

COUNCIL
1 FEBRUARY 2022

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. Adult Social Care are well positioned to respond to the recent government guidance on the new COVID variant following all of the work we have undertaken in developing processes to support safe systems of working. We will continue to monitor the impact of Omicron variant on hospital discharges and will remain observant and responsive to the developing guidance.
3. The Adult Social Care Frameworks Performance (ASCOF) was published at the end of October. Reporting against the 14 indicators across the region Darlington have improved across 5 indicators and maintained a high level of performance against 7 indicators . Of which Darlington is the highest performer in relation 2 indicators e.g. ASC045, number of people with learning disabilities living in their own home and ASCOF 050- number of carers using social care who receive self-directed support. We have seen a small reduction in the performance in 1 indicator i.e. ASC003- 18-64 age group of people placed in residential care.

Workforce Challenges

4. Adult Social Care have been allocated funding from the Workforce Recruitment and Retention Fund (see paragraph 8 of this report), to assist with workforce challenges in relation to the impact of COVID. The funding is being used to target pressures and manage demand at the front door across the winter period. This will help us to support Darlington residents in a timely way whilst ensuring there is sufficient capacity to respond to the peaks in demand during a busy winter period.

COVID

5. Within implementation of Plan B, all teams are supported to work from home where possible. Staff will continue with face to face visits where needed – and are following covid measures appropriately.

Commissioning and Contracts

6. Contracts and Commissioning staff continue to support the residential care homes to ensure that they are fully compliant with the current Covid 19 Regulations. Work has continued to ensure that all care staff who were able to self-certify in respect of non-uptake

of the Covid 19 vaccine, will have a formal covid 19 Exemption Pass in place by the December 24th deadline. In response to the most recent guidance, work is also ongoing to ensure that all care staff and residents in care homes have been offered and taken up the offer of the Covid 19 Booster. As of 16 December, 81% of all residents in care homes had received the booster vaccine. 41% of all care home staff had also received the booster vaccine with further work being planned by Darlington's Primary Care Network.

7. The Government has issued new guidance for care home visiting in response to the Covid 19 Omicron variant outbreak. Every care home can nominate up to 3 visitors for regular visits. Visitors will be asked to make arrangements with care homes in advance of the visit. This will enable care homes to ensure that visitor numbers are compliant with safe visiting practices.
8. The Government recently allocated £339,335.00 to the Council through the Workforce Recruitment and Retention Fund. This fund is designed to allow local authorities to support measures that generate additional or retain existing adult social care workforce capacity through recruitment and retention activity. This fund will be paid in 2 instalments with the first instalment (60%) paid in November 2021 and the second instalment (40%) will be paid in January 2022. The funds received from the Government have been targeted towards the domiciliary care sector by the council. This sector continues to experience staff capacity issues due to Covid infections staff absences and recruitment and retention challenges with Councils two main providers in contingency arrangements. The funds will continue to support the sector to facilitate timely discharge from hospitals and support local people with care needs in the community. The Government has extended the Workforce Recruitment and Retention Fund with a further £300M national allocation in the new year.

Climate Change

9. Teams continue to have a focus on climate change in their team meetings, with a monthly theme. This month's theme is recycling waste.

Darlington Safeguarding Partnership

10. Statutory Safeguarding Partners continue to meet monthly and are updated on the work of the sub-groups which continue to meet virtually and drive forward the work of the partnership.
11. In November the final governance proposals for the partnership were presented to partners which set out the terms of reference and lines of accountability of each of the sub-groups. There will be two strategic groups, the Learning and Development and Quality Assurance and Performance Management Groups with two Operational Groups sitting underneath, one focussing on children and one on adults. The Statutory Partners were happy to accept the proposals and for the sub-group Chairs to make arrangements to move forward. It was acknowledged membership will need to be reviewed to ensure the right people are represented from all partner agencies on each of the groups.

Councillor Lorraine Tostevin
Cabinet Member with Portfolio for Adults