

COUNCIL
25 NOVEMBER 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 some of the areas of work under the Portfolio for Adult Services.

Operational Services

2. The adult social care teams are engaging with the Kickstart Scheme by focusing on opportunities for young people aged 16-24 to gain some social care work experience. Job descriptions have been developed to offer placements to young people in Darlington in both reablement and day opportunities. There are 4 placements, 2 in reablement and 2 in day opportunities. This is a good opportunity to provide young people with experience of working in Adult Social Care and hopefully encourage interest in seeing this as a future career option.
3. The Adult Senior Leadership have welcomed Natalie Thompson, Service Manager. Natalie has a wealth of experience and is a welcome addition to the service and the Local Authority.
4. Recruitment remains a challenge regionally and nationally across Adult Social Care, Updating of the recruitment adverts for Darlington, Adult Social Care, had recently been undertaken. Following this work, we saw a positive response to the new advert for experienced Social Workers, resulting in the successful appointment of 2 experienced Social Workers into our Adult Contact Team.
5. Demand for reablement support following discharge from hospital has continued to increase in 2021. We have seen an increase in September of the number of people supported to independence following intervention from our reablement service. It is of note that the ASCOFs for 20-21 performance were recently published, (end of Oct) Darlington has continued to perform highly across the region with an increase in the number of older people still at home after hospital discharge into our reablement service. This highlights the positive impact our reablement service has had in maximising people's independence. This is significant in that we are seeing people being discharged with more complex needs following the pandemic.

COVID

6. The Government has extended COVID funding until March 2022 to facilitate hospital discharges and prevent hospital admissions. Individuals will have up to 4 weeks of funded care. The Adult social care operational teams are continuing to ensure assessments are being completed in the specified timescales and the teams work closely with health

colleagues on home first approaches with the aim of supporting and promoting independence through reablement support.

7. Day Opportunities for adults with Learning Disabilities are maintaining the current safe systems of working as per council policy. There have been no outbreaks since services reopened.

Commissioning and Contracts

8. In anticipation of the 11 November deadline for all staff working in residential care to have received 2 doses of the Covid 19 vaccine, Contracts and Commissioning staff have been monitoring the take up of the vaccine on a weekly basis. Where necessary contact has been made with the providers to ensure that they are aware of their obligation to ensure **all** of their staff are vaccinated (or have the appropriate exemption where necessary). This work has been extremely successful with 97% of all staff fully vaccinated by the deadline. Where staff are not been fully vaccinated, we are assured by the providers that they will no longer be employed in the care homes.
9. The Commissioning and Contracts Team continues to work closely with Darlington's Primary Care Network and the independent care sector to implement the Phase 3 Booster Covid-19 Vaccination programme. The programme was launched in early October and is focused on eligible frontline social care and health care workers and is managed through the National Booking Service. All staff working within a care home for older or working age adults or work in the community (such as domiciliary care or supported living arrangements) and provide face to face personal care, are encouraged to have the Booster vaccination.
10. The domiciliary care sector is experiencing staff capacity issues because of covid infections and staff absences. The Commissioning and Contracts Team is working closely with social work colleagues, domiciliary care providers, the Tees Valley CCG and County Durham and Darlington Foundation Trust to ensure that sufficient capacity is maintained to facilitate timely discharge from hospitals and support local people with care needs in the community. To date, providers have continued to provide the necessary support within Darlington.
11. Middleton Hall Retirement Village is re-configuring the range of care it currently offers and the Middleton Court care service will no longer offer 24-hour nursing care after 1 December 2021. This follows extensive discussions with residents, families, our care teams, relevant regulatory authorities and care commissioners. The change reflects the ongoing challenge in finding well experienced, qualified nurses available to fill posts within the NHS and Adult Social Care. All individuals affected will be reassessed by operational colleagues to ensure that their needs are met following the reconfiguration.

Climate Change

12. The Operational Adult Social Teams continue to explore ways of promoting personal and social responsibility around climate change. The theme for this month's team meetings is to encourage staff to increase their usage in their own homes of LED and/or energy efficient light bulbs.

Darlington Safeguarding Partnership

13. Statutory Safeguarding Partners continue to meet monthly and continue to have oversight on safeguarding issues. Adult safeguarding data for the 4th quarter period 2020/21 provided partners with assurance that there were no real exceptions or issues being highlighted with trends and patterns being monitored.
14. Partners met with Dave McKay, DWP lead for Safeguarding whose role is to raise awareness of abuse and neglect and to educate staff on safeguarding risks to help them support their most vulnerable customers. The Partnership will include DWP in any future Child Safeguarding Practice or Safeguarding Adult Reviews as appropriate.

Councillor Lorraine Tostevin
Cabinet Member with Portfolio for Adults