaken.

Covid-19 Response

2. We received a verbal update on the ongoing response to the Covid-19 pandemic, specifically in relation to care home settings and care providers. Members were pleased to hear that, from a commissioning perspective, we were now moving into a period of recovery, and it was reassuring to discover that there had been no further outbreaks.
3. We were keen to know more about the recently reported compulsory vaccination for those working in care settings, and understand that further guidance will be forthcoming; however it was encouraging to learn that 94 per cent of care home staff in Darlington had received both Covid vaccinations, which exceeded the national threshold of 90 per cent. Members were keen to learn how we had achieved such a high take up rate, and were informed that we maintained a strong working relationship with care homes, who in turn had adopted a proactive approach, and due to this, vaccine hesitancy had not been experienced in Darlington's care sector.
4. Members enquired about the measures in place to combat new variants of Covid, and were assured that the tried and tested approach (increased communication and working with Care Homes, minimising direct Officer activity, etc.) would work, and that there had been no indication of an increase due to the Delta variant. Members were keen to understand the number of care home residents who had received their vaccinations, and were informed that 100 per cent of residents had received their initial vaccination, and that 91 per cent had received their second vaccination.
5. We were eager to understand the position as regard the return of day services. It was acknowledged that this was a challenging area, that many residents had found alternative forms of support during the pandemic, and that it would be a slow pathway to recovery.

Performance Indicators End of Year 2020-21

6. The Group Director of People provided the Committee with performance data against key performance indicators for 2020/21. The Committee currently monitor twelve indicators however, not all of these indicators were able to be monitored and reported this year due to the covid pandemic; the non - reported indicators were largely those which were survey based or not directly comparable.
7. A discussion ensued around the value of some of the indicators and it was agreed that they may need to be revised and this would be discussed at the October meeting following a future presentation by officers on how they perceived any

proposed new government directives would impact the local scrutiny of Adult services.

Work Programme

8. Members gave consideration to the Work Programme items scheduled to be considered by this Scrutiny Committee for the Municipal Year 2021/22 and to any additional areas that Members would like to be included.
9. Suggestions were offered by Members, including the revision of performance indicators, a review of dementia services, the Disabled Facilities Grant, the funding received via the Tees Valley for Adults Services, a cross scrutiny review of the impact of Covid on the mental health of Adults in terms of isolation, neglect and substance abuse and it was agreed the Work Programme would be updated accordingly.

**Councillor Lorraine Tostevin
Chair of Adults Scrutiny Committee**